

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
June 4, 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, Brian Goodyear, Lister, Bill Wager, Fire Chief

Visitors present: Lindsey Brown, Ashley LaFlam, Mary Neffinger, Erica Andrus, Brian Goodyear, Rick Kerschner, Senator Chris Bray, Senator Ruth Hardy, Representative Diane Lanpher, Representative Matt Birong

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

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting May 21, 2024

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for May 21, 2024 as presented. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

None

4. Selectboard New Business

a) Updates from our State Representatives attending in person or via Zoom

Senators Chris Bray, Senator Ruth Hardy, Representative Diane Lanpher, and Representative Matt Birong gave an update on the latest legislative session followed by answering questions regarding the cost of education. Senator Hardy stated that she will be posting her summary of the latest bills passed on Front Porch Forum. During the education discussion Erica Andrus stated that a detailed budget can be found on the schoolboard's website <https://www.anwsd.org/budget2> and also includes a proposed FY25 budget.

5. Selectboard Old Business

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

Pam Cousino stated there is \$35,912.83 left in the ARPA fund. Requests for spending were received from the Fire Department, Union Meeting Hall, the Highway Department, and Carl Cole. The decision was made to ask for detailed requests to be submitted by July 31st with a decision to be made at the August 6th meeting.

b) Open bids for the sale of the Brown Church RFP – possible executive session – premature general public knowledge would clearly place the body at a substantial disadvantage 1 V.S.A §313(a)(1)(A)

Pam Cousino presented one bid for the purchase of the Brown Church. After discussion it was decided that Pam will send the bid to the Selectboard for their review and it will be discussed during an executive session at the June 18th meeting.

6. Selectboard General Business

a) Union Meeting Hall updates

Ashley LaFlam and Lindsey Brown stated that the Taste of Summer event was the biggest one yet. She reported that the truss work continues, they found another truss that needs to be replaced as well as a repair to the supporting bricks. They also noticed a cracked lintel and will have it reviewed by an engineer to determine the next steps.

b) Ferrisburgh/Vergennes Fire Contract – Finalize

Clark Hinsdale stated he contacted Kevin Kite with a request regarding items 2 and 10 and noted the latest copy does not have these changes. After discussion, it was decided to strike through items 2 and 10, enter January 8th in item 9, and add PACIF to item 14.

Chris Campbell moved to sign the Fire Protection Agreement between the City of Vergennes and the Town of Ferrisburgh with the changes listed above. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Update on change Fire Department to a Municipality

Pam Cousino received a response from VLCT on how to move the volunteer fire department to a municipality. It does require a town vote and could go on the March 2025 Town Meeting Warning. Bill Wager will continue to research the steps to move forward.

d) Set meeting date and time to pick Company for Town Wide Reappraisal

Discussed in the Executive Session.

c) Reappraisal – executive session – premature general public knowledge would clearly place the body at a substantial disadvantage 1 V.S.A §313(a)(1)(A)

8:36 - Jim Benoit moved to go into executive session as premature general public knowledge would clearly place the body at a substantial disadvantage 1 V.S.A §313(a)(1)(A) inviting Pam Cousino, Laurie Curler, Brian Goodyear, and Carol Allen. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

8:37 - Steve Fleming moved to go into executive session to discuss the reappraisal bids. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

8:58 - Jim Benoit moved to close the executive session. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

8:58 - Jim Benoit moved to reconvene the open session. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Action: Brian Goodyear will get clarification from the companies who submitted bids. The Selectboard will meet with the Listers at 5:30 p.m. with a decision being made at the July 2, 2024 Selectboard meeting.

7. Other Business

a) Set up time to meet with Human Rights Commission

Clark Hinsdale reached out to Kevin Kite with questions regarding the interviews and has not heard back.

8. Correspondence

b) VARS April Monthly Update letter

Reviewed the April update from VARS.

9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign

a) Sign Contract with Dubois King for West Ferrisburgh Water Users Association

Jim Benoit moved to sign the contract with Dubois King to conduct an engineering analysis of the West Ferrisburgh Water Users Association water system. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell, and Clark Hinsdale voted in favor. Walter Reed II and Steve Fleming abstained. MOTION PASSED

b) Approve Liquor Licenses for Village Tavern – Third Class, First Class, Outside Consumption Permit

Jim Benoit moved to approve the Village Tavern third class, first class, and outside consumption licenses. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Selectboard Warrant

Steve Fleming moved to approve the warrants for \$2,030,034.98. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12p.m. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Allen