

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes – Approved
June 2, 2020

Members present: Chris Campbell, Clark Hinsdale, Jessica James, Michael “Red” Muir.

Absent: Jim Benoit

Town officials present: Laurie Curler, assistant town clerk; Jean Silveira, assistant town clerk, office clerk. All town officials participated electronically using Zoom.

Visitors present: See roll call

1. 6:30 p.m. Call regular meeting to order. Jessica James called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. by requesting a **roll call** attendance of all participants in the meeting: Jessica James, Red Muir, Chris Campbell, Clark Hinsdale, Arabella Holzapfel, Janice Perry, Ashley LaFlam, Jean Silveira, Laurie Curler.

2. Approve minutes — May 19, 2020, regular meeting.

Clark Hinsdale made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2020, regular meeting, as submitted. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) Land Use Regulation Update Committee — status. Arabella Holzapfel addressed the board saying a subcommittee of the Land Use Regulation Update Committee (LURUC) has been revising the zoning bylaws and subdivision regulations, which have not been revised since 1988, and has a draft that is nearly complete. She said this work was the first of two tracks. The planning commission will discuss the draft at a meeting at the end of June and submit it to the selectboard. She went on to say that in order to have a public vote in November the zoning revisions would need to be ready by early August, to allow time to warn separate public hearings by the planning commission and the selectboard.

Arabella described a second track, which involves a municipal planning grant, called Visualizing Density, for public outreach to identify a few locations in town where there could be higher density multiuse neighborhoods. She said with COVID-19 public outreach has been difficult so the subcommittee has chosen a few locations and is asking its consultant Katie Raycroft-Meyer to narrow down the list, do some background work, and draft scenarios; another subgroup of LURUC will be reviewing these over the next several months. The locations include: the intersection of Route 7 and 22A (town-owned land) and possibly the former McNary land across the street; the area surrounding the town offices including Middlebrook Road, Little Chicago Road, and Route 7; and east of Route 7 at the intersection of Old Hollow Road, Route 7, and Stage Road.

(b) Delinquent Tax Collector — discussion about filling position. Following discussion, Chris Campbell agreed to contact Tim Davis, a person who has expressed interest in the position.

(c) Fence in ROW on Hawkins Road — Janice Perry. Jessica James said the board had received both a letter from John Bull, road foreman, stated that Janice Perry installed a fence in the town right-of-way without a permit and correspondence from Anne Janson and Andrew Wormer expressing

dismay that the town would instruct her to remove her fence based on a single complaint. Janice explained how in the early 1990s improvements made to Hawkins Road raised it 3' above her property. She said at that time she put up a fence for privacy not thinking she needed a permit and was not informed that she did. Janice stepped outside and gave a video tour of the road and the parts of the fence that are new but still along the existing fence line. She pointed out the remains of two old fences on the same fence line; both were damaged by snowplows and she paid to repair them. She described how the height of the road has always allowed headlights to shine into her home and people going by to see in, which is why when the fence needed to be replaced she increased the height to 6'. Referring to John Bull's letter stating the fence had to be removed because it may be damaged by winter operations she said she is willing to pay to repair it. Each board member voiced support for the new portion of Janice's fence. Following discussion, Jessica said she wants to work together with Janice to resolve this issue, adding she would speak to Bonnie Barnes, zoning administrator, and get a zoning application to Janice.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) Vergennes–Ferrisburgh Study Committee update. Jessica James said when the committee met Monday Adam Lougee from Addison County Regional Planning Commission was on the call. He spoke about his involvement and how he and the committee could help create a better community for the next generation. Jessica said she and Mayor Jeff Fritz would draft a Memorandum of Understanding between the two towns, with help from Adam. She announced that Fred Kenney from Addison County Economic Development Corporation would be on the next Monday call. The committee met members of the state of Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development and discussed the mutual growth opportunities in the area.

(b) Building maintenance committee update.

i. Union Meeting Hall update. Red Muir said Miles Jenness of Vermont Heavy Timber is still interested in coming up with a scope of work to repair the bell tower; Red stated he hopes to get bids for the work out by the end of the year. Ashley LaFlam said the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall are doing an additional survey by email, which will include asking town officials for input. She said they would combine this information with the first survey to analyze the best way to move forward to start a fundraising campaign. Jessica James suggested the survey be placed on the town Facebook page and website.

ii. Town offices building — roof update. Red Muir said there is no update on the roof. He spoke about other maintenance issues saying Nicom Coatings would be coming to the offices on June 3, 2020, to seal the leak in the tower. He said the men would access the building from the upstairs only and have OSHA training for COVID-19. He added that following the work he would disinfect the area. He ended his report by saying he is still looking for a company large enough to handle the job of painting the offices building and has contacted four, which are located in Addison County. He said he would prefer to hire locally before reaching out to companies in Chittenden County.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Addison County Sheriff's Department — status and fee update. Jessica James read parts of a letter addressed to the town from Addison County Sheriff Peter Newton. This included statements that the department now has a deputy on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and starting July 1, 2020, patrol rates will increase to \$31.00 an hour and mileage will start being charged again. Following discussion, Jessica said she would invite Sheriff Newton and the Vermont State Police to the next selectboard meeting on June 16, 2020.

(b) COVID-19 updates. Jessica James stated the weekly meeting of the Vergennes, Panton, Waltham, and Ferrisburgh group would become biweekly.

(c) Applicants' appointment requests

Transportation Advisory Committee alternates — 1-year term

Arabella Holzapfel Tim Davis

After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to appoint Arabella Holzapfel and Tim Davis as alternates on the Transportation Advisory Committee. Chris Campbell seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(d) Education property tax legislation. Jessica James tabled this agenda until the next regular selectboard meeting on June 16, 2020.

6. Public comment

There was no public comment.

7. Other business

There was no other business.

8. Correspondence

(a) Jean Silveira, minute taker resignation. After board comments complimenting Jean Silveira as selectboard minute taker, Jessica James said the board thanks Jean for her service. Jessica stated an ad for a replacement minute taker would run in the *Addison Independent*.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) R. J. Turner Company — 2020–2021 Parcel Mapping Contract. After discussion, Chris Campbell made a motion to approve and sign the 2020–2021 Parcel Mapping Contract with R. J. Turner Company for a total not to exceed \$3,200.

(b) Justus DeVries — Appraisal Services Contract review. Following discussion, Clark Hinsdale made a motion to approve and sign the Appraisal Services Contract with Justus DeVries for a total contract price not to exceed \$40,000. Red Mir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Selectboard warrant. Red Muir made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$1,556,565.02. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Red Muir made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira