

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
March 19, 2024**

**Members present:** Clark Hinsdale, Chris Campbell, Jim Benoit, Walter Reed II, Steve Fleming

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

**Visitors present:** Bessie Sessions, Deb Healey, Terry Sheehan, JT Vincent, Norman Cohen, Bob Harnish, Craig Heindel, Red Muir

**1. 6:30 p.m. Call regular meeting to order and reorganization of Selectboard**

**a) Town Clerk – call the meeting to order**

Pam Cousino called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**b) Motion to elect Chairperson**

Pam Cousino asked for a motion to elect a Selectboard Chair. Jim Benoit moved to elect Clark Hinsdale Selectboard Chair. Steve Fleming seconded the motion. Pam Cousino cast a vote for Clark Hinsdale to be Chair. Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell, Walter Reed II, and Steve Fleming voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**c) Motion to elect Vice Chairperson**

Jim Benoit moved to elect Chris Campbell Selectboard Vice-Chair. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**d) Motion to elect Clerk of the board**

Jim Benoit moved to elect Walter Reed Clerk of the Board. Steve Fleming seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**e) Motion to appoint Minute Taker**

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Carol Allen as Minute Taker. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**f) Motion to adopt the Ferrisburgh Selectboard Rules of Procedure**

Jim Benoit moved to adopt the current Ferrisburgh Selectboard Rules of Procedure. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**g) Motion to set the first and third Tuesdays as the meeting schedule**

Jim Benoit moved to set the first and third Tuesdays as the Selectboard meeting schedule. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**h) Motion to designate the official newspaper**

Jim Benoit moved to designate the Addison Independent the office newspaper. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**i) Motion to designate the official posting of agendas/meetings/warnings**

Chris Campbell moved to designate the Ferrisburgh Town website, Ferrisburgh Town Office, Ferrisburgh Post Office, North Ferrisburgh Post Office, West Ferrisburgh Bulletin Board, and

Front Porch Forum as the official posting sites for agendas, meetings, and warnings. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**j) Motion to authorize all Selectboard members to sign weekly payroll warrant**

Chris Campbell moved to authorize all Selectboard members to sign the weekly payroll warrant. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**k) Motion to have Selectboard liaison with town committees and departments**

Steve Fleming moved to have Selectboard liaisons with town committees and departments. Jim Benoit seconded the motion.

The liaisons are fire department – Chris Campbell, highway department – Jim Benoit, planning and zoning – Walter Reed II. More may be added at a later date.

All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Clark Hinsdale asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Walter Reed II asked for a time to discuss his meeting with the VARS. It was added as 7) a under Other Business.

**2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting March 5, 2023**

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 5, 2024 as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell, Walter Reed II, and Clark Hinsdale voted in favor. Steve Fleming abstained. MOTION PASSED

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Selectboard New Business**

**a) John Bull – Highway Operations Report**

Riley Laberge has signed up for a yearlong leadership course. They have been doing a lot of dead tree cutting and getting ready for stumping. They are preparing to replace a failing culvert on Monkton Road and will have to close the road to do the work.

He has received final approval for the highway safety improvement grant they will use to remove a tree on Sand Road that will require extra equipment and they are seeking bids for six inch fog lines on Old Hollow, MT Philo, and Four Winds roads that will help with traffic calming.

The MAC truck has been ordered and should be delivered in October and should be on the road in January or February.

John spoke with Jim Cota from VTrans regarding the letter from Mario Dupigny- Giroux regarding the route 7 traffic issues. It was suggested that a letter be written to the ACRPC requesting their assistance getting the project on the list to add a turning lane at Greenbush road and review the other areas discussed. Clark Hinsdale asked John to draft the letter for the Selectboard to review.

**b) Approve and Sign TA-60 Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways**

John Bull provided an Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways report that needs to be approved and returned to the VT District Transportation Administrator showing the annual funding. This plan states the income and expenses of the town highway department and splits

winter maintenance and construction costs. This information is important in the event of an emergency when applying for FEMA funds.

Jim Benoit moved to approve and sign the TA-60 Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

## 5. Selectboard Old Business

### a) Declaration of Inclusion – to Approve and Sign

Deb Healey spoke about the Declaration of Inclusion and encouraged the board to sign it. Chris Campbell stated that previously the board had discussed the declaration, believe they are always inclusive, that the declaration is stating the obvious, and felt this was a political statement.

Walter Reed II moved to adopt the Declaration of Inclusion. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. Steve Fleming voted in favor. Walter Reed II, Jim Benoit, and Chris Campbell voted against the motion. Clark Hinsdale abstained. MOTION FAILED

### b) Animal Control Ordinance

Pam Cousino presented the process for implementing the Animal Control Ordinance. If it is adopted it has to be published in the paper and on the town website within 14 days. If no appeal, by a petition within 60 days with signatures from 5% of voters, it then goes into effect.

A copy will be sent to Steve Fleming and the town attorney for review.

### c) Brown Church update

Red Muir attended and gave an update on the Benson's status and stated there is another interested party. He proposed the board develop a procedure on how any proposals are evaluated. Clark Hinsdale will start a draft procedure.

### d) Union Meeting Hall update

Red Muir reported the electrician has pulled permits and work will begin in April and safety measures were discussed. He will provide regular updates as the work progresses. The window repair is about 65% complete.

### e) Monkton Road Fence update

Pam Cousino received an email from Chris Thompson regarding boundaries. The board discussed the email and no action is required. Clark Hinsdale and Pam Cousino will respond to the email.

## 6. Selectboard General Business

### a) Appointments

**Maple Broadband Delegate – 1 year term – Steve Huffaker**

**Maple Broadband Alternate – 1 year term – Arabella Holzapfel**

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Steve Huffaker and Arabella Holzapfel for a one year term each. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**Planning Commission – 4 year term – Gail Blasius**

**4 year term – Walter Reed II**

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Gail Blasius and Walter Reed II to the Planning Commission for a four year term. Steve Fleming seconded the motion. Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell, Clark Hinsdale, and Steve Fleming voted in favor. Walter Reed II abstained. MOTION PASSED

**Zoning Board of Adjustment – 3 year term – Norm Smith**

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Norm Smith to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a three year term. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**Conservation Commission – 4 year term – Craig Heindel**

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Conservation Commission for a four year term. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**7. Other Business**

**a) VARS meeting**

Walter Reed II will be attending a VARS meeting and wanted to discuss their progress and what information the board expects from his attending.

**8. Correspondence**

**b) VARS Monthly Update for February 2024**

The VARS monthly report was reviewed and the board was pleased with the progress to date.

**9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign**

**a) Selectboard Warrant**

Walter Reed II moved to approve and sign the warrant for \$107,625.55. Steve Fleming seconded the motion. Chris Campbell, Walter Reed II, Steve Fleming, and Clark Hinsdale voted in favor. Jim Benoit abstained. MOTION PASSED

**10. Adjourn**

Chris Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Allen