

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
January 2, 2018**

Members present: Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Michael Red+Muir.

Town officials present: No town officials were present.

Visitors present: Glenn Kaplan, Bessie Sessions, Jim Warden.

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 — December 19, 2017.

Rick Ebel made a motion to approve the minutes of December 19, 2017, as submitted. Jim Benoit seconded. Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Steve Gutowski, and Loretta Lawrence voted in favor. Red Muir abstained. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) John Bull — highway operations report. Loretta Lawrence stated that John Bull, road foreman, was unable to attend.

4. Selectboard old business

There were no items under old business for this meeting.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Vermont Green Line (VGL) Committee update. Rick Ebel, a member of the VGL Committee, announced that committee chair Craig Heindel emailed Loretta Lawrence stating that he would present information to the board regarding the return of the escrow account at the January 16, 2018, regular selectboard meeting. Rick said that the committee recommends removing the recurring committee update from the agenda. He also said that the committee would like a letter from the board addressed to Vermont Green Line Devco, LLC requesting information about the borings.

(b) Building Maintenance Committee meeting report — Red Muir. Red Muir addressed the selectboard regarding the current vacancy on the committee that has resulted in the number of members being reduced to five. The board decided that another member is not needed at this time.

Red detailed for the board two quotes from Clover State Window & Siding, obtained by Fire Chief Bill Wager, for roof repair of the fire department building: new shingles for \$27,500.00; standing seam for \$35,900.00. The committee recommends standing seam. Red said that Bill would obtain two more quotes for the same scope of work. After Bill commented that shingles had been blown off the roof, the committee authorized him to contact Marcel Burnet to do this minor repair.

Red spoke about quotes obtained by Silas Towler from Murphy Metals to repair the roof on the old school located at the intersection of US Route 7 and Little Chicago Road: standing seam for \$12,000.00; asphalt \$7,500.00; and asphalt from Friend Construction for \$9,000.00. The committee recommended that Bill and Silas obtain quotes from the same contractors for the benefits of using the same company for both projects. Red continued by saying that the committee discussed repair to the tower atop the Union Meeting Hall. Carl Cole will obtain quotes for this project. Red believes a quote about three years old was for \$45,000.00 to \$50,000.00.

Red said the committee discussed the need to tear down the old carriage barn because it has become unstable and is a liability. He commented that if the building is torn down the area could possibly be used for more parking, potentially making it more appealing to renters. The board agreed that the carriage barn should come down sooner rather than later. Board members agreed that the building is a liability, is unsafe, and is an eyesore and should be demolished/removed over the summer. Loretta will send an official email

to the school principal and Ken Sullivan, ANWSD Maintenance Director, requesting a meeting with Red and Loretta Lawrence. The email will be requesting all items belonging to the school be removed by July 1, 2018. Chief Bill Wager will remove any items belonging to the fire department, and the town will remove any items belonging to the town.

Red stated that the meeting concluded with a discussion of a list of odds and ends of upkeep for the town offices, for about \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00. All told these projects would cost just over \$100,000.00. He finished his report by saying the committee feels the two roof projects should begin this summer. Red's final comment was that on July 1, 2018, \$30,000.00 would be added to the building maintenance budget. This will help cover the cost of the roofs and other projects chosen from the list.

6. Public comment

Glenn Kaplan, town resident, addressed the board regarding his attempt to obtain more broadband Internet service for the town from Comcast, the current provider. He discussed the need for this and asked if he could post a letter and sign-up sheet at the town offices. He would use the info to create a coverage map. Then with help from David Weinstein of Senator Sanders's office and Representative Diane Lanpher he would give a presentation to Comcast. After discussion, the board granted Glenn's request to post his letter and sign-up sheet.

7. Other business

Both Steve Gutowski and Loretta Lawrence were called by Gary Clark, property owner at 290 Cross Road, regarding clear cutting of the land abutting his property. Although the property is owned by the Brands, the Vermont Land Trust had purchased the development rights. Steve told Gary that there is nothing the town can do about this issue. Loretta advised Gary to get a legal opinion.

Red Muir informed the board that the fire alarm went off at 8:55 a.m. on New Year's Day. Red and Loretta Lawrence were called by the Central Monitoring Station, and both came down as soon as the call came in. The Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Dept. also had a crew and two trucks respond. After investigation, it was discovered that although the fire alarm in the elevator shaft had been disconnected it still needed to be deprogrammed. It was also discovered that the Central Monitoring Station had former board members on the dialer and has since been updated.

Loretta Lawrence announced that prior to the regular selectboard meeting on January 16, 2018, there would be a meeting at 5:30 p.m. with Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell. This meeting is probable executive session to discuss the extensive tree cutting by the Vorstevelds on Arnold Bay Road.

8. Correspondence

(a) ISO — Public Protection Classification: 05/5X. By letter, the town was notified that the Public Protection Classification for the town is 05/5X, effective April 1, 2018. The rating plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies.

(b) GMP MicroGrid-Ferrisburgh Project — petition for Certificate of Public Good to Public Utility Commission. The town was notified by letter that GMP MicroGrid-Ferrisburgh LLC has petitioned to authorize the installation and operation of up to a 4.99 MW solar generation facility and 2 MW battery storage facility to be located off Greenbush Road.

(c) Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) — annual town meeting workshop — February 7, 2018. The workshop will take place at the Capital Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Montpelier, Vermont. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

(d) State of Vermont — 2017 Equalization Study results. The town was notified by letter that based on the results of the Property Valuation and Review's 2017 equalization study the common level of appraisal is 102.97%.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Dakin Farm — 2018 Liquor License Renewal application. Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the 2018 Liquor License Renewal for Dakin Farm. Steve Gutowski 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 \$6,356.26. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Rick Ebel seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira