

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes -
July 7, 2020

Members present: Chris Campbell, Jessica James, Michael "Red" Muir, Jim Benoit—Clark Hinsdale joined the meeting late.

Town officials present: Pam Cousino, town 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 6:31 p.m. by requesting a **roll call** attendance of all participants in the meeting: Jessica James, Red Muir, Chris Campbell, Jim Benoit, Dana Bibb, Jean Richardson, Andy Kirkaldy, Tim Davis, Ashley LaFlam, Steve Huffaker, Pam Cousino

2. Approve minutes — June 16, 2020, special meeting and June 16, 2020, regular meeting

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020, special meeting, as submitted. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Red Muir made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020, regular meeting, as submitted. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) Election protocol for August Primary and November General Election discussion – face masks. Jean Richardson, Justice of the Peace, was present to ask the board if it should adopt a face mask wearing ordinance during the elections, as suggested by the secretary of state. After much discussion, it was determined to have signage that strongly recommends the wearing of a mask during the election. Pam Cousino mentioned that there is a sign on the office door requesting people wear masks when they enter the office and there have not been any issues.

(b) Tim Davis – abandoned properties. Tim Davis was present to discuss abandoned properties in town and properties that pose health risks. He had samples of ordinances from a couple of other towns. After much discussion it was decided to concentrate on buildings that pose health hazards, but to leave the abandoned buildings alone. Jessica James asked Tim to work with Adam Lougee at Addison County Regional Planning Commission to come up with a simple ordinance concentrating only on the health aspects.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) Middlebrook Road dog issue. Dana Bibb was present to discuss the noise dog issues located on Middlebrook Road. She stated that it has not improved since she last attended a selectboard meeting back on March 17. It was questioned whether they have a pet breeder license. Jessica James mentioned that it is now a pet dealer license that is required for breeders. Jessica asked Dana to email Jaimelynn Gaboriault, animal control officer, each time this happens and to copy Jessica as well.

(b) Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) – creation of a Communications Union District (CUD). ACRPC is working on forming a CUD, which would help fund and build out rural broadband. There are recent legislative changes that let selectboards vote to form a CUD, and there

are financing options that have very recently opened up due to COVID-19. After further discussion, Clark Hinsdale moved to form a Communications Union District with Jessica James signing as selectboard chair. Chris Campbell seconded. MOTION PASSED with four votes, as Jim Benoit had left the meeting earlier. Jessica then asked for a delegate and an alternate, with Jessica being the 2nd alternate. Steve Huffaker was present and volunteered to be the delegate for the CUD and suggested that Arabella Holzapfel might be the first alternate. Jessica offered to ask Arabella if she would be an alternate.

(c) Vergennes–Ferrisburgh Study Committee update. Jessica James said the committee is working on forming four groups, or buckets, which are housing, infrastructure, economic development, and marketing. Those groups are only guidance and educational groups, working with regional priorities with the two towns, they would have no authority. The boundary group is starting. They are working on getting the committees filled and are continuing to hold weekly meetings. Clark Hinsdale then gave a brief update from the boundary committee, looking at the properties that could be affected by this. The committee will be meeting again soon.

(d) Building maintenance committee update.

i. Union Meeting Hall update. Red Muir mentioned that not much has been happening. He has been speaking to Miles Jenness regarding the Union Meeting Hall tower, trying to get to a point where the work can be put out to bid. He plans to hold a building maintenance committee meeting next week. The upstairs grange hall work has been done. He has had difficulty getting painters to bid on the outside of the grange hall. There are wide boards on the lower part of the building that are warped and there may be a moisture problem that will need to be repaired before painting. Red said he will be working on getting an architectural firm that can tell us the problems, how to fix them, and give us pricing.

ii. Town offices building — roof update. No updates on the roof. The bell tower leak has been repaired. Nicom Coatings will give Red pricing for all the penetrations in the basement so there are no more leaks.

Ashley LaFlam then spoke about the progress with the Union Meeting Hall. They are working to see if there are any food vendors that might like to set up there a couple of times a week, and other items such as yoga, following social distancing. She said possibly giving tours so that people that have not seen the inside can see it. They would like to have a sign outside the building since many people are not sure where the building is. They also need to determine how to move forward. Ashley may have some new ideas for a better approach. She said her goal is to have a comprehensive budget to the selectboard by this fall so that the board could then decide how to proceed. Clark Hinsdale mentioned Rokeby, the Union Meeting Hall, and the train station all have a lot of connected history.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) COVID-19 updates. Jessica James said there are no updates.

(b) Discuss date/time Bay Road Site Visit. The site visit was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on July 21, before the regular selectboard meeting. This meeting will be conducted in person with social distancing measures in place.

(c) Discuss date/time employee reviews. A special meeting with the selectboard at 5:30 p.m. on August 4, 2020, was scheduled for employee reviews.

6. Public comment

There was no public comment.

7. Other business

There was no other business.

8. Correspondence

(a) Multiple Sclerosis Green Mountain Getaway – August 15, 2020, bike ride cancelled. No action taken as the event has been canceled for 2020.

(b) Bill for damages – 427 Bay Road. This agenda item was tabled until the regular selectboard meeting on July 21, 2020.

(c) VTrans — US Route 7 intersection with Old Hollow Road and Stage Road. VTrans is on schedule with the traffic light; this information was shared with the North Ferrisburgh Village Association as well. Clark Hinsdale asked if the information could be shared with Long Point Association.

(d) Letter to Steve Shores re: tree cutting in the town road right-of-way from Cliff Mix, tree warden. Cliff Mix visited with Steve Shores to discuss the trees in the right-of-way and determined that all but one was dead and could be cut down. Red Muir then mentioned that Steve also wants to put power under the road, which he had already done; it is 6-8" underneath the road. There was no 1111 permit that had been filled out and Red believes that should have been done. There is concern with the road crew being disturbed while doing work out there. Red said he is not sure how that should be handled, and he wonders how the electrical line should be dealt with, questioning whether it should be dug up and redone. Clark Hinsdale said he feels the harassment should be reported to the state police so there is a record and that it should not wait until next time. Chris Campbell said he feels the same way.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Addison County Sheriff's Department – contract for traffic patrol. After discussion, Clark Hinsdale made a motion to sign the 2020–2021 Addison County Sheriff's Department contract that had been approved at the June 16, 2020 meeting. Chris Campbell seconded. All voted in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Selectboard warrant. Chris Campbell made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$96,722.60. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Red Muir made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cousino