

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes – APPROVED
April 7, 2020

Members present: Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell, Clark Hinsdale, Jessica James, Michael “Red” Muir. All members participated electronically using Zoom.

Town officials present: Pam Cousino, town clerk; Laurie Curler, assistant town clerk; Deb Healey, treasurer; Steve Huffaker, Addison County Solid Waste Management District representative; Jean Silveira, minute taker, assistant town clerk, office clerk. All town officials participated electronically using Zoom.

Visitors present: See roll call

1. 6:32 p.m. Call regular meeting to order. Jessica James read the following statement:
“As Chair of the Ferrisburgh Selectboard, I find that, due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Scott as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, pursuant to Addendum 6 to the Executive Order 01-20 and Act 92, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

In accordance with Act 92, there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting. However, in accordance with the temporary amendments to the Open Meeting Law, I confirm that we are:

- a) Providing public access to this meeting by Zoom, with additional access offered through telephone. We are using Zoom for this remote meeting. All members of the Selectboard have the ability to communicate during this meeting through this platform and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if desired, participate in this meeting by using the Zoom app or calling the numbers listed on our agenda as well;
- b) Providing public notice of instructions for accessing the meeting. We have previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing this meeting, including how to access this meeting using the Zoom information posted on our meeting agenda. Instructions have also been provided on the town website on Ferrisburghvt.org, where our meeting agenda is also posted.
- c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are any problems with access. Please notify Pam at the town offices or email myself, Jessica James, or email or call the town office, and
- d) Continuing the meeting if necessary, if in the event the public is unable to access this meeting, it will be continued to a time and place certain.”

Her final comment about the executive order was, “Please note that all votes taken during this meeting that are not unanimous will be done by roll call vote, in accordance with the law.”

She called the meeting to order by requesting a roll call attendance of all members participating in the meeting: Jessica James, chair; Clark Hinsdale, vice chair; Red Muir, selectman; Jim Benoit, selectman; Chris Campbell, selectman; Pam Cousino, town clerk; Laurie Curler, assistant town clerk; Deb Healey, treasurer; Jean Silveira, minute taker, assistant town clerk, office clerk; Sue Hoxie, Tour de Farms; Zeke Davisson, Kelly Brush Foundation.

2. Approve minutes — March 17, 2020, regular meeting.

Red Muir made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2020, regular meeting, as submitted. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) Selectboard to authorize one or more of its members to review and approve orders. After discussion, Clark Hinsdale made a motion to authorize Jessica James to approve and sign orders, such as payroll and operating expenses, during the time of this executive order from the governor about COVID-19. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Zeke Davisson — Kelly Brush bike ride — September 12, 2020. Zeke Davisson addressed the board giving detailed information about the ride and answered questions. Following discussion, Clark Hinsdale made a motion to approve the use of town roads by the Kelly Brush Foundation for a bike ride on Saturday, September 12, 2020, providing riders follow the Ferrisburgh town requirements. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Sue Hoxie — Tour de Farms bike ride — September 19, 2020. Sue Hoxie addressed the board giving detailed information about the ride. Discussion ensued when Jim Benoit asked about uniformed traffic officers (UTOs) being used at all intersections of town roads and Route 7. Sue explained that the Vermont State Police do not require UTOs at intersections controlled by traffic lights. After further discussion, Red Muir made a motion to approve the use of town roads by Tour de Farms for a bike ride on Saturday, September 19, 2020, and station volunteers for traffic control at the intersections of Route 7 and Middlebrook Road as well as Route 7 and Monkton Road. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) Building maintenance updates. Red Muir lead a discussion regarding whether or not given the current COVID-19 stay-at-home order by Governor Scott if any maintenance work should continue on town buildings. Following the discussion, board members agreed it would delay any further work until the restrictions are lifted.

- i. Union Meeting Hall (UMH) update.
- ii. Town offices building - roof

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Town officers schedule updates. Jessica James spoke about checking in with town officers to see when they could come in to give the board an update from their areas of expertise. Chris Campbell said he was thinking any officers with enforcement ability—delinquent tax collector, tree warden, health officer, animal control officer, etc.—could update the board when they take action so the board would not be unaware about issues brewing in town. Clark Hinsdale said the reports could be added to agendas based on priority, starting with issues related to the COVID-19 situation. After discussion, Jessica said she would review the list of town officers and work with Chris to draft an incident report.

(b) COVID-19 updates. Jessica James said she has a weekly call on Wednesdays about COVID-19 issues with the northern Addison county group, which is mostly working with unemployment claims and helping employers and employees know their options. She said she does not have a statement drafted at this time and will go with what the governor states. All board members agreed with Jim Benoit's comment that doing anything different would result in confusion. Clark Hinsdale remarked a lot of

people from out of state have retreated to their camps here. Discussion ensued when Chris Campbell suggested changing the sheriff's patrols from traffic control to patrolling fishing accesses, town beach, play grounds at the school, and other areas during COVID-19 to stress social distancing. Jessica spoke about an email reply she sent to Captain Brent Newton regarding an increase in groups of people on town bridges, primarily, South Slang Bridge on Hawkins Road and Donovan's on Basin Harbor Road, as well as more people at town beach. She asked for patrols to monitor those areas, along with the State Park accesses. Captain Brent Newton replied that the executive order does not allow for enforcement of the stay-at-home order. He said patrols would monitor fishing accesses and town beach, and patrolmen would be reminding people to be safe.

(e) Applicant's appointment request

Addison County Solid Waste Management District (ACSWMD) — 1-year term. Red Muir made a motion to appoint David Olson to the 1-year term. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Pam Cousino, town clerk, announced the appointment was as an alternate.

6. Public comment

There was no public comment.

7. Other business

There was no other business.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Homeward Bound — 2020 contract for animal holding facility. Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the 2020 contract for option 2, which states the town agrees to pay a flat rate of \$600, with no charge per stray dog and no limit as to the number of stray dogs the town may bring to Homeward Bound. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Selectboard warrant. Jessica James stated that due to COVID-19, Deb Healey, town treasurer, emailed the warrant to the board; she did not email individual statements. Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$26,202.51. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira