

Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes – Approved  
January 15, 2019

**Members present:** Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Steve Gutowski.  
Michael “Red” Muir participated electronically.  
Absent: Jessica James

**Town officials present:** John Bull, road foreman, Deb Healey, town treasurer; Steve Huffaker, Addison County Solid Waste Management District town representative, Gloria Warden, town clerk.

**Visitors present:** Anne Agan, Barbara Amblo, A. Armell, N. Armell, Marvin Ball, Dick Becker, Gail T. Blasius, Betsy Brown, Kathleen Bushy, Lauren Cahners-Ford, Judy Chaves, Annie Cohn, Art Cohn, Tim Davis, John W. Degraaf, Ruth Dennis, Andrew Dombek, John Ellis, Cierra Ford, Christine Garrow, Hilary Gifford, Nancy Goodrich, Charlie Gottlieb, D. Gottlieb, Jeff Goulette, Craig Heindel, Clark Hinsdale, Suzanne Hinsdale, Kim Hornung-Marcy, Steve Huffaker, Pam Kampner, Steve Lackey, Sue Lackey, Roxie Lauer, Alan McKibben, Susan McKibben, Mary Anne Michaels, Dorothy Muzzy, Nick Patch, Erin Parizo, Marlene Pearson, Gerry Racette, Jean Richardson, Michael Roberts, Justin Rose, Peter Ross, Gary Russen, David Saladino, Bill Scott, Donna Scott, Paul Seyler, Jeff Silver, Judy Thompson, Bill Wager, David Waller, Dorothy Waller, Jim Warden, Mike Winslow, Judy Wolf, Nora Wright.

**1. 6:00 p.m. Regular meeting — call to order.**

Rick Ebel, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Approve minutes —January 8, 2019, regular meeting.**

Red Muir made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2019, regular meeting, as submitted. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**3. Selectboard new business**

**(a) John Bull – highway operations report.** John Bull announced that Paul Bodington returned to work on a limited basis: he can lift up to 10 lbs. With his return, they are back to a full crew. John said Corey Collette and Reilly LaBerge have been updating safety sheets and will be moving on to OSHA issues. Referring to summer projects, John commented this will include finishing off the Old Hollow Road project and paving various town roads; a list will be presented to the board at a future meeting. John said he purchased a considerable amount of material from Pike to avoid a 6% increase beginning on January 1, saving over \$2,400. A discussion ensued when John asked for clarification of the recently adopted personnel policy, which states department heads shall notify the selectboard of town employees’ leave by written notice in a timely manner. He explained that the forecasted weather, the progress of projects, and the amount of vacation time an employee has may mean the employee asks for time off with short notice, possibly one day. Board members said it is just a heads up to know where people are and what is going on. The board reiterated it will not tell John or his crew when to take time off. John expressed concern that with the possible change in board members he wanted assurance that new board members would view the policy the same way. John’s final point was this is the second time personnel policy changes have been made without his department being in the loop. Rick replied point taken.

**(b) State of Vermont Agency of Transportation – 2019 Certificate of Highway Mileage.** After discussion, this agenda item was tabled until the next regular selectboard meeting on February 5, 2019.

**(c) Approve wording of Town Meeting Article for highway department truck.** Rick Ebel read the proposed article, which stated, “Article 4: Will the voters authorize the purchase of a medium duty low profile truck with a plow and sander in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 to be financed over a period not to exceed 5 years?” After discussion, Steve Gutowski made a motion to add the word “mount” after the word “plow.” Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(d) Route 7/Old Hollow Road/Stage Road — VTrans “local concerns meeting.”** Rick Ebel introduced Erin Parizo from VTrans; she is the project manager and the primary contact. Erin introduced David Saladino and Cierra Ford, representatives from VHB, the engineering firm hired to do the scoping study of the intersection. Visit the town website at [www.ferrisburghvt.org](http://www.ferrisburghvt.org) to review the presentation and read comments from visitors.

**(e) Approve 2019–2020 budget for town meeting vote.** After discussion, Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the 2019–2020 budget for a town meeting vote for the amount of \$2,064,845. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(f) Approve and sign Town Meeting Warning.** Steve Gutowski made a motion to accept the Town Meeting Warning as written, with the exception of Article 4, which will read “... truck with plow mount and sander ...”; the addition of the word “mount.” Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

#### **4. Selectboard old business**

**(a) Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission — event contract follow up.** Rick Ebel stated there was a concern about the impact on the bobcats from people entering the town forest in February. The conservation commission contacted Sue Morse, an expert tracker who will lead the event. She did not have concerns for this type of activity taking place at this time.

**(b) Arnold Bay Road tree cutting and right-of-way update (probable executive session).**  
7:52 p.m. – Jim Benoit made a motion to find that premature general disclosure of attorney-client communication regarding the Vorsteveld tree cutting on Arnold Bay Road would put the town at a substantial disadvantage. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

7:53 p.m. – Jim Benoit made a motion to go into executive session to discuss attorney-client privileged communication of the Vorsteveld tree cutting on Arnold Bay Road under provision of Title 1, Section 313 (a) 1 of the Vermont State statutes. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Rick Ebel announced the board would recess for a brief discussion. Everyone except members of the board adjourned to an outer hallway.

7:57 p.m. – Jim Benoit made a motion to come out of executive session. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

7:58 p.m. – Steve Gutowski made a motion to reconvene the regular selectboard meeting. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Rick Ebel announced no action was taken by the board.

#### **5. Selectboard general business**

**(a) Yankee magazine — featured Ferrisburgh in an article in January 2019 issue.** Rick Ebel showed those present the cover of the issue. He said the article talked about jack jumping.

## **6. Public comment**

There was no public comment.

## **7. Other business**

Red Muir said he had a quote from Mountain Air for three circulator smart pumps for the town offices HVAC system. He is obtaining a second quote from Avonda. Deb Healey, town treasurer, said once the town moves forward she would approach Efficiency Vermont to find out what reimbursement funds may be available.

## **8. Correspondence**

**(a) Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) — Local Government Day — February 14, 2019.** By mail, the town was notified this event would take place in the Vermont Legislature in Montpelier, Vermont.

**(b) Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) —Town Fair and Annual Meeting — October 2–3, 2019.** By mail, the town was notified the league's town fair and annual meeting would take place in Killington, Vermont.

**(c) Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) —Town Meeting Tune-up — February 7, 2019.** By mail, the town was notified this event would take place at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Montpelier, Vermont.

## **9. Selectboard to approve or sign**

**(a) Jolley Associates, LLC — 2019 Liquor License renewal application.** Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the 2019 Liquor License renewal application for Jolley Associates, LLC. 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 \$25,881.75. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

## **10. Adjourn**

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira