

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes – DRAFT
July 2, 2019

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

Town officials present: John Bull, Road Commissioner

Visitors present: Suzanne Hinsdale, Bessie Sessions, Jean Richardson, Mary Lou Ivey, Peg Brakeley, Jessy Amblo, Doug Fletcher

1. 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting – call to order.

Rick Ebel, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Rick took a moment to reflect on the loose protocols at the prior Selectboard meeting and indicated that rules of procedure would be strictly followed for the benefit of all concerned. Rick apologized to Jean Richardson specifically and generally to anyone else who might have felt uncomfortable with how the prior meeting was run.

2. Approve minutes – June 18, 2019, regular meeting. Red Muir moved and Jim Benoit seconded a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

a) As Lt. Matt Daly had not yet arrived, the chairman moved to item 3.b

b) John Bull – Road Commissioner’s report. John indicated that the Hollow project would finish up in two to three weeks. Red Muir brought up the issues of farm messes on public roads. John shared his frustration with the matter but indicated that not much could be done except to continue to ask farmers to be responsible.

c) Discussion of Long Point Road – Mary Lou Ivey and Peg Brakeley were present representing the Long Point Association Board. Discussion focused on the legal status of Bay Road including width, requirement to get a permit to work in the public right of way, and improving communication between the Long Point Board, Road Commissioner and Selectboard.

a) Lt. Matt Daley had arrived and the chairman went to item 3a) Lt. Matt Daley – Vermont State Police services and coverage. Staff levels in New Haven were discussed along with the type of crimes that occur in our community. Lt. Daly will attend a future meeting and share crime statistics.

d) Glebe land quitclaim – Ferrisburgh to Kadar – Clark Hinsdale moved and Red Muir seconds a motion to approve the quitclaim deed between the Town and Kadar as presented. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4. Selectboard old business

a) Arnold Bay Road tree cutting in ROW update – the full Selectboard is now receiving all legal correspondence in this matter. Currently we are waiting for a decision on the Motion to Dismiss.

b) Building maintenance – town hall roof – Red Muir reported on conversations with Bread Loaf. Red has suggested that all parties meet on site. The front porch forum notice has not gone out yet but Red has received information and proof of insurance from Shane Lawrence. Red is ready to move ahead with fencing with Hawk Creek or Middlebury Fence. Jessy Amblo indicated that he does work on slate roofs.

Chair asked that the minutes reflect our desire to post in Front Porch Forum and the Addison Independent our search for contractors who are willing to do small jobs for the Town. Also, that a future agenda item should be setting dollar limits for the size of a job that does not need to be put out for bids.

c) Building maintenance – Servpro report – water in town hall basement – Jim Benoit suggested that we have the Town Hall drainage work done by a drainage professional. Red Muir offers to get the last successful bidder on the project here to update his estimate and discuss the issue with the board. Jean Richardson suggested that the Friends of the Grange organization may be a source of financial assistance and/or grant writing.

d) Route 7, Stage Road, Old Hollow Road intersection – state project update – Rick reported that the state had set up their monitoring equipment to gather data for the project design.

5. General business

a) Mountain Air – heating system quote – Red Muir recommended against the current proposal and indicated that he would discuss the matter with Doug Kendall.

6. Public comment – There was no public comment.

7. Other business

Deb Healey has recommended that we go with the training program offered by our auditors. Jim Benoit moved and Red Muir seconded a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$2,000 for the training offered by RHS. All in favor. MOTION PASSED. Rick Ebel noted that we have \$18,000 in the budget for audit services. Rick brought our attention to the red binders with town policies and directed us to review the conflict of interest policy. Clark Hinsdale is appealing his tax assessment to the Board of Civil Authority of which he is a member. Jean Richardson, current Chair of the Board of Civil Authority, briefed the board on the quasi-judicial nature of the BCA and rules and procedures governing BCA conduct. Jean explained that Clark Hinsdale would be disqualified from serving on the BCA for ALL 2019 appeals, not just his own. Jean cautioned the Board against any ex parte communications that could disqualify them from serving on the BCA tax appeals.

8. Correspondence

The upcoming appeal to Property Valuation and Review by the Houstons is scheduled for July 25th. A Vermont League of Cities and Towns training session on July 18th was noted.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

a) Conservation Commission contract for Keeping Track event January 24, 2020 – Jim Benoit moved and Jessica James seconded a motion to approve the contract with Keeping Track for \$250.00 plus mileage reimbursement. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

b) Selectboard warrant – Jessica James moved and Jim Benoit seconded a motion to approve warrants in the amount of \$111,386.79. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit moved and Jessica James seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:29 PM. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark W. Hinsdale, III