

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
November 15, 2016**

Members present: Jim Benoit, Loretta Lawrence, Jim Warden.

Absent: Steve Gutowski, Michael "Red" Muir.

Town officials present: John Bull, road foreman; Gloria Warden, town clerk.

Visitors present: Daniel Crossman, Craig Heindel, Andy Kirkaldy, Mary Neffinger, Jack Poirier, Bessie Sessions, Katherine Yarbrough.

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

Loretta Lawrence, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approve minutes — October 18, 2016 (special meeting); November 1, 2016 (regular meeting).

Since there was not a quorum of board members present who had attended either the special meeting or the regular meeting, approval of those minutes will be at the next regular selectboard meeting on December 6, 2016.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) John Bull – highway operations report. John reviewed the road maintenance projects currently underway to get ready for the winter season. The crew will remove the material from the parking lot at the old town clerk's office, leaving handicap access next to the building; the material will be used to expand the parking lot at the town offices building. After investigating the areas where rainwater is coming off the eaves and entering the basement, John has decided to lay down drainage tiles then add the stones back over the tiles.

John discussed the details of the preliminary Municipal Roads General Permit that he received from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation. The permit is intended to achieve significant reductions in storm water-related erosion from municipal roads, paved and unpaved. The highway department will have to do a physical inventory of 1,303 road segments that were determined to be potential sites for erosion, and implement a multi-year plan to bring road drainage systems up to basic standards.

Alan Brisson called John to report that his vehicle accidentally took out a road sign at the intersection of Middlebrook Road and Monkton Road; Alan apologized and will pay for a new sign.

Loretta Lawrence asked if the pipes at the Union Meeting Hall had been drained. John replied that the water lines to the sink, toilet, and water heater have been drained.

(b) Jack Poirier – Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) permission to use town forest. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the use of the town forest by VAST. Jim Warden seconded. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Katherine Yarbrough – proposal for the Grange Series and Grange Market discussion. Katherine Yarbrough addressed the board detailing her proposal to create community-building events

to bring the townspeople of Ferrisburgh together at the Grange Hall. The series will include live music, authors' readings, contra dances, lectures, films, and performances. She explained that to fund the Grange Series, three annual Grange Markets would be held: a spring Artisans' Market, an autumn Antiques Market, and a winter Christmas Market. The board recommended to Katherine that she get permission from Ferrisburgh Grange #539, to use the organization's name before she continues this project. Loretta stated that there are still a lot of "unknowns" about this project and recommended that Katherine come back to another board meeting with more information. After an extensive discussion covering numerous factors, Katherine was advised by the board to contact members of the Ferrisburgh Grange, an already established organization, to discuss the possibility of working together on this proposed project.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) Plank Road – traffic study update. Loretta Lawrence received an email from Josh Donabedian, transportation planner for the Addison County Planning Commission (ACRPC), agreeing to conduct a traffic study at the hill/driveway at 2166 Plank Road. Daniel Crossman commented that he has witnessed many speeding cars braking when approaching the speed cart in the area. He asked to be kept informed about the traffic study.

(b) Personnel Policy – amend language for holiday pay. After review, Jim Warden made a motion to add the following language to Section V of the Personnel Policy: "If an employee is called in to work on a Holiday, he/she will be paid time and a half, for actual hours worked." Jim Benoit seconded. MOTION PASSED. Loretta Lawrence will put this on the agenda for the next regular selectboard meeting on December 6, 2016, for signatures by the board.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Vermont Green Line (VGL) Committee update. Craig Heindel, chair of the town's VGL Committee, informed the board that through his company, Waite-Heindel Environmental Management, he has been hired as an expert witness and consultant for the Swanton Wind Project. Coincidentally, VGL's attorney Lesley Cadwell is also the attorney for the Swanton Wind Project. After discussion, the board thanked Craig for full disclosure of this new relationship; the board feels this is not a conflict of interest for him.

Craig stated that the VGL Committee received the latest version of the town host agreement. Since it does not contain the details of the financial package, it will not be reviewed at this time. He said that at the next regular selectboard meeting he would have an estimate for the 2017 escrow account. This account, which funds continuing expenses such as legal bills, is fully funded by Vermont Green Line Devco, not by the town.

6. Public comment

There was no public comment.

7. Other business

Gloria Warden informed the board that the Bixby Library would like to attend the regular December 6, 2016, selectboard meeting to give a short presentation and ask for a proposed amount of funding for 2017. Loretta Lawrence asked that this item be added to the agenda.

8. Correspondence

(a) Vermont Trails & Greenways Council. Chair Danny Hale sent a renewal application to the town requesting an \$85 municipal due for the 2017 budget.

(b) Invite by Assistant Judges of Addison County for proposed budget meeting December 7, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. The board received a notice to participate in a discussion about the proposed county budget for 2017-2018. The meeting will take place at the Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury.

(c) Vermont Green Line (VGL) Devco, LLC – Petition for Certificate of Public Good. By hand delivery, the town received an original and seven copies of VGL's adjoining landowner mailing list along with mailing labels, which will be used to mail out notices of a pre-hearing conference. Craig Heindel stated that this was just a FYI to the town.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Hall rental request for wedding ceremony – September 16, 2017. After discussion, Jim Warden made a motion to rent the downstairs meeting room and the upstairs community hall to Melissa Emmons and Jason Robinson, for the rental fee of \$175.00, a \$500 deposit, and proof of insurance. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Selectboard warrant. After review, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$437,461.26, requesting the town treasurer provide documentation to explain the \$43.30 payroll transfer to the Vermont Department of Taxes. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira