

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
August 17, 2021**

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

**Town officials present:** Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Deb Healey, Treasurer, Bill Wager, Fire Chief, Bonnie Barnes, Zoning Administrator

**Visitors present:** Bessie Sessions, Joe Blasius, Justus DeVries, Brian Goodyear, Reilly LaBerge, Jim Breur, Ron Redmond, Matt Chabot, Alyth Hescoock, Rod Cole

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

Jessica James called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, August 3, 2021**

The minutes were not included in the packet and will be on the next agenda.

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Selectboard New Business**

**a) Reilly LaBerge – highway operations report**

Reilly LaBerge reported that they were doing shoulder work and just finished a job on Fuller Mountain Road. They will begin ditching on Monkton Road flats next week. They are waiting for culverts to be available to work on Four Winds Road. They paved from Hawkins Road to Brands Farm.

**b) FY 2021 – 2022 Vergennes Fire Dept. contract discussion re: how to determine rates**

Ron Redmond asked the board for some background information on their concerns. Chris Campbell explained the concern is around the proposed increase when Ferrisburgh represents a small amount of the call volume while contributing a large amount to the budget and the town is not included in the budgeting process. Discussion was held on the method used to determine the amount and looking at possible regionalization in the future. Bill Wager explained that Vergennes covers some of Ferrisburgh based on the size of the town and Otter Creek. When the new fire station was built a line was created at Tupper's Crossing, Wing Road, and Cross Road determining where the Vergennes Fire Department covers Ferrisburgh.

Jessica James requested more detail of what's in the Vergennes Fire Department budget and capital improvement plan for this year and next year before the Selectboard can approve the request. Jessica and Ron will discuss next steps.

**c) Bee the Change – request support to create a pollinator habitat**

Jessica James read a letter from Grace Futral requesting the approval to create a pollinator habit in Ferrisburgh. Clark Hinsdale suggested the request go to the Conservation Committee.

**d) Recordsforce – scanning land records from 1980 - 2021**

Pam Cousino explained the contract for Recordsforce, a company that will scan and index the town's land records. The contract would provide 40 years of digital land records and can be paid for with ARPA funds. The town will continue to receive one dollar for every page as they do today. Pam estimated the staff in the town office spends about 2 hours per day researching and providing land records information. Physical books will be maintained as well.

Red Muir moved to accept the Recordsforce proposal as presented. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**5. Selectboard Old Business**

**a) Justus DeVries and listers – copier fees reimbursement**

Justus DeVries presented some additional information on the previously submitted documentation. Pam Cousino indicated the copier was used for non-standard size documents or if the other copier was busy. She estimated a few times per week.

Clark Hinsdale moved to pay \$2,100.00 to Justus DeVries with great appreciation for his help when the town was in crisis. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**b) Alyth Hescoock and Justus DeVries – plans for next year – probable executive session**

7:50 p.m. – Jim Benoit made a motion to go into executive session for contract discussion under the provision of Title I, Section 313 (a) 1 of the Vermont State statues that premature general public disclosure of a contract discussion would put the town and employees at a substantial disadvantage. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

7:50 p.m. - Red Muir made a motion to go into executive session inviting Alyth Hescoock and Justus DeVries to discuss contract matters. Chris Campbell seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

8:23 p.m. – Jim Benoit made a motion to come out of executive session. Chris Campbell seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

8:23 p.m. – Jessica James reconvened the open session.

No action was taken during the executive session.

**c) Listers – plans for next year – probably executive session**

Brian Goodyear stated the listers are not aware of how the company change impacts their roles. Jessica James stated that the existing contract remains in effect until June 2022. Discussion was held around the contract specifics and how the listers will work with Alyth Hescoock and Justus DeVries going forward. The listers will make plans for next year and discuss at the second Selectboard meeting in September.

**6. Selectboard General Business**

None

**7. Other Business**

None

**8. Correspondence**

**a) Notice of zoning violation – 6675 Route 7, Carlos Basille**

Jessica James reviewed the letter from Bonnie Barnes to Carlos Basille.

**9. Selectboard to approve or Sign**

**b) Selectboard Warrant**

Clark HInsdale moved to approve the warrant in the amount of \$27,490.96. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**10. Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Allen