

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
August 1, 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, Joe Nelson, Tree Warden

Visitors present: Jeanne Kelly, Teresa Sheehan, Jon-Taylor Vincent, Steve Huffaker, Crystal Pierce, Annie Keller, Don Dewees, Ed Amirault, Mary Ringer, Valerie Masiello

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

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

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting July 18, 2023, Special meeting July 18, 2023

Clark Hinsdale noted two additions to the July 19, 2023 regular meeting minutes. He requested Game Warden be added to the Public Comment section and Robinson Road be added to the Highway Operations Report.

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 18, 2023 as amended. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Red Muir moved to approve the special meeting minutes of July 18, 2023 as presented. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

Annie Keller lives on route 7 where the road was damaged by the tank truck fire. Since that accident when vehicles go over the bump it causes her house to shake and is very loud. She has reported this to VTrans. Chris Campbell stated since this is a state maintained road, VTrans is the right contact. He asked that she give it six to eight more weeks and then reach out again if there is no action. Jeanne Kelly reported she is waiting for the contaminated soil to be removed from her property and someone has taken samples to determine what needs to be done.

4. Selectboard New Business

a) Steve Huffaker – Maple Broadband Update

Steve Huffaker provided an update on the Maple Broadband progress. He explained that Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT). Ferrisburgh is scheduled for construction in 2024. Steve will reach out to John Bull to discuss placement of equipment.

b) Fence Viewer Update re: Monkton Road

Walter Reed II, Jim Benoit, and Chris Campbell, acting as Fence Viewers, conducted a site visit at the Monkton Road properties of Thompson and Vincent on July 29, 2023. Chris Campbell provided a report on the site visit. Chris stated that based on the survey information provided and the location of the boundary pins, it was determined that the fence is on the Vincent property.

Walter Reed II moved that the acting Fence Viewers agree the property line is as the survey map indicated; their decision is that Chris Thompson must remove the fence from the Vincent property and reestablish the fence to the grade needed to contain the animals on his property by August 31, 2023. Chris Thompson will be notified via a certified letter. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. Walter Reed II, Chris Campbell, and Jim Benoit voted in favor. MOTION APPROVED

c) Establishing a Public Shade Committee

Joe Nelson recommended the town form a Public Shade Committee to establish a shade tree preservation plan for town properties and right of ways. He estimated it would be about six months of work and he needs 4 volunteers to work with him to develop the plan. Joe would like to have John Bull participate in developing the plan.

Chris Campbell moved to form a five member committee with the Tree Warden as the Chairperson. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

d) Barking Dogs on Middlebrook Road

Dana Bibb contacted Pam Cousino regarding barking dogs on Middlebrook Road. Ed Amirault attended the meeting to explain that the recent storm caused them to relocate some dogs and a variety of unusual factors were happening at the time. He stated he will continue to do all he can to keep them quiet.

e) Speed on US Route 7 between Pierce Lane and the Fire Department

Carrie Barrows expressed concerns about speeding traffic and accidents on Route 7 from Pierce Road to the Ferrisburgh Fire Department. Other residents along this stretch of road attended and added their concerns. Clark Hinsdale suggested that a meeting be organized with the appropriate state person, legislators, and residents to discuss the concerns. The Selectboard will facilitate this meeting. Chris Campbell stated he will reach out to the New Haven State Police Barracks to ask about dedicated patrols and if they would like to attend a meeting to hear the concerns.

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) Speed and Safety on Basin Harbor Road – Dianne Jackson

Dianne Jackson sent an email stating that she appreciates the crosswalk and signage the town installed, however, cars are not stopping for people in the crosswalk. It was reported that the crosswalk sign might not be close enough to the crosswalk. Clark Hinsdale has asked John Bull to look into this. Chris Campbell proposed that the radar sign be placed in this area again.

b) Personnel Policy Update – Review and Approval

The policy is still being revised. This was tabled for a future meeting.

c) Treasurer’s Position – Interview Process

Several applications have been received for the Treasurer’s job posting. Pam Cousino asked the Selectboard to send her their top four candidates and then she will contact the candidates to schedule a time to meet with her, Laurie, and any available Selectboard members.

d) Town Center Church update by Red Muir

Red Muir stated there was no new information to report.

e) Building Committee update by Red Muir

Red Muir reported he has received the revised Paquette Storage contract from Kevin Kite and sent it to Nate Paquette.

Red Muir moved to accept and sign the revised Paquette Storage contract not to exceed \$7,100.00 once signed by Nate Paquette. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
MOTION PASSED

6. Selectboard General Business

Chris Campbell stated that the livestock on Monkton Road are causing damage to neighboring properties and there are concerns about the health of the animals. Chris will contact the Vermont State Police and the Humane Society to conduct a site visit.

7. Other Business

None

8. Correspondence

None

9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign

a) Selectboard Warrant

Walter Reed II moved to approve and sign the warrant for \$99,499.86. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Allen