

Town of Ferrisburgh

Selectboard Minutes – APPROVED

May 21, 2019

Members present: Rick Ebel, Jessica James, Clark Hinsdale, Jim Benoit, Michael Muir

Town Officials Present: Deb Healey, Treasurer also Norm Smith and Bob Beach were present regarding appointments to Zoning and Planning Boards.

Visitors Present: B. Sessions, Juliana Phelps, Peter Newton, Brent Newton, Katie Quinn, B. Hayden, P. Eriksen, Jeff Fritz, Mark Chabot, George Merkel, Steve Huffaker, Vaughn Collins, Norman Smith, Art Cohn, Annie Cohn, Bob Beach, Rod Cole, John Eisenhardt Jr., Donna Scott, Bill Scott, Carl Cole, Doug Fletcher, John Paul.

1. 6:30 PM Regular Meeting – call to order

Ric Ebel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. Approve Minutes

Michael (Red) Muir moved and Jim Benoit seconded a motion to approve the minutes of May 7, 2019, as presented. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard New Business

3 a) John Bull Highway Operations Report – Chairman Ebel reported that John and his crew were working late on the Hollow Road Project and that John had updated him on the progress of that project.

3 b) Basin Harbor Road – littering issues – Chairman Ebel described the situation with littering in the area where people fish on Basin Harbor Road and the steps being taken to address the problem including flagging the issue for the Addison County Sherriff's Department.

3 c) Personnel – office coverage during extended medical leave – Chairman Ebel reported that Pam Cousino had undergone successful heart surgery and would be out until sometime in July. Deb Healey provided the board with a hand-out proposing additional hours for Deb Healey, Jean Silveira and Bonnie Barnes. Gloria Warden identified the last week in May and the first week in June as the crunch time due to quarterly property taxes payable June 1, 2019. Jessica James asked Deb Healey if all affected staff members were good with the additional hours proposed and Deb answered that all staff members were in agreement with the proposal. Red Muir moved and Jim Benoit seconded a motion to support Gloria Warden's recommendation to appoint Deb Healy, Jean Silveira, and Bonnie Barnes as assistant town clerks and approved the additional hours as presented. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3 d) Economic Development Corridor – Vergennes Mayor, Jeff Fritz and Vergennes City Manager, Mark Chabot presented general plans for an Economic Development Corridor proposed to be located in an alternate route around Vergennes designed to get through truck traffic off Main Street. Of

the 9,800 vehicles per day driving through Vergennes, about 800 vehicles are trucks of which about 600 are tractor trailer trucks. They have visited a similar project in Morrisville that was done about 5 years ago. They will be visiting all of the neighboring towns to drum up support for the project. Clark Hinsdale asked Mayor Fritz how he would feel about a joint study committee with Ferrisburgh to look at options to work together. The mayor indicated he would be interested in pursuing such an effort. Jessica James returned to the issue of the Vergennes Economic Development Corridor and asked if Mayor Fritz and Manager Chabot were looking for a vote of support. They said “yes, they would like evidence that Ferrisburgh is willing to work together with Vergennes on this project. Jessica James moved and Red Muir seconded a motion to support working cooperatively with Vergennes on the proposed Economic Development Corridor. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3 e) Appointments – Planning Commission Chair Bob Beach reported that the Commission unanimously recommends Kristin DeBellis for a term on the Planning Commission ending in 2023. Jim Benoit moved and Jessica James seconded a motion to appoint Kristen DeBellis to the Planning Commission as recommended. All in favor. MOTION PASSES. Zoning Board Chairman, Norm Smith presented Katie Quinn for an opening on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Jessica James moved and Jim Benoit seconded a motion to appoint Katie Quinn to the Zoning Board. All in favor. MOTION PASSES. Art Cohn appeared and expressed willingness to be appointed to a one-year term as a Fence Viewer. Jessica James moved and Jim Benoit seconded a motion to appoint Art Cohn Fence Viewer for a one-year term. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4 a) Police Services for traffic enforcement – Chairman Ebel recounted that the prior vote on this issue failed with a vote of 2 in favor – 2 opposed – 1 abstention. The matter was continued to this meeting for further input and a possible decision. Addison County Sherriff Newton spoke to inaccuracies in the recent Addison Independent article and reviewed his staff size and services. Several visitors made recommendations to the Board as to whom they thought would provide the best police service for Ferrisburgh. Chairman Ebel clarified that the current contract is for traffic safety and enforcement only. Chairman Ebel stated that the sheriff is new and felt he should have another year. He also indicated that Ferrisburgh needed to decide what level of policing they need in the future then indicated that he would entertain a motion from the board. Clark Hinsdale moved and Jessica James seconded a motion to continue our contract with the Addison County Sherriff’s department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Chairman Ebel asked that the minutes reflect a planned invitation to the Commander of the New Haven, Vermont State Police Barracks to discuss police services in Ferrisburgh.

4 b) Building Maintenance Reports – Carl Cole recounted the history of Town Hall repair issues and said that Bread Loaf will be in communication with Spardella about the issues with the south side of the slate roof. Chairman Ebel suggested that the Building Committee do a ‘walk around’ to make a complete inventory of building issues. Deb Healey reported that the LULA repairs had been completed and that the elevator was now completely certified. Carl Cole indicated that no Union Hall repairs have been done yet and suggested that we may not need to use the formal bid process to find a qualified contractor. Carl and Red Muir will follow up with contractors that they are aware of. Deb Healey reported that there was about \$57,800 in the Building Fund with \$30,000 more slated to go in after July 1, 2019. Jim Benoit moved and Jessica James seconded a motion to designate Carl Cole and Red Muir to seek proposals from reputable contractors regarding the RFP for repairs on the Union Meeting Hall.

MOTION PASSES with 4 for and Red Muir against. Red Muir raised the issue of fencing the outside air conditioning units at the Town Hall and also the generator at the Fire Station to protect both units. Red will look into this matter further and talk with Bill Wager regarding the Fire House.

4 c) Janet Mazza – Swept Away – rate increase request – Deb Healey reported on this issue. After discussion Clark Hinsdale moved and Jessica James seconded a motion to delegate the issue to Chairman Ebel with authorization to spend up to \$400. to resolve the issue. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

5 a) Carroll, Boe, and Pell – review and modification of billing rates – Deb Healey shared the current rates with the Board. Jessica James moved and Red Muir seconded a motion to approve the new rate sheet effective July 1, 2019. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

5 b) Local Emergency Management Plan – Jessica James moved and Red Muir seconded a motion to approve the plan as presented. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

6) Public Comment – Juliann Phelps is a news correspondent and a part-time reporter for the Charlotte News. She introduced herself and asked questions about traffic studies and speed limits. She asked Chairman Ebel for follow-up contacts on this issue and the chair gave her several names and e-mailed the Town Clerk to follow up on details. Deb Healey reported on the status of the audit and upcoming training on reconciling the General Ledger.

7 a) Other Business – Vorsteveld tree cutting in the ROW – Chairman Ebel reported that the case has been filed and is available to the public. Douglas Fletcher thanked the Board for filing the case. The Board did not feel the need for an Executive Session at this time.

8) Correspondence – The chairman shared a ‘thank-you’ from Front Porch Forum for the town donation. He also shared a flyer from VLCT on an upcoming Human Resources workshop.

9) Selectboard to approve or sign –

9 a) Jessica James moved and Jim Benoit seconded a motion to sign the parcel mapping contract with Articles II D and II E stricken. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

9b) The Board reviewed bills. Jessica James moved and Jim Benoit seconded a motion to sign the warrant for \$741,273.22. Four members in favor with Jim Benoit abstaining. MOTION PASSED

10) Adjourn – Jessica James moved and Red Muir seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:22 PM. All in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Hinsdale