

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes / DRAFT
December 20, 2016**

Members present: Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Michael “Red” Muir, Jim Warden.

Town officials present: Gloria Warden, town clerk.

Visitors present: Gail Blasius, Dennis Cassidy, George Gardner, Craig Heindel, Bessie Sessions, Silas Towler, Monica Tupper.

1. 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting — call to order.

Loretta Lawrence, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She asked for a motion to amend the agenda, adding:

3 (d) Listers’ Corrections — 2016 Grand List.

Red Muir made a motion to amend the agenda as described above. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

2. Approve minutes — December 6, 2016; December 13, 2016, budget work session.

Red Muir made a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2016, with the following correction: Item **3. (a) Bixby Library — short presentation and budget request for 2017–2018**. The selectboard has concerns that this additional increase would mean that the town would now be paying approximately \$1,174 per week to the Bixby Library, if approved.

Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2016, budget work session, as presented. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) John Bull — Highway operations report. John Bull was unable to attend.

(b) Atkins Farm Road Association meeting. Gary Taylor, member of the Atkins Farm Homeowners’ Association, emailed Loretta Lawrence requesting that a board representative attend the proposed December 29, 2016, meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Taylor residence at 176 Atkins Farm Road in Ferrisburgh. Loretta replied stating she would like to include Road Foreman John Bull in any future emails/correspondence with the association. Steve Gutowski made a motion to send Loretta Lawrence to the meeting. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) George Gardner — Presentation of security camera system for town hall building. George Gardner, owner of George’s Locks & Security, LLC discussed the details of his preliminary quote for a CCTV (closed-circuit television) video surveillance. Discussion ensued regarding a multitude of issues, most notably the number and placement of cameras. The board will do a walk-through of the building and grounds at the December 27, 2016, budget work session to determine what is needed.

3. (d) Listers’ Corrections — 2016 Grand List. By letter, Justus J. DeVries, Jr submitted a correction to the value of the dwelling and garage owned by Ralphy and Katherine Murphy located at 127 South

Road in Ferrisburgh. The 2016 listed value was \$427,300; the corrected value, based on a reduction in square footage on the second floor, is \$420,700. Steve Gutowski made a motion to accept the change made to the 2016 Grand List. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4. Selectboard old business — review town's credit card policy. By email, Treasurer Garrit Smits replied to Loretta Lawrence that he felt he had the authority to increase the limit of the credit card as per the credit card policy. Steve Gutowski raised concern about late payments made on the card. Discussion ensued regarding several changes to the policy including the need for two more names on the card: the selectboard chair and the assistant treasurer. The board will continue working on the policy at the next regular board meeting on January 3, 2017. Jim Benoit made a motion to cancel the credit card effective immediately. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. The chair will notify all parties of the board's action the next morning, Wednesday, December 21.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Vermont Green Line (VGL) Committee update. Craig Heindel, chair of the town's VGL Committee, informed the board that the lawyers for both the town and Vermont Green Line Devco, LLC were still working on determining the dollar amount for the 2017 escrow account and length of the extension. Work also continues on the host town agreement. Craig commented that legal hearings could begin in the fall of 2017.

Craig submitted an invoice approved by the VGL Committee to the selectboard. After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to approve payment to Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell, in the amount of \$190 from the VGL escrow account. (This account is fully funded by Vermont Green Line Devco, LLC, not by the town.) Jim Benoit seconded. Jim Benoit, Loretta Lawrence, Red Muir, and Jim Warden voted in favor. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Public comment

The selectboard had requested more data from Bixby Library at the previous regular board meeting. Silas Towler presented several statistics pertaining to the use of the Bixby Library by Ferrisburgh residents. For fiscal 2015–2016, there were 933 active cardholders who checked out 6,828 items. Twenty-five residents signed up for HomeCard, a free service that allows residents to check out materials from other local libraries. He also presented figures showing 50+ hours of weekly outreach to two schools and three in-home daycares. After the point was raised by several board members questioning why the 16.1 per cent increased funding request was not set for a determinate number of years, Silas and Gail Blasius talked about the uncertainty of future years. Gail Blasius stated that Bixby was working on a multi-year plan. Loretta Lawrence stated that it was unfortunate that the Bixby was not able to share that information with the town. She also stated that it is frustrating to not know what Bixby's plans are from year to year.

Monica Tupper asked the board for an update on changing the town charter that would allow the treasurer's position to become appointed versus elected. Loretta Lawrence commented that the board recently learned that the town does not have a charter. She continued by saying that the board is moving forward with this matter; it will be a long process that cannot begin before the Vermont Legislature is in session, and will involve the town's attorney, the League of Cities & Towns, local officials, and others.

Gloria Warden stated that the town had received a letter from Glenn Deruchie of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation stating that the organization would not be holding its annual JDRF Ride to Cure Diabetes in Ferrisburgh. He thanked the town for its past support.

Gail Blasius asked if non-profits petitioned every year for funding or just once. Loretta Lawrence replied it was every year if the amount requested was increasing.

7. Other business

Red Muir informed the board that the pump has been installed in the basement of the town offices building at the revised quoted price. He also stated that the heat was now working in the listers' office.

8. Correspondence

(a) Burlington Electric Department (BED) — Motion to Intervene and Memorandum of Law re: Vermont Green Line Devco, LLC project. The town was copied on a letter from William F. Ellis, BED's attorney from the firm of McNeil, Leddy & Sheahan, to the Public Service Board.

(b) State of Vermont Department of Public Service — Notice of Appearance — Vermont Green Line Devco, LLC project. The town received a copy of a letter stating that Louis C. Porter, the Department of Public Service's special counsel, will appear before the Public Service Board.

(c) Addison County River Watch Collaborative (ACRWC) — activities and thank you for contribution. The board received a letter from Matthew Witten, ACRWC's manager director, thanking the town for a contribution of \$500 for stream-monitoring activities.

(d) Preservation Trust of Vermont — general letter, donation request. Executive Director Paul Bruhn sent a letter to the town requesting financial support.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Dakin Farm — 2017 liquor license renewal application. After review, Jim Warden made a motion to renew the liquor license for a gourmet food store located at 5797 US Route 7. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Jolley Associates, LLC Short Stop #311 — 2017 liquor license renewal application. After review, Jim Benoit made a motion to renew the liquor license for a convenience store located at 6973 US Route 7. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Selectboard warrant. After review, Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$1,613,319.72. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira