

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
April 2, 2024**

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

Town officials present: Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk

Visitors present: Bessie Sessions, Jeanne Kelly, Rick & Nancy Benson, Rick Kerschner, Lindsey Brown, Ashley LaFlam, Brian Goodyear, Abigail Goodyear, Jaymes Benoit, Erica Andrus, Rick Ebel, Nikki Bearor, August Miller, Vaughn Collins, Kristina MacKulin

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

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting March 19, 2024

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for March 19, 2024 as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

a) Progress Update on Brown Church – Rick Benson

Rick Benson shared the drawings for the proposed project. He spoke of honoring the history of the church by displaying photos and a written history. They have had many trades in evaluating the work they would need to have done and are interested in starting as soon as possible. Based on feedback they have received they would like to add more groceries like fresh fish, meats, and produce. They will have a seating area. Clark Hinsdale explained the RFP process that will be followed.

4. Selectboard New Business

a) VARS Quarterly update

Brian Goodyear presented the VARS quarterly report. They have expanded their staff and were able to be in service in the 90% range in both February and March. They will be adding a Youth at Risk program. They plan to double their coverage for the eclipse on April 8th.

Brian also reported the Lister's have a May 1 deadline for RFP's and have received five already and expect one more. Pam Cousino will research the process for opening them.

b) School Board Update on School Budget

Kristina MacKulin and Nikki Bearor stated the budget failed by 18 votes and they will meet on April 8th to begin crafting the budget they will present next. They've determined that an approximate \$233,000.00 reduction in the budget provides about a 1% reduction in the tax rate. Kristina gave some examples of how a reduction would affect the tax rate, for example, to get the tax rate to a 15% increase it would require \$1.2 million to be removed from the budget. The actual school budget is a very small portion of the increase, and the state had a plan that they realized they couldn't fund and has placed districts in this position. Discussion was held around the level of increase being unsustainable, how information is communicated to residents, and how difficult it is to find information.

c) Easement Agreement for Union Meeting Hall

Rick Kerschner stated the Easement Agreement presented is a work in progress and will go through some more edits before being ready for approval.

d) How to Proceed with Funds from Route 7 & 22A Sale – Best Use

Clark Hinsdale reviewed the list of the town's outstanding loan balances. The funds from the sale are estimated at \$340,000.00. Clark listed some options for using the funds.

Chris Campbell moved to place the net proceeds from the sale of the Route 7 & 22A property into a short-term CD of less than 12 months, to give the Selectboard time to study how best to use the funds. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) Union Meeting Hall Request for Fence and Port-o-Let during Roof Repairs

Rick Kerschner stated the contractor is providing a fence and port-o-let.

b) Approval of Ordinance Regulating Livestock Running at Large

A revised copy of the ordinance was presented and included Steve Fleming's feedback. The town attorney is reviewing the ordinance.

c) Discuss procedure for offering Brown Church for sale

Clark Hinsdale stated he drafted a request for proposal (RFP) and has shared it to obtain feedback and it will then go to the town attorney for review.

Jim Benoit moved to go with the RFP draft concepts reviewed by the town attorney, publish it in the Addison Independent, and received by the Town Clerk within 30 days from the publishing date. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

6. Selectboard General Business

a) Appointments: Addison County Solid Waste Dist. Representative – David Olson

Jim Benoit moved to appoint David Olson as a representative to the Addison County Solid Waste District. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Office Clerk (3 years) – Karen Petersen

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Karen Petersen as the Office Clerk for a term of 1 year. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Zoning Board of Adjustment (3 years) – Diane Nadon

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Diane Nadon to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a term of 3 years. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

7. Other Business

None

8. Correspondence

a) Letter to ACRPC re: West Ferrisburgh Water User's Association

Clark Hinsdale submitted a letter to the ACRPC to apply for a \$10,000 planning grant on behalf of the West Ferrisburgh Water User's Association. The grant would be used to hire an

engineering firm to do an analysis of the private water system that serves over 80 households and farms.

9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign

a) Chris Chamberlain Mapping – April 2023 to April 2024 Tax Mapping Contract

Reviewed a proposal from Chris Chamberlain for \$3,600.00 to update the Ferrisburgh parcel data and maps.

Chris Campbell moved to approve the mapping contract with Chris Chamberlain in the amount of \$3,600. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b) Memorandum of Understanding Between ANWSD and the Town

A Memorandum of Understanding between ANWSD and the Town was presented to define responsibilities between ANWSD and the Town allowing each party to use the property of the other.

Walter Reed II moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between ANWSD and the town of Ferrisburgh. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Selectboard Warrant

Jim Benoit moved to approve the warrants for \$66,475.27. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Allen