

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
August 3, 2021**

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

Town officials present: Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk

Visitors present: Jean Richardson, Gail Blasius, Joe Blasius, Ashley LaFlam, Jon Deming, Kate Yarborough, Ken Villeneuve, Aubrey Choquette, Andre Emmell, Mary Neffinger, Justus DeVries, Brian Goodyear, Brian Callanan, Cici Neffinger, Gretchen Hill, Sophia Buck, Tess McGuire, Lily Wells, Lauren Hill, Jane Melrose, and David Pierson

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

Jessica James called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, July 20, 2021

Jessica James asked for approval of the regular meeting minutes on July 20, 2021. Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 20, 2021 as presented. Red Muir seconded the motion. Clark Hinsdale, Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell, and Red Muir voted in favor. Jessica James abstained. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

None

4. Selectboard New Business

a) Mary Neffinger – Girl Scout Troop re: little library at Union Meeting Hall

The Girl Scout Troop attended to present their plan to install a little library at the Union Meeting Hall. Clark Hinsdale asked where it would be located on the property and Ashley LaFlam suggested a spot that she thought would be out of the way. Jessica James asked that they check with John Bull to make sure it will not be impacted by the plow.

Clark Hinsdale moved to approve the installation of a little library at the Union Meeting Hall pending a conversation with John Bull regarding snow removal areas. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b) Brian Callanan – 2021 Champ’s Challenge for Cystic Fibrosis on Sunday, September 19, 2021 – permission to use town roads for bike ride

Brian Callanan submitted documentation for permission to use town roads for the 2021 Champ’s Challenge for Cystic Fibrosis. Jessica James confirmed all information was received. Red Muir moved to approve the request for the 2021 Champs Challenge to use town roads on September 19, 2021. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Jon Deming – Vergennes-Panton Water District, Inc. request for 50% of ARPA funds

Jon Deming was present to discuss the letter he sent requesting ARPA funds to be used for improvements to the Vergennes-Panton Water District infrastructure. Ferrisburgh has not yet been informed of the amount of ARPA funds they will receive. After some discussion, the board requested that Jon provide the number of Ferrisburgh residents who use their services, a map of where the water lines are in Ferrisburgh, and a plan for what they would use the funds for, and

an annual report. Jessica James asked that he gather the information and return to a future meeting.

d) Friends of the Union Meeting Hall – fundraising report

Ashley LaFlam, Kate Yarborough, Mary Neffinger, and Kristen Kuhns attended the meeting to present the Union Meeting Hall fundraising report. They have worked with a preservation architect to determine their top 8 priorities and presented the facilities plan. They have applied for a \$250,000 Patrick Leahy grant that still needs to be voted on by Congress. Some funds have been received and they are waiting for responses on other requests.

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) Justus DeVries and listers – reimburse copier fees and update selectboard

Justus DeVries notified the board that he has sold his business effective August 3, 2021. He outlined the transition plan and introduced Alyth Hescocock who will work with the town although Justus will be working as a sub-contractor and helping with the transition.

Justus had purchased a dedicated copier for the listers to use and presented a bill to be considered for reimbursement. The town would own the printer if he is reimbursed. Brian Goodyear shared remarks on the transition and the printer request. The board would like to speak with Pam Cousino regarding the use of the printer and tabled this item.

b) Response to Tupper's Crossing neighbors

Jessica James reviewed the correspondence from town Attorney Kevin Kite and Zoning Board Chair Norman Smith. Jessica summarized that the town will continue to monitor the proceedings but will not engage.

c) Ferrisburgh Day updates

Jean Richardson provided the update and will provide meeting minutes to the board going forward. There is a lot of interest in Ferrisburgh Day. There will be 18 artists set up in the town hall that weekend. Ashley LaFlam reported on the social media efforts. A master link will be placed on the town website for easy access.

Andre Emmell offered to award Quilts of Valor to Ferrisburgh veterans during Ferrisburgh Day.

d) Building maintenance committee update

Red Muir provided the building maintenance committee update. Red reported the steeple work on the Union Meeting Hall has begun and the bathroom is 90% complete. Painting of the town hall will begin on August 23, 2021.

6. Selectboard General Business

None

7. Other Business

Jim Benoit was contacted by a resident regarding their driveway at 1833 Shellhouse Mountain Road. They felt the repair to their driveway was not attended to in a timely fashion. Jim spoke to John Bull

who said he just started with the first driveway he came to, there was no particular order. Jim said there will continue to be a problem with the culvert that sits on ledge. Something will need to be done to stop the water from going into the road.

Jessica James received a phone call from Senator Ruth Hardy regarding a driveway washed out in the last storm on Monkton/Vergennes Road. The homeowner, Chris Thompson, had contacted John Bull and John tried to call them back but had an incorrect phone number. John looked at the driveway on Saturday. Jessica went to look at the issue and spoke with the neighbor Mike Sheehan. Mike said he believed the ditch was going to be worked on in 2020 but it's been delayed. The town doesn't have the culvert that's needed and are unable to get one right now. John Bull said he would email the home owners tomorrow.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Selectboard to approve or Sign

a) Letter to McClays re: ROW conditions

A letter was prepared outlining the mutual agreement that was agreed to at the July 13, 2021 meeting between the Selectboard and Tom McClay. Red Muir moved to sign and send the letter as presented. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. Red Muir, Clark Hinsdale, Jim Benoit, and Chris Campbell voted in favor. Jessica James abstained. MOTION PASSED

b) Selectboard Warrant

Red Muir moved to approve the warrant in the amount of \$41,955.45. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Allen