

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes – DRAFT
March 19, 2019

Members present: Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Clark Hinsdale, Jessica James. Michael “Red” Muir participated electronically.

Town officials present: John Bull, road foreman; Pam Cousino, assistant town clerk.

Visitors present: Bob Beach, Brett Danyow, Tim Davis, Doug Fletcher, Stephen Gutowski, Gene Lauer, Roxie Lauer, Peter Markowski, Brent Newton, Peter Newton, Bessie Sessions, Grace Smith, Nadia Smith.

1. 6:30 p.m. Call to order and reorganization of selectboard.

(a) Assistant town clerk — call the meeting to order. Pam Cousino, assistant town clerk, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

(b) Motion to elect chairperson. Jim Benoit made a motion to elect Rick Ebel chairperson of the board. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Rick welcomed new board member Clark Hinsdale, commenting that Clark has experience serving on other selectboards.

Rick Ebel asked for a motion to amend the agenda, adding **5. (b) Appoint Pam Cousino as temporary acting zoning administrator.** Jim Benoit made a motion to amend the agenda as described. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Motion to elect vice chairperson. Jim Benoit made a motion to elect Jessica James vice chairperson of the board. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(d) Motion to elect clerk of the board. Jim Benoit made a motion to elect Clark Hinsdale clerk of the board. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(e) Motion to appoint minute taker. Jim Benoit made a motion to appoint Jean Silveira as minute taker. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(f) Motion to adopt the Ferrisburgh Selectboard Rules of Procedure. Jessica James made a motion to adopt the Ferrisburgh Selectboard Rules of Procedure. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(g) Motion to set the first and third Tuesdays as the meeting schedule. Jessica James made a motion to set the first and third Tuesdays of every month as the meeting schedule. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(h) Motion to designate the official newspaper. Jessica James made a motion to designate the *Addison Independent* as the official newspaper. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(i) Motion to designate the official posting of agendas/meetings/warnings. Jim Benoit made a motion to designate the town clerk’s office, Ferrisburgh post office, North Ferrisburgh post office, West

Ferrisburgh (at the intersection of Basin Harbor Road and Jersey Street), and the town website as the official posting locations for agendas/meetings/warnings. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(j) Motion to authorize a designated selectboard member to sign weekly payroll warrant. Red Muir made a motion to authorize the chairperson to sign the weekly payroll warrant. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Discussion ensued regarding other board members being able to sign if the chairperson is not available. Red Muir amended his motion: to authorize the chairperson to sign the weekly payroll warrant and all other board members if the chairperson is unavailable. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

2. Approve minutes — March 5, 2019, regular meeting.

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2019, regular meeting, as submitted. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) John Bull — highway operations report. John Bull said the crew is transitioning to cleanup work, patching potholes, grading, etc. before getting into construction mode. He informed the board that he would be meeting with the state engineer about new road regulations regarding the Clean Water Act. Rick Ebel asked John if he had seen the video clip emailed by Doug Fletcher showing water runoff, which Rick thought was coming from the double culvert north of Doug's driveway. John said he did get the link and would look at it again because he was a little confused where that culvert was located. He said the calming pools for the Vorstevelds' underground drains were not wide enough and need to be set back further. John said he plans to meet with the Vorstevelds and Erik Van Wyck to do a survey and talk about how to mitigate any issues seen.

John mentioned that VTrans was going to propose sidewalks for the North Ferrisburgh traffic light. He informed the board the town would be responsible for repairing, plowing, salting, and sanding the sidewalks and currently does not have the ability or equipment to do this. He said the board has been asked to consider electronic speed signs in the hollow, so there is the same question about who will be responsible for repair and maintenance. Jim Benoit asked John if he was aware of the pothole in front of Jean Richardson's house. He replied that is a project for tomorrow.

(b) Addison County Sheriff's Department — meet new sheriff — discuss future with the department & concerns of the town and speeding on Old Hollow Road. After Captain Brent Newton and Sheriff Peter Newton introduced themselves, Captain Newton talked about the department being more aggressive with officer patrols on back roads and not on Route 7. He said bills showing activity on Route 7 are for grant projects, though traffic tickets would be written under local codes so the town would receive the revenue. Rick Ebel and Jessica James expressed concern about people who are fishing who park on the road or on the bridge at the slant. Captain Newton said they addressed it heavily last year and would do so again this year. Jim Benoit asked about policing speeding on Old Hollow Road. Captain Newton said a resident called him about this and his officers would be there during patrol hours. He spoke about new covert radar signs, which collect raw data that could be used for targeted enforcement where speeding is taking place regularly. He also spoke about a new program he began issuing excess weight permits for the whole county. Roxie Lauer, a member of the North Ferrisburgh Village Association, said there are no reminders about speed limits from the hollow to Monkton Road. She said all four roads leaving the hollow are uphill and cars speed up. Bob Beach stated he came to the meeting to support the sheriff's department, adding he does not see the need for the level of police services the Vergennes Police Department provides. He spoke about a past petition,

which others had complied, signed by about 110 residents who supported the sheriff's department services. He said he would be willing to do a petition, if needed. Sheriff Newton said the level of training, experience, and education of the sheriff's department totally matches or exceeds Vergennes in some instances.

(c) Nadia Smith — Friends of the Grange funds. After describing the efforts to organize the Friends of the Grange and its purposes, Nadia Smith presented to the board an accounting, beginning on April 14, 2006, of grants paid to the town for the building. She stated the only amount outstanding is \$2,300 for a building speaker system. Rick Ebel said there would be follow up with past hall renters asking if they would want a system. He said it would be useful for meetings held upstairs because of the poor acoustics. Discussion ensued about the need for a sound engineer for audio throughout the building. Tim Davis recommended Rick Carr, a local resident, who owns a sound engineering company. Nadia's final comment was that after saving \$1,500 for operating costs there is \$662 left over for town use.

(d) Gage Cemetery Association — hall rental request (downstairs) — annual meeting May 5, 2019. Jim Benoit made a motion to rent the downstairs meeting room to the Gage Cemetery Association on May 5, 2019, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., waiving the rental fee but requiring a \$500 deposit and proof of insurance. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(e) Walker Road-Little Chicago Road Water Users Association — hall rental request (upstairs) — April 9, 2019. Jim Benoit made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the Walker Road-Little Chicago Road Water Users Association on April 9, 2019, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., waiving the rental fee but requiring a \$500 deposit and proof of insurance. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) US Route 7/Old Hollow Road/Stage Road — traffic study update. Rick Ebel stated there would be a meeting of key people who have been working on this issue on March 25, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. at the town offices. He said he received an email from Erin Pariso, the project manager, saying sidewalks would be included as part of the design. He noted that John Bull mentioned in his report given earlier in the meeting [see 3 a.] that the town would be responsible for repairing, plowing, salting, and sanding the sidewalks.

Tim Davis said he wrote a letter to S. B. Collins, owner of the land with Jimmo's Motel, suggesting options for the property, such as charging stations. He commented he was led to believe the company did not know about VTrans' plans for the intersection. Jim Benoit asked Tim to email a copy of his letter to the town clerk.

(b) Selectboard representative to the Land Use Regulation Update Committee. Rick Ebel stated Steve Gutowski was remaining on the committee and he suggested another board member join. After discussion, Jessica James made a motion to appoint Clark Hinsdale to the committee. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Arnold Bay Road tree cutting and right-of-way update. Discussion ensued, lead by Doug Fletcher about the inability of the double culverts to handle the amount of water flowing off the Vorstevelds' fields, the underutilization of the wetlands, and the extensive erosion occurring. Doug's main point was that last year there was no runoff while this year it has reached his property. He said the tile drain outlets have run all year long. Jim Benoit said the plunge pool is not big enough and there probably should be two of them. Additional discussion concerned the legality of channeling water to a

neighbor's boundary. Clark Hinsdale said it would be illegal if the water was not crossing a road. Rick asked Jessica James to spend a little time looking into this issue.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Announce district school board vacancy. Rick Ebel said there is a vacancy on the unified school district board for a representative from Ferrisburgh. He advised anyone interested to contact the town clerk by March 27, 2019. Jessica James said there are two candidates: Chris Campbell and Bill Clark.

(b) Appoint Pam Cousino as temporary acting zoning administrator. After discussion, Jessica James made a motion to appoint Pam Cousino as temporary acting zoning administrator. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Discussion ensued about having Pam be available in the zoning administrator's absence without coming before the board every time. After discussion, this agenda item was tabled until the regular selectboard meeting on April 2, 2019.

6. Public comment

Peter Markowski said he came to the meeting to listen to what the Addison County Sheriff's Department had to say. He said he would like the selectboard to consider the Vergennes Police Department because of its proximity.

Rick Ebel noticed Grace Smith taking notes and asked her why she was at the meeting. She replied she is a student at Vergennes High School taking a Modern Citizenship class with Miss Coffey.

7. Other business

There were no items under other business for this meeting.

8. Correspondence

(a) Bill Wager to selectboard re: police services contract. By email, Bill Wager enumerated his reasons why he supports the proposal for police services offered by the Vergennes Police Department.

(b) Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) training dates — March 27 and 30, 2019. By mail, VLCT announced two trainings: Strengthening Communities for the Future: Community and Economic Development Forum on March 27 at Burke Mountain Resort in East Burke, Vermont, and Spring Selectboard Institute on March 22 at the Holiday Inn in Rutland, Vermont.

(c) Vergennes Police Department-Chief Merkel — law enforcement services proposal. By letter, Chief Merkel recapped the proposal he made to the selectboard at its February 19, 2019, regular meeting.

(d) Powhatan, LLC — Satterly Road quarry 2019 blasting. By letter dated and hand delivered on March 6, 2019, David Shlansky, manager of Powhatan, LLC notified Bonnie Barnes, zoning administrator, of the company's intent to blast on March 7, 2019, with an alternate date of March 8, 2019.

(e) Vermont Department of Health and Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) — Health Officer Training Series. The town was notified by mail that the department of health and VLCT will provide free training regarding the duties of a health officer on April 18, 2019, at the Holiday Inn in

Burlington; April 25, 2019, at the Capital Plaza in Montpelier; and July 18, 2019, at the Holiday Inn in Rutland.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Dollar General Store — 2019 Liquor License renewal application. Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the 2019 Liquor License renewal application for Dollar General Store. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Selectboard warrant. After review, Jessica James made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$39,577.83. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Clark Hinsdale made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira