

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
July 21, 2020

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

Town officials present: John Bull, road foreman; Pam Cousino, town clerk; Deb Healey, town treasurer. 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, Clark Hinsdale, Pam Cousino, Deb Healey, John Bull, Jean Richardson, Craig Heindel, Janet Mazza, Janice Perry, Cindy Schultz and Tom Aldrich.

2. Approve minutes — July 7, 2020, regular meeting

Clark Hinsdale made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2020, regular meeting, as submitted. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) John Bull – highway operations report.

Working on keeping the dust down where possible but it is difficult with it being so dry. Working on Satterly Road as part of a stormwater grant. They have been doing roadside mowing, trying to keep the poisonous parsnip down. Working on what roads to be paved next in this budget year but we will wait until next spring to see if it is still feasible to do so.

(b) Janet Mazza – cleaning services hourly rate increase request.

Janet Mazza was present to discuss her raise request. She has been cleaning for the past five years at the same rate and is now requesting an increase from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per hour, up to three hours per week. Clark Hinsdale moved to accept the new rate of \$30.00 with a yearly contract that should run from July 1 – June 30 each year. Seconded by Jim Benoit. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Schultz/Aldrich – town forest access trail.

Craig Heindel from the Conservation Commission explained the history behind the easement deal that crosses the Schultz/Aldrich property to get to the town forest. There has always been an established easement but it was never defined. Tom Schultz and Cindy Aldrich wanted to establish a trail that made sense and would allow people to walk to the town forest without wandering over their entire property. After much discussion Clark Hinsdale moved to accept the recommendation of the Conservation Commission that the red trail depicted on the map would be a pedestrian only easement. This would be the current authorized pedestrian easement to the town forest. There may be a need to do more in the future but this is a good place to begin. Seconded by Jim Benoit. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) 417 Bay Road – discussion of site visit from July 21, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

Jessica James gave an overview of the site visit meeting that was held earlier. The site visit was held to determine if Bay Road could be moved because the cottage at 417 Bay Road is partially in the right-of-way (ROW). John Bull mentioned that the cottage has been there all these years and has never been damaged. The permit did not allow the land to be changed. Prior to the change the water always flowed from the road and went under the camp. By law the road must be maintained. Mary Lou Ivey stated the camp at 417 Bay Road was built prior to the 1936 ROW and, as such, is “grandfathered” in and not considered in the ROW. Clark Hinsdale said the Town should only have to work with the LPC Board. Mary Lou disagreed and said the Town has a relationship with all 124-125 shareholders at Long Point. Mary Lou asked the Town to alert the LPC Board when matters arise with the ROW so as to allow them to work with the shareholders before getting the Town involved. Mary Lou Ivey will contact Bonnie Barnes, the zoning administrator, to determine how the Certificate of Occupancy process works and see how we can avoid issues with the ROW in the future. Mary Lou Ivey also wanted to thank the board for all the work that has been done to get the traffic signal at Stage Road/Old Hollow Road and US Route 7.

(b) 3133 Hawkins Road – 1111 ROW Permit appeal.

Janice Perry was present to appeal the 1111 ROW Permit located at 3133 Hawkins Road. This was to replace a fence that was in the ROW. Janice Perry showed pictures and explained her need to have the fence. When she first owned the property, the road was done over and the height was increased. There was a berm that was installed and it would make it difficult to move the fence back out of the ROW since it would be much lower and she would still see the road from her house. Since her home is so close to the road, she needed something to help protect her property. After much discussion it was determined that since this hardship was created after she purchased the property, and the fact that this home was built many years ago, close to the road, the town would accept the appeal of the 1111 permit. A plan needs to be drawn up, which Janice has done, and a hold harmless will be done by the town with a work agreement, so that this is completed in a specific time frame. Jessica James will draw up the hold harmless and have the town lawyer review it. Once that and the work plan are reviewed the board can make a motion. Janice will also go to Bonnie to get the permit for the fence that will be installed outside of the ROW.

(c) 427 Bay Road – snowplow damage from winter 2019-2020.

This item was discussed under 4(a) so no action was taken.

(d) Animal Control Officer update.

There was no update as the animal control officer was not present.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) COVID-19 updates.

Jessica James' only update was that Governor Scott may be announcing a face mask mandate during the pandemic.

(b) Tax rate – set 2020-2021 rate.

After a short discussion regarding the large residential education tax rate increase Red Muir moved to set the 2020/2021 residential tax rate at \$2.1760 and the non-residential tax rate at \$1.9393. (The 2019/2020 residential rate was \$2.0125 and the non-residential rate was \$1.8722.) Jim Benoit seconded. Four members voted in favor and member Clark Hinsdale abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Public comment

There was no public comment.

7. Other business

Deb Healey mentioned that the town's free Internet account with Comcast is no longer keeping up with our needs. The next step up would be \$118.00 per month. The amount of time that is currently being spent waiting for download, because much of our software is now in the cloud, would easily be saved by having faster Internet speed. She will go ahead and make the change with Comcast.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Selectboard warrant.

Red Muir made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$428,779.15. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Red Muir made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cousino