

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
February 20, 2024**

Members present: Clark Hinsdale, Chris Campbell, Red Muir, Jim Benoit

Town officials present: Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, John Bull, Highway Department Superintendent

Visitors present: Bessie Sessions, Sarah Morris, Silas Tower, Judy Elson

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

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting February 6, 2024, Budget meeting January 2, 2024, Special meeting February 12, 2024

Jim Benoit moved to approve the February 6, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

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

Jim Benoit moved to approve the February 12, 2024 special meeting minutes as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

None

4. Selectboard New Business

a) John Bull – Highway Operations Report

John Bull provided an overview of the letter from the state regarding Route 7 traffic issues. John will invite Mario Dupigny-Giroux and Jim Cota to attend a future meeting. John stated the project for the Route 7 bridge is in the very early stage and expects more information will be available in the summer. He is working on storm water grants and preparing Long Point for paving.

b) Pick, Approve and Sign top bid for Lawn Mower

John Bull presented three quotes for new lawn mowers. After discussion it was determined the best model would be from Spear Street Mower Specialties.

Jim Benoit moved to purchase a lawn mower from Spear Street Mower Specialties for \$13,368.25. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Pick, Approve and Sign top bid for Garage Ceiling Fans

John Bull presented two quotes for ceiling fans for the town garage. Glen Peck Electric provides the industrial type fan that will be the most efficient.

Jim moved to purchase the ceiling fans from Glen Peck Electric for \$9,093.06. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

d) Ferrisburgh Central School – tapping maples at the Union Meeting Hall – Judy Elson

Judy Elson was present to request that students be allowed to tap the maple trees at the Union Meeting Hall.

Jim Benoit moved to allow students to tap the maple trees at the Union Meeting Hall. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

e) Appoint 2 people to be authorized signers for Municipality Grants

Discussion was held on the need for authorized signers for Municipality Grants.

Jim Benoit moved to appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair as authorized signers of Municipality Grants. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

f) Consider and sign a letter of Support for a Grant Application for the Bixby Library

Silas Tower presented a letter of support for a grant application for the Bixby Library. The grant is for federal money to be used to enhance accessibility to the library.

Red Muir moved to sign the letter of support for the Bixby Library to apply for the grant. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) Approval of three-year contract with Vergennes Fire Dept. 7/2024 – 6/2027

Clark Hinsdale reported through the mediation with Vergennes Fire Department a three-year contract was agreed upon. The terms are year 1, \$119,000.00, year 2, \$127,000.00, and year 3, \$135,000.00.

Red Muir moved to approve the three year contract with Vergennes Fire Department as approved through mediation subject to review and approval by the town attorney. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b) Animal Ordinance update

Animal ordinances from other towns have been reviewed and discussion was held. Everyone agreed there should be a dog ordinance and a separate animal ordinance.

6. Selectboard General Business

None

7. Other Business

Chris Campbell reviewed recent information regarding changes to the bathrooms at the Vergennes High School. Chris expressed concerns that a large amount of money is being spent on this project and that the Selectboard, parents, and taxpayers had no knowledge or involvement in planning this expenditure. He is unsure of why the change is being made and has specific concerns about the safety of the students and setting students up for success.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign

a) Certificate of Highway Mileage

The annual Certificate of Highway Mileage was presented for approval.

Jim Benoit moved to approve and sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b) Approve and Sign 2023/2024 Contract with Vergennes for Fire Coverage

The fire coverage contract with Vergennes was reviewed and discussion was held identifying some dates needed to be changed.

Red Muir moved to approve and sign the 2023/2024 Vergennes Fire Coverage contract from July 1, 2023 expiring on June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$104,676.29. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Approve and Sign Resolution (sale of 22A land)

A Certificate of Agent Authorization and Designation was prepared by Kevin Kite to complete the sale of the Route 22A land. The document appoints Clark Hinsdale as the agent to execute the documents at the sale.

Jim Benoit moved to approve and sign the resolution for the sale of the Route 22A land. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

d) Liquor and Tobacco License Approvals

Global Montello Group, Corp. (Tobacco License and Second Class)

Jim Benoit moved to approve and sign the Tobacco License and Second Class License for the Global Montello Group, Corp. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Moonlit Night, LLC (First Class, Third Class, and Outside Consumption)

Jim Benoit moved to approve and sign the First Class, Third Class, and Outside Consumption License for Moonlit Night, LLC. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

e) Selectboard Warrant

Red Muir moved to approve the warrants for \$107,138.43. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Red Muir, Chris Campbell, and Clark Hinsdale voted in favor. Jim Benoit abstained. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Allen