

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
July 5, 2023**

**Members present:** Clark Hinsdale, Chris Campbell, Jim Benoit, Walter Reed II, Red Muir

**Town officials present:** Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, Steven True, Zoning Administrator, Suzele Atkins, Town Health Officer

**Visitors present:** Todd Hardie, Mary Ringer, Morgan Vincent, Jon-Taylor Vincent, Teresa Sheehan, Guy Miller, Chris Thompson, Jerry Lussier

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

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting June 20, 2023, Special Meeting June 13, 2023**

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 20, 2023 as presented. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. Chris Campbell, Jim Benoit, Walter Reed II, and Red Muir voted in favor. Clark Hinsdale abstained. MOTION PASSED

Jim Benoit moved to approve the Special meeting minutes of June 13, 2023 as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Selectboard New Business**

**a) Permission to place 3 Beehives on Route 7 & 22A Property – Todd Hardie**

Todd Hardie requested permission to place 3 beehives on the Route 7 & 22A property now while they work through ACT 250 approval.

Jim Benoit moved to allow Todd Hardie to place 3 beehives on the Route 7 & 22A property. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**b) Set 2023/2024 Tax Rate**

Pam Cousino presented the proposed 2023/2024 tax rate worksheet. The proposed residential tax rate is \$2.1364 and the non-residential tax rate \$1.9636. This represents a municipal rate increase of 2 cents and a residential school tax rate increase of 18 cents and a non-residential school tax rate increase of 6 cents.

Red Muir moved to set the 2023/2024 tax rate at \$2.1364 for residential and \$1.9636 for non-residential. Red Muir, Chris Campbell, Walter Reed II, and Clark Hinsdale voted in favor. Jim Benoit voted against. MOTION PASSED

**c) Set special dates to have semi-annual meetings with town committees**

The Selectboard would like to meet with a representative of each town committee twice a year. With one meeting being prior to budget planning. A date of August 22, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. was set and all town committees will be invited to attend this meeting.

**5. Selectboard Old Business**

**a) Ferrisburgh Day update – Guy Miller**

Guy Miller presented an update from the Ferrisburgh Day Planning Committee. Their goals were to simplify and centralize the event. Ferrisburgh Day will be held for one day only on September 16, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The three main event sites will be the Ferrisburgh Fire Department, the Union Meeting Hall, and the Cross Life Church. The Historical Society Building will be open but there are no planned events there. Any business is welcome to set up a booth or display at any of the three main locations. Jim Benoit asked about Sheriff Coverage for the event as it had been done in previous years. Guy will follow up on coverage.

**b) Personnel Policy Update – Review and Approval**

Jim Benoit would like to discuss this with John Bull. Approval of the personnel policy will be moved to a future meeting.

**c) Purchasing Policy Approval by Pam Cousino**

Pam Cousino stated that the changes to meet the FEMA grant requirements have been made and approved by the state. More changes may be needed for the highway department. Pam will send a draft to Bill Wager for review.

**d) Highway Foreman Job Description Approval**

Jim Benoit moved to approve the Highway Foreman Job Description. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**e) Monkton Road Fence Issue**

Clark Hinsdale stated that he has reviewed the Statute pertaining to Fence Viewers, Title 24, Chapter 109 and the town does not currently have any Fence Viewers. Clark proposed that three Selectboard members serve as temporary Fence Viewers to review this issue.

JT Vincent, 1273 Monkton Road, had contacted the town regarding his neighbor's animals getting on his property and his fence being on JT's property. JT stated his concerns and provided documentation that he had a surveyor place markers indicating his western property line in 2022. Chris Thompson and Jerry Lussier stated their viewpoint of the situation. After discussion, Chris Thompson agreed to all parties meeting at the property line without any legal action. JT Vincent also agreed to this meeting. Neighbor Teresa Sheehan stated she has also addressed the issue of animals on her property several times since 2017.

Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell, and Walter Reed II will set up a time to meet with the property owners on site. Chris Campbell asked all parties to bring all documentation showing their property boundaries.

**f) Town Center Church update by Red Muir**

Red Muir stated there was no new information to report.

**g) Building Committee update and storage Containers by Red Muir**

Red Muir reported he is waiting for Nate Paquette.

**6. Selectboard General Business**

None

**7. Other Business**

None

**8. Correspondence**

**a) Report from Suzele Atkins Town Health Officer 1221 Monkton Road**

Suzele Atkins, the Town Health Officer stated she visited 1221 Monkton Road in response to the property owner's concerns that construction on the neighbor's property has contaminated their well. Her report noted she viewed all directions the water was running and noticed all the animals on the property and expressed that their defecation may be causing the problem. Suzele contacted the Health Department and they stated this is a civil matter.

Steven True was contacted by the property owner regarding the fill and grading that was being done. Steven explained his interactions with both parties and stated that a permit was warned and after no appeal was submitted, the permit has been issued.

**b) Letter from VT Agency of Transportation**

A letter was received from the VT Agency of Transportation stating they will be installing new weight limit signs for emergency vehicles on some Municipal-owned bridges before the July 30, 2023 deadline.

**c) Plan time to review Zoning Administrator**

A date to meet with Steven True for a review was set for July 18, 2023 at 6 p.m.

**9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign**

**a) Sign Mead/Richardson Open Space Agreement**

The final Open Space Agreement for Mead/Richardson was submitted for approval.

Jim Benoit moved to execute the Mead/Richardson Open Space Agreement. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**b) Selectboard Warrant**

Jim Benoit moved to approve and sign the warrant for \$22,401.58. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**10. Adjourn**

Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Allen