

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
May 7, 2024**

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

**Town officials present:** Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, Karen Petersen, Office Clerk, Brian Goodyear, Lister, Bill Wager, Fire Chief

**Visitors present:** Bessie Sessions, Jeanne Kelly, Rick Kerschner, Lindsey Brown, Bonnie Barnes, Kurt Haigis, Ashley LaFlam, Jeniah Johnson, Alethea Hill, Dylan Griffin, Caroline Griffin, Heidi Willette, Nikki Bearor, Jean Richardson, Anne Audy, Adam St. Germain, Abigail Goodyear

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

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Clark Hinsdale asked to add an agenda item 7.a) Set dates for follow up on reappraisal bids, executive session to discuss offers on the Brown Church, and employee reviews.

**2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting April 16, 2024**

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for April 16, 2024 as presented. Steve Fleming seconded the motion. Walter Reed II, Jim Benoit, Steve Fleming, and Clark Hinsdale voted in favor. Chris Campbell abstained. MOTION PASSED

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Selectboard New Business**

**a) Easement Agreement for Union Meeting Hall – Silas Towler**

Rick Kerschner reported that Silas Towler had sent a letter outlining the status of the easement agreement. Ashley LaFlam and Rick summarized the status stating they are still working with all parties to complete the agreement. Rick estimated it could be a month or two before it's ready for approval.

**b) Pedestrian Safety (Crosswalk Grant) – TAP Projects Commitment Form To be signed \*appoint Person in charge**

Pam Cousino stated she has received 17 letters in support of this project. Bonnie Barnes gave a history of the application and the award of a \$500,000 grant for a crosswalk project. The grant requires a 20% match by the town. The entire amount does not need to be spent and at an earlier meeting alternative designs and the most cost-effective options were presented. A short video was shown of children crossing route 7 to go to school and vehicles passing by. Several residents stated their support of the sidewalk and how it impacts their families. Discussion was held regarding the future maintenance of the required sidewalks and the cost to do so. One attendee asked if the plowing could be done by a contractor. Discussion was held around assigning a project manager.

Steve Fleming moved to accept and sign the Project Commitments Form for the sidewalk grant and appoint John Bull as the project manager. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**c) Open town wide reappraisal requests for proposal (RFP)**

Four companies submitted bids to perform the town wide reappraisal. Clark Hinsdale opened the bids from:

David G Buckley Appraisers Bennington VT  
NEMRC – New England Municipal Resource Center  
Real Capital Consulting - Alyth Hescoock  
Tyler Technologies - John Vikery

The bids will be scanned and placed in a location for the listers and selectboard to review in preparation for a meeting. Brian Goodyear will attend the May 21, 2024 meeting and propose two dates for the selectboard and listers to meet to discuss the bids.

**d) How to spend balance of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds**

Pam Cousino reported there is a balance of approximately \$36,000.00 that has not been allocated. Jim Benoit asked Bill Wager to provide his fire department wish list for consideration at the May 21, 2024 meeting.

Bill Wager reported the new fire truck is expected to be delivered in June.

**e) Local Emergency Management Plan, 2024 Readoption, Public Works Mutual Agreement form – To be signed**

Jim Benoit moved to have Chris Campbell sign the Local Emergency Management Plan Municipal Adoption Form. Steve Fleming seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**5. Selectboard Old Business**

**a) Union Meeting Hall Update**

Ashley LaFlam reported that the roof work is well underway. She has posted videos showing the work in progress on their Facebook page. When the roof work is completed, the windows will go in and she expects that to be in November. They have received approval for the front deck, and they are finalizing the details for that.

The Taste of Summer Event is planned for June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**6. Selectboard General Business**

None

**7. Other Business**

**a) Set dates for follow up on reappraisal bids, executive session to discuss offers on the Brown Church, and employee reviews**

After discussion the following meeting dates were set:

- Reappraisal bid review – dates to be presented at May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting
- Sale of the brown church – proposals are due on May 28<sup>th</sup> – one proposal has been received – meeting at 5:30 p.m. June 4
- Personnel reviews – 5:30 p.m. May 21<sup>st</sup>

**8. Correspondence**

**a) RHR Smith & Company, Letter regarding Updates and Improvements**

RHR Smith & Company sent a letter outlining changes in staffing. Clark Hinsdale suggested that a RFP for auditing should be conducted in the near future.

**b) Vermont State Park to email sent to Nate McKeen about Kingsland Bay State Park**

Clark Hinsdale had communication from Rick Hedding, the Park Regional Manager, outlining their plans for parking at Kingsland Bay State Park. After discussion it was decided to invite Rick to attend the May 21<sup>st</sup> or June 4<sup>th</sup> selectboard meeting.

**9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign**

**a) Liquor and Tobacco License Approvals**

**1. Little Garden Market LLC (2<sup>nd</sup> Class)**

Jim Benoit moved to the Little Garden Market LLC 2<sup>nd</sup> Class license. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**b) CEAC's Assistance with Municipal Energy Resilience Program – Kurt Haigis**

Pam Cousino stated the Climate and Energy Committee has received a \$4,000 grant. Kurt Haigis has requested approval to spend \$2,000 of the grant to work with the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.

Jim Benoit moved to approve spending \$2,000 of the \$4,000 grant received by the town. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**c) Selectboard Warrant**

Walter Reed II moved to approve the warrants for \$794,437.61. Steve Fleming seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**10. Adjourn**

Jim Benoit moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Allen