

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes - Approved
May 7, 2019

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

Town officials present: No town officials were present.

Visitors present: Judy Chaves, John Eisenhardt, Craig Heindel, Jeanne Kelly, Andy Kirkaldy, Loretta Lawrence, Liz Markowski, Peter Markowski, George Merkel, John Paul, Patty Paul, Bill Scott, Donna Scott, Bessie Sessions, Wesley Snyder.

1. 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting — call to order.

Rick Ebel, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approve minutes — April 16, 2019, regular meeting.

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2019, regular meeting, as submitted. Jessica James seconded. Jim Benoit, Rick, Ebel, Clark Hinsdale, and Jessica James voted in favor. Red Muir abstained. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) Local Emergency Management Plan Manual update, training and adoption. Bill Wager, fire chief, discussed the state mandated plan, adding he would like a more comprehensive plan especially if key players are not available during an emergency. He followed up by saying he would contact Addison County Regional Planning Commission to see if funding is available.

(b) Bill Wager — fire station septic tank repairs update. Chief Wager said he has been working with Clark-Wright Septic Service. A float was repaired and risers were installed. He said the road crew would be digging up the roots of bushes that were removed. Craig Heindel suggested an annual inspection be done to check for problems. After discussion, Bill said he would issue RFPs for companies that do the work and include all town buildings.

(c) Multiple Sclerosis Green Mountain Getaway Bike Ride — August 3, 2019. Wes Snyder, director of development, addressed the board describing details of the event. The main concern of the board was the intersection where the route intersects with US Route 7. Wes said he would confirm with Samantha Boland, logistics specialist, that there would be uniformed traffic officers at this intersection. Following discussion, Jessica James made a motion to approve the use of town roads by Multiple Sclerosis for the Green Mountain Getaway Bike Ride on August 3, 2019. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(d) 12th Annual Champ's Challenge for Cystic Fibrosis — June 30, 2019. By phone, Rick Ebel reviewed details of the benefit ride with Erin Evans, program coordinator. She confirmed that no part of the ride would be on US Route 7. Following discussion, Jessica James made a motion to approve the use of town roads for the Champ's Challenge for Cystic Fibrosis on June 30, 2019. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(e) D.H. Cameron Property, LLC — quitclaim deed for glebe land. The request for a quitclaim deed was withdrawn.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) US Route 7/Old Hollow Road/Stage Road intersection update and vote to support signaling option. Rick Ebel explained this item was added to the agenda because at the last selectboard meeting it was not clear that the board would be making a decision on which option to support. Clark Hinsdale made a motion stating the board supports the state going forward with the signaling option for the intersection of US Route 7/Old Hollow Road/Stage Road. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Arnold Bay Road tree cutting and right-of-way update. Rick Ebel stated this is an ongoing matter so it will stay on the agenda. After discussion about creating a public tree ordinance, Jim Benoit advised waiting to let the legal opinion from the current action guide the board.

(c) GroSolar/EDF Renewables — Notice to Proceed discussion/vote. Referencing a Notice to Proceed and Agreement from GroSolar/EDF Renewables, Rick Ebel explained the document spelled out details including installation and maintenance of the 15kW solar array—at no cost to the town—being installed south of the town offices building. He noted the document had been reviewed by the town attorney. After discussion, Jessica James made a motion to approve and accept the Notice to Proceed and Agreement with EDF Renewables Distributed Solutions, Inc. formerly know as Global Resource Options, Inc. (In previous dealings with the town, the company was known as GroSolar.) Jim Benoit seconded. Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Jessica James, and Red Muir voted in favor. Clark Hinsdale abstained. MOTION PASSED.

(d) Vermont Green Line Devco — escrow account discussion /action. Rick Ebel read the following statement: “The Ferrisburgh Selectboard agrees with Vermont Green Line’s request dated April 22, 2019 that the funds in the Ferrisburgh – Vermont Green Line escrow account be maintained until further notice, in the safekeeping of escrow agent Attorney Joan Donahue. It is acknowledged that the most recent Escrow Agreement between The Town of Ferrisburgh and Vermont Green Line expired December 31, 2017. If Vermont Green Line wishes to re-start negotiations or discussions with the Town of Ferrisburgh in the future, the Ferrisburgh Selectboard is willing to negotiate in good faith regarding an amended and restated escrow account.” Discussion ensued after Jessica James made a motion to maintain the escrow account as described. Dan Doyle spoke about not only being a witness but also having aircraft overhead shots from three or four years ago of a barge with a reel of pull cable on the back laying it on the bottom of Lake Champlain; he said the pull cable extends from off shore in Ferrisburgh to almost Plattsburgh, New York. He stated the hard work has already been done and the town needs to decide where to come ashore. He voiced his opinion saying he does not want the cable to be in Kingsland Bay. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion made by Jessica James. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(e) Building maintenance — town hall roof. Rick Ebel spoke about the condition of the slate roof, stating oxidation on the shingles on the south side has caused them to crack and fall off. He said that he and Carl Cole contacted Breadloaf Construction to discuss the condition of the slate. The company said it would come to a selectboard meeting after it contacted the company that installed the slate.

(f) Office training update. Rick Ebel talked about the need for cross training of office staff to keep the office running smoothly during busy periods as well as for any possible long-term absences. He read an extensive list of tasks created by Gloria Warden, town clerk, that listed functions performed by each staff member in the office, including the cross training that has taken place. A sample of the tasks

included recording of birth, death, and marriage certificates; assistance to residents, paralegals, appraisers, and attorneys; recording of land records; liquor license applications, notary services, DVM renewals, hall rentals. Rick expressed the appreciation of the board for Gloria's work on this.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Vermont Elevator Inspection Services, Inc. — 2–3-year pricing agreement. After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to sign the 3-year agreement for the limited use/limited application elevator with Vermont Inspection Services, Inc. for the cost of \$175 per year. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) LULA repairs and Conditional Conveyance Certificate of Operation. Discussion ensued regarding the conditional permit for the town offices elevator from Vermont Elevator Inspection Service, Inc. Garaventa is scheduled to repair the battery backup unit on May 9, 2019, which will bring the LULA into compliance.

(c) Police services coverage — discussion and vote for services. Discussion began when Rick Ebel talked about having the Addison County Sheriff's Department, the Vergennes Police Department, as well as the state police at previous selectboard meetings to get an overview of police services in Ferrisburgh. Rick went on to say the Addison County Sheriff's Department has improved its response since the new sheriff has come on board. Based on current service—including reducing speeding in the hollow—community members have informed the board in many emails of support for the sheriff's department. Chief Merkel of the Vergennes Police Department explained the cost would be the same for the same scope of services, except fingerprinting and VIN verifications would be added. Visitors present gave several reasons for wanting to select the Vergennes Police Department; these included a shorter response time since the department is 10 minutes away; the department has a good handle on what is happening in Ferrisburgh, the desire to try something new after 17 or 18 years of service from the sheriff's department. The main point board members spoke about is that whichever department fulfills the contract for police services will be responsible only for traffic patrol and safety. People should call 911 for all emergencies and criminal activity. Following more discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to continue with Addison County Sheriff's Department to fiscal year 2020 for police services. Jessica James seconded. Red Muir called for a roll call vote. Benoit AYE, Ebel AYE, Hinsdale ABSTAIN due to not being present during the Vergennes Police Department's presentation, James NO, Muir NO. The motion failed with 2 votes in favor, 2 against, and 1 abstention.

6. Public comment

Bessie Sessions asked if the town has had confirmation from our attorney that the issue is in process with going to court for the Vorstevelds' business. Rick Ebel replied yes but there had not been any communication recently. The last update was that the town's lawyer was working on the filing.

7. Other business

There was no other business.

8. Correspondence

(a) Vermont League of Cities & Towns — Planning & Zoning Forum — June 18, 2019. This workshop designed for all municipal officials involved in local planning and development review process will be held at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, Vermont.

(b) PACIF insurance to Duprey — re: insurance claim. The town was copied on a letter to Attorney Anthony Duprey, the attorney representing William Kipp, that PACIF, the town's insurance carrier, has revisited the claim filed by William Kipp and determined that \$1,018.98 is still a fair offer to settle the matter.

(c) Green Mountain Power Vegetation Management Department — herbicide treatment notification mailing list. The town was notified by mail that if it has been determined that herbicide application may be performed within 1,000 feet of the town offices building a representative from Green Mountain Power Vegetation Management Department will contact the office prior to application.

(d) 2019 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program — solicitation for funding: scoping studies or design/build projects. The board will ask John Bull, road foreman, to follow up on this program for the next meeting on May 21, 2019.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Parcel mapping contract. Following discussion of the contract with R. J. Turner Company, Rick Ebel said he would like additional information about Article 5. Fee. This agenda item was tabled until the next regular selectboard meeting on May 21, 2019.

(b) Selectboard warrant. After review, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$44,935.69. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira