

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
May 18, 2021**

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

Town officials present: Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, John Bull, Highway Department Foreman, and Deb Healey, Treasurer. All town officials participated electronically using Zoom.

Visitors present: Gary Gray, Carl Cole, Matthew Gorton, Liam Murphy, Mary Lou Ivey, Sue Hoxie

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

Jessica James called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Jessica James requested a motion to amend the agenda by adding Matthew Gorton to item 4) b. Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission appointment.

Jim Benoit moved to amend the agenda by adding Matthew Gorton to item 4) b. Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission appointment. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, May 4, 2021

Jessica James asked for approval of the minutes for the regular meeting on May 4, 2021. Jim Benoit moved to approve the May 4, 2021 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

Pam Cousino attended a meeting on the rescue plan money. Jessica James also attended. Pam learned the money cannot be used for infrastructure like bridges and roads, but that will come in an infrastructure plan that they are working on. A town cannot receive more than 75% of the town’s budget as of January 2020. The Selectboard will need to appoint an authorized representative and there has to be public engagement to discuss priorities and options and then publish the intended use of the funds. Chris Campbell asked what it could be used for. Jessica had heard wastewater and lead removal.

4. Selectboard New Business

a) John Bull – highway operations report

They have been working on Basin Harbor Road replacing a failed culvert, performing stump removal, and shoulder work. On Church Street to do some shoulder work. Working on Ashley Road culverts and ditches. The next 6 to 8 weeks will focus on failed culverts. Construction has begun on the Route 7 and Old Hollow Road intersection signal. John expressed concern about the traffic pattern the contractors have setup. He reached out to discuss the traffic plan, especially when coming off Old Hollow Road onto Route 7. He has finished the pavement management course and will be developing a pavement management plan. The gravel roads are holding up well. Roadside mowing will begin soon. They will be doing stump removal on Four Winds Road as part of the storm water grant.

Jim Benoit mentioned that the water break repair on Monkton Road has left the road in an embarrassing state. John spoke to Jeff at Vergennes-Panton Water regarding the road repair

and what could be done. John indicated the water department does not have a plan for updating the 80 year old system. John wondered if money in the COVID bill could be used for this. John will provide Jessica James with some contacts so she can follow-up.

Jim Benoit asked about the new truck. John said it is a little ahead of schedule and the body company said they will fit it in as soon as it's ready. John told Deb Healey to be prepared for it in the September timeframe.

b) Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission appointment – Tyler Steff & Matthew Gorton

Jessica James asked for a motion to appoint Tyler Steff and Matthew Gorton to the Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission. Red Muir moved to appointment Tyler Steff and Matthew Gorton to the Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Ferrisburgh Day – Jean Richardson

Jean Richardson presented an overview of the plans for Ferrisburgh Day. Jean, Ashley LaFlam and Gail Blasius are on the committee. It is planned for Sunday, September 26 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Participants so far are the Rokeby Museum, the Ferrisburgh School, the Town Highway Department, the Historical Society, the Ferrisburgh Fire Department, the Union Meeting Hall Friends, and the Lake Champlain Museum. They will be organizing business sponsorships and get donations to cover the costs as it is not in the town budget. They will have a passport for kids that they can get stamped so as they can go around the different places and learn about the town. Jean requested that \$200 to \$250 be included in the budget for next year for marketing and materials. The Selectboard was very excited about this event creating new opportunities for the community. The school will be doing a whole unit on the town.

d) Responsibility for compliances of Land Use Zoning Regulations – Mike Redmond

Mike Redmond was unable to attend. Jessica James has reached out but has not heard back.

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) Long Point Association – set date/time for site visit at Bay Road to review traffic calming measures and 1111 permit issue

Mary Lou Ivey proposed a meeting with John Bull and a Selectboard member on Bay Road on 5/28/2021 to discuss the work done on 12/28/2020 and the letter John Bull sent. Chris Campbell said he would attend. The meeting will be held on Bay Road, May 28, 2021 at 2pm.

b) Draft listing agreement – property at intersection of US Route 7 and 22A

Carl Cole presented a draft listing agreement for the property at the intersection of US Route 7 and Route 22A. Jessica James asked for a motion to go into executive session for discussing a contract regarding the Route 7 and 22a property.

At 7:05 Chris Campbell moved to go into executive session to discuss the contract for the property on Route 7 and 22A. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Jessica James asked for a motion to invite Carl Cole into the executive session. Jim Benoit moved to invite Carl Cole into the executive session. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

At 7:20 Jessica James asked for a motion to leave the executive session. Jim Benoit moved to leave the executive session. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

At 7:20 Chris Campbell moved to return to the open session. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Red Muir moved to go into contract with Carl Cole Realty to list the property at the intersection of US Route 7 and Route 22A for the price of \$385,000, and to allow Jessica James to sign the contract on behalf of the town. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Sue Hoxie – permission to use town roads for Tour de Farms bike ride, September 18, 2021

Sue Hoxie attended to provide an update on the Tour de Farms bike ride. They have dropped the 10 mile route and will only have the 30 mile route. This eliminates the use of the Route 7 and Middlebrook Road intersection. Sue read a note from Ron Redmond, Vergennes City Manager, saying Vergennes is supportive of the event. The certificate of insurance paperwork is being submitted to the insurance agent. Jessica James indicated the previous motion still stands pending the certificate of insurance.

d) Building maintenance committee update

Red Muir provided an updated. The Sisters house now has smoke detectors and the power to the garage is fixed to code. The roof estimate will increase by \$900 due to the increase in materials cost. The electrician has ordered new tubes for the town hall lights. Breadloaf has completed their work on the Town Hall. At the Union Meeting Hall the work on the bathroom continues to make it handicap accessible.

i. Town Hall painting proposal from Roomworks, LLC

Multiple requests were made for painting proposals with no responses. Red Muir supported Roomworks as a good proposal and a good price. Carl Cole has had good experiences with Justin of Roomworks. Chris Campbell moved to accept the Roomworks, LLC bid for painting the Town Hall. Red Muir seconded the motion. Chris Campbell, Red Muir and Jim Benoit voted in favor. Jessica James abstained. MOTION PASSED

6. Selectboard General Business

a. COVID-19 update

Jessica James has discussed the requirements for returning to in-person meetings while still providing a Zoom option. After some discussion, Jessica and Pam will try to test it out and try to be ready for the June 1 meeting.

Deb Healey has had a request from Don Peabody, the Grange Grand Master, to resume their card nights that were previously held on Saturday. It was decided they should complete the rental agreement so there is information available regarding their use. Pam Cousino will have them complete the rental form.

7. Other Business

None

8. Correspondence

**a. Vermont League of Cities & Towns/Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF)
Detail Loss Report**

A report has been received from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns providing the cost detail for claims.

9. Selectboard to approve or Sign

a) Selectboard Warrant

Red Muir moved to approve the warrant in the amount of \$941,293.39. Deb Healey explained that there were 3 installments at once for the Vergennes Fire Department because they were billed late. She said they do have a new treasurer and assistant treasurer so hoped this would not happen again. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Jessica James asked for a motion to adjourn. Jim Benoit moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Allen