

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2013**

Members present: Loretta Lawrence-chair, Jim Warden, Jim Benoit and Sally Torrey

Others present: Bill Sullivan, Bob McNary, Bessie Sessions, Charlene Stavenow, Carl Cole, Rux Martin, Chet Hawkins, John Bull, Gail Blasius, Silas Towler, Roger Holzapfel, Arabella Holzapfel, Peter Morris and Tom Hickley

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Duncan Harris from Redstone was present to speak to the board about marketing the 22A & Route 7 land. Jim Warden mentions that there are many restrictions to the property. Duncan states that it will take some time to sell the property, probably a multiple year project. He will return to the next meeting on the 4th of March at 6:30.

John Bull was present to give an update on the Highway Facility. He showed a preliminary plan. They are working on getting estimates and hope to have a solid figure soon. They are trying to get the cost down to about \$700,000. Hope to have an open house in late spring and have a vote this summer. There isn't a meeting currently scheduled at this time. John also handed out a depreciation schedule to the board.

Charlene Stavenow was present for public comment. She mentions that they have lost the recording secretary/minute taker for the zoning and planning boards and would like the board to advertise for a new person. She also wonders why the letters that were submitted at the prior meeting regarding the David Shlansky subdivision and slate pit were not mentioned in the minutes. She also felt that that should have been a motion from the board regarding what the Zoning Administrator should be doing with regard to the slate pit. Sally Torrey mentions that a motion had been made in a prior meeting. The minutes should also reflect that highway 34A was a legal town trail, not just a trail. Loretta Lawrence responds that she will speak to Ken Wheeling to make sure he is aware of what the board needs from him and they will make the corrections to the minutes.

Peter Morris from the Bixby Library is present to let the board know that they will be asking to increase the budget by \$15,570 on the floor at town meeting and just wanted to give them a heads up. Loretta Lawrence asks if they have considered hiring a financial planner. Peter responds that the Bixby board has a good handle on the problem now.

Gail Blasius speaks about the large amount of people that have already signed up for the Front Page Forum and wonders if the board can pay the full \$1500 start-up cost, instead of just the \$750 as agree to at the last meeting. 140 members have already joined after 6 days. Jim Warden mentions that FPF is good to have for the town, it is growing quickly and he feels that we should be able to find an additional \$750 from the budget. Sally Torrey also feels that it is a good idea. Jim Warden moves to pay the balance of \$750 for the start-up, one-time costs of Front Page Forum, seconded by Sally Torrey. So voted.

Bill Sullivan asks if the recording secretary/minute taker position will be advertised. The answer is yes, it will be advertised.

Bob McNary asks about the minutes from the February 5th meeting with the auditors. He questions "most towns are headed for appointed positions with an accounting background..." The board mentions that it was just a statement from the hired auditor.

Roger Holzapfel asks why the minutes don't reflect the board authorizing the town attorney to look at whether the petition for the Leed's building standards was not in the minutes. Loretta states that she thought that was in the minutes. Bob McNary wonders why the board just didn't put the question on the town meeting warning. Also, we had a free opinion on whether to put the article on the warning or not, why did we also have to pay for another opinion from the town attorney. Charlene Stavenow mentions that there are grants for energy savings. Jim Benoit mentions that it made sense to leave the article off the warning since the building committee is working to build the highway facility as economical and energy efficient as possible. The question is asked that if the article was put on the warning would it have been noted as non-binding. Loretta states yes. Arabella Holzapfel mentions that 5% of the voters felt it was important to vote on the article so the board should have given voters a chance.

Gail Blasius tells the board that Ferrisburgh Day will be the 3rd Saturday in July, July 20th. Also she asks if posters regarding Front Porch Forum can be displayed at town meeting and is told that as long as they are in the lobby and not in the voting area they can.

Carl Cole asks the board for an update on Encore. A revised letter of intent has been sent to Encore and is now in Encore's hands. He also mentions that substandard slate was used on the roof. The worst part has been patched. He is trying to locate the bid specs and asks the board to make a motion to pursue the roof. Carl also asks about the survey regarding the Union Meeting Hall. It is agreed that Loretta and Carl will work on a survey to be handed out at Town Meeting. He mentions that the only critical issue is the cupola and with what is in the current budget we should be able to take care of that. Jim Warden moved to pursue the roof issue, seconded by Jim Benoit. So voted.

Tom Hickley from Phoenix Feeds has a rental agreement request to use the upstairs hall. Sally Torrey moves to rent the upstairs hall from 9-12 am on the 27th of February for Dairy Farmers, at \$100 per hour with a \$200 security deposit, seconded by Jim Benoit. So voted.

Pam Cousino presents information regarding pricing for a new copier lease from 2 companies. One of them is much cheaper than the other so Pam would like to investigate further. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

Sally Torrey moves to appoint Julie Adams to a 3 year term to the Zoning Board, seconded by Jim Benoit. So voted.

Jim Warden moves to appoint John Paul to a 3 year term to the Zoning Board, seconded by Sally Torrey. So voted.

Jim Benoit moves to appoint Bob Beach to a 3 year term to the Zoning Board and a 4 year term to the Planning Commission, seconded by Sally Torrey. So voted.

Sally Torrey moves to approve the minutes of the January 29th special meeting as written, seconded by Jim Warden. So voted.

Jim Warden moves to approve the minutes from the February 5th meeting with the auditors as written, seconded by Jim Benoit. So voted.

Jim Warden moves to approve the minutes from the February 5th regular meeting with the following changes. The change the sentence in the 2nd paragraph that starts with "This road, known as Highway 34A, to "This road, know as Highway 34A, was converted to a legal town trail on September 19, 1973." Also to put in the minutes the correspondence that was received at that meeting, seconded by Jim Benoit. So voted.

Jim Benoit moves to approve the warrants but to hold the 2 Avonda bills until it is determined that the second bill was not part of the service agreement, and he also noted that a slip was not attached to the Tractor Supply bill, seconded by Jim Warden. So voted.

Jim Warden moves to approve and sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage, seconded by Sally Torrey. So voted.

Jim Warden makes a motion to be able to purchase a projector screen for meetings upstairs, not to exceed \$150.00, seconded by Jim Benoit. So voted.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cousino