

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
April 6, 2021**

Members present: Chris Campbell, Jessica James, Clark Hinsdale, Michael “Red” Muir, Jim Benoit

Town officials present: Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk. All town officials participated electronically using Zoom.

Visitors present: Ashley LaFlam, Colleen Brickley, Mary Neffinger, Jean Richardson, Doug Fletcher, and Kimberly Trombley

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

Jessica James called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, March 2, 2021

Jessica James asked for approval of the minutes for the regular meeting on March 16, 2021. Red Muir moved to approve the March 16, 2021 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

Clark Hinsdale suggested that a check-in with the town assessor and a discussion regarding the town beach be included in a future agenda. Jessica James proposed that the items be added to the 4/20/21 agenda when John Bull would be present.

4. Selectboard New Business

a) Colleen Brickley, Kelly Brush Foundation – permission to use town roads for 16th Annual Bike Ride, September 11, 2021

Colleen Brickley attended to request the use of town roads for the Kelly Brush Annual Bike Ride on September 11, 2021. The route is the same as the one they’ve used on previous years. They would provide security at the route 7 intersections by the Addison County Sheriff’s Department. Chris Campbell asked that someone be at each intersection to make sure riders come to a complete stop before crossing.

Red Muir moved to approve the use of town roads for the Kelly Brush Bike Ride on September 11, 2021. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b) Friends of the Union Meeting Hall – discussion of food vendors at Union Meeting Hall

Ashley LaFlam and Mary Neffinger attended to request approval to have food vendors at the Union Meeting Hall. Ashley provided an overview of their plans to have food vendors set up at the Union Meeting Hall throughout the summer. She currently has three interested vendors for the end of April. She also requested a porta-potty be setup as access to the Union Meeting Hall might be limited due to the steeple repairs. Since the construction would take place on weekdays, they do not plan to schedule vendors at that time. Ashley estimated the 3 vendors at the end of April would cover two months of the porta-potty expense.

Clark Hinsdale moved to approve the request of the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall to host vendors and the town handling of the porta-potty. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Request from building maintenance committee to remove Union Meeting Hall sheds

After discussion, Red Muir suggested that the sheds not be removed at this time as there are higher priorities to address while they do more research on the cost to remove the sheds. He would like to have a lead and asbestos evaluation performed and estimates it would cost about \$1,000. The building committee withdrew their request. Clark Hinsdale suggested a letter be sent to Mr. McClay to notify of the planned construction and the overflow of items onto town property. Jessica James will draft and send a letter.

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) Dismissal of Vorsteveld suit

Jessica James has received the Stipulation of Dismissal regarding the Vorsteveld suit.

6. Selectboard General Business

a. COVID-19 update

Governor Scott presented the reopening plan at his press conference today.

b. Applicants' appointment requests

Conservation Commission – 4- year term

Karen Petterson

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Karen Petterson to the Conservation Commission for a 4-year term. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Planning Commission – 4- year term

Bob Beach

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Bob Beach to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Addison County Solid Waste Management District Alternate – 1-year term

Kimberly Trombley

Kimberly Trombley wanted to be transparent that she is an owner of redemption centers and she would abstain if there was a conflict of interest.

Clark Hinsdale moved to appoint Kimberly Trombley as an Alternate to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District for a 1-year term. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

7. Other Business

Red Muir provided an update on the Sisters property regarding the roof repairs and electrical review. Don Sisters has reported that he had problems with his heating source recently.

Jessica James mentioned that she has received a complaint about people parking and watching the bald eagles and fishing at the slang. She reached out to the Sherriff's department and several patrols occurred. It was suggested that she contact Fish and Wildlife for the safety of the eagles.

Clark Hinsdale proposed that the Selectboard review the planning and zoning fees at a future meeting. He wants to make sure the application fees reasonably and fairly account for the staff work that goes into processing the applications.

8. Correspondence

a) Addison County Sheriff's Department – removal of 5% clause from Sheriff Peter Newton's compensation for 2020-2021 contract moved to operating budget

A letter was received regarding the 5% clause in the contract with Sheriff Peter Newton. It is typical for a Sheriff to receive this percentage as their personal income. Sheriff Newton will instead add the 5% to the departments operating budget for the nonprofit to fund community service programs.

b) Proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places – Vergennes Station House, Ferrisburgh

A letter was received regarding the proposed nomination of the Vergennes Station House, Ferrisburgh to the National Register of Historic Places. This will take place at an April 22, 2021 meeting.

c) Comcast network expansion in Ferrisburgh – Shellhouse Mountain Road

Comcast will be expanding their network on Shellhouse Mountain Road covering 1.6 miles. Jessica James replied with a list of other areas that need to be addressed. She has not received a response yet. She also sent it to Steve Huffaker.

d) Pam Cousino – denial of request from Victoria G. Brady of property tax interest

A copy of the letter to Victoria G. Brady was reviewed informing her that the request to waive the interest for a late property tax payment was denied.

e) Letter to Congressman Peter Welch re: Vergennes wastewater and stormwater improvement

Jessica James shared a letter she sent to Congressman Welch on behalf of the town supporting Vergennes request for community project funding to improve stormwater and wastewater systems.

9. Selectboard to approve or Sign

a) Addison County Solid Waste Management District representative and alternate to board of supervisors – David Olson, Kimberly Trombley – already approved

Jim Benoit moved to appoint David Olson and Kimberly Trombley as representative and alternate to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b) Steeple Contract for Union Meeting Hall – SkipJack Building, LLC

Jessica James, Carl Cole and Kevin Kite have reviewed the contract with SkipJack Building for the union meeting hall steeple repair. Discussion was held regarding pre-buying materials. Red Muir volunteered to oversee the pre-buying of materials. Chris Campbell moved to approve the contract for the Union Meeting Hall Steeple with SkipJack Building LLC. Red Muir seconded the motion. Jim Benoit raised a concern that there is no language regarding liquidated damages addressing penalties if not completed by contract date. Clark Hinsdale expressed concerns about the temporary transfer of liability regarding pre-buying of materials. After the discussion it was decided that the contract will be revised and reviewed prior to the next Selectboard meeting where it will be presented for approval. Chris Campbell withdrew his motion.

c) Homeward Bound yearly contract for stray animal sheltering

The town has received a new contract from Homeward Bound for sheltering stray animals. The contract provided two options. The town has always gone with option two which is a fixed annual fee of \$600.

Red Muir moved to sign the contract for Homeward Bound with option 2. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

d) Selectboard Warrant

Clark Hinsdale moved to approve the warrant in the amount of \$36,984.56. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Jessica James asked for a motion to adjourn. Chris Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Allen