

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
January 23, 2024**

**Members present:** Clark Hinsdale, Chris Campbell, Red Muir, Walter Reed II, Jim Benoit

**Town officials present:** Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, John Bull, Highway Department Superintendent, Brian Goodyear, Lister, Bill Wager, Fire Chief

**Visitors present:** Jeanne Kelly, JT Vincent, Teri Sheehan, Steve Fleming, Samuel Ognenoff, Deb Healey, Ron Smith, Adam Powers

**1. 6:30 p.m. Call regular meeting to order**

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Clark Hinsdale requested the following changes to the agenda:

Item 5.c will require an executive session at 7:30 p.m.

Move item 4.c Approve and Sign Town Meeting Warning to 5.d

Red Muir moved to accept the agenda changes as listed. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting January 2, 2024, Budget Meeting Minutes November 28, 2023**

Chris Campbell moved to accept the January 2, 2024 minutes as presented. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. Chris Campbell, Red Muir, Walter Reed II, and Clark Hinsdale voted in favor. Jim Benoit abstained. MOTION PASSED

**Budget Meeting Minutes for November 28, 2023**

Walter Reed II moved to accept the Budget Meeting Minutes for December 28, 2023. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. Walter Reed II, Jim Benoit, and Chris Campbell voted in favor. Red Muir and Clark Hinsdale abstained. MOTION PASSED

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Selectboard New Business**

**a) John Bull/Reilly Laberge – Highway Operations Report**

John Bull reported the frequent messy storms have kept them busy. He is researching possible fill-in drivers. John has heard from an energy company that wants to build a methane digester off Plank Road. After some initial details and discussion, the Selectboard requested the company attend a future Selectboard meeting. Maple Broadband continues their installation in town. John continues to work on finalizing the quote for the new truck.

**b) Final FY '23 Audit Update from RHR Smith**

Ron Smith reported he has completed the audit and gives the town a B+ and provided an overview of his report.

**c) Approve and sign Town Meeting Warning**

Chris Campbell moved to approve and sign the Town Meeting Warning as presented. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**5. Selectboard Old Business**

**a) 1221 Monkton Road Animal Control/Fence Issue**

Clark Hinsdale reported he has spoken with the town attorney, Kevin Kite, regarding enforcement options. Clark stated that the current animal control ordinance needs to be expanded to include all animals and the town will begin working on this. Chris Campbell reported on his conversations with the State Police and Sherriff's Department. Neighbors of 1221 Monkton Road reported animals are still getting in the road.

**b) Approve Town wide reappraisal request for quote (RFP) – Listers**

Brian Goodyear answered questions regarding how Basin Harbor should be represented in the RFP property descriptions.

Chris Campbell moved to approve the RFP with the inclusion of Basin Harbor. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**c) VFD/Ferrisburgh Fire Contract update**

7:35 p.m. – Red Muir moved to open an Executive Session due to premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body at a substantial disadvantage 1 V.S.A §313(a)(1)(A), inviting Adam Powers, Bill Wager, and Pam Cousino. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

First order of business was to sign a mediation agreement. Clark Hinsdale and Chris Campbell had previously signed the agreement and the remaining board members signed it.

Adam Powers gave a summary of discussions to date. After much discussion it was decided to send Adam Powers back to Vergennes with a response to their proposal.

9:13 p.m. – Jim Benoit moved to leave executive session. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Jim Benoit moved to resume the regular session. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**d) Finalize Town Budget**

Chris Campbell moved to amend the final budget to change the Vergennes Fire Department amount from \$60,000 to \$104,676. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**e) Brown Church Update**

Red Muir stated he had nothing to report this week.

**f) Union Meeting Hall update**

Red Muir stated he had nothing to report this week.

**6. Selectboard General Business**

**a) Trails Committee Appointment – Laura Fair**

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Laura Fair to the Trails Committee. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**7. Other Business**

None

**8. Correspondence**

**a) 2023 Equalization Study Results**

Brian Goodyear summarized the 2023 Equalization Study results.

**9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign**

**a) Selectboard Warrant**

The warrant to pay half of this year's amount to the Vergennes Fire Department was discussed and approved to pay.

Chris Campbell moved to pay half of the \$104,676, which is \$52,338, to the Vergennes Fire Department. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Red Muir moved to approve the remaining warrants of \$50,856.41. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**10. Adjourn**

Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Allen