

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
September 7, 2021**

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

Town officials present: Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, Deb Healey, Treasurer,

Visitors present: Bessie Sessions, Jean Richardson, Steve Huffaker, Alyth Hescoock, Justin Angier, Mikeala Boman, Adam Gross

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

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:34p.m.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, August 3, 2021, special meeting August 4, 2021, and regular meeting, August 17, 2021

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 3, 2021 as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Jim Benoit moved to approve the special meeting minutes of August 4, 2021 as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Red Muir moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 17, 2021 as presented. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

Adam Gross and Mikeala Boman attended to start the process for them to open a medical cannabis dispensary at 2777 Route 7. Adam explained what he understands are the next steps. Clark Hinsdale recommended they contact Bonnie Barnes the Zoning Administrator.

4. Selectboard New Business

a) Jaimeelyn Gaboriault – health officer process

Chris Campbell stated there have been some concerns about availability and responsiveness. Further conversation will be held in an executive session.

b) Advertise for new zoning administrator

Bonnie Barnes will be retiring and steps to find a new zoning administrator were discussed. Chris Campbell moved to solicit input from Bonnie on the job description, solicit representatives from the Planning Commission and Zoning Board to form a subcommittee with Clark Hinsdale representing the Selectboard. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) Maple Broadband request for funds

Steve Huffaker previously sent some updates to the Selectboard and attended to answer any questions the Selectboard may have. Clark Hinsdale suggested holding a public hearing for comment on the ideas that have been presented for the use of the ARPA funds. Steve stated a report will be coming out in the next week showing who in Addison County is unserved and

underserved. Clark will request that this item be on the agenda for the first Selectboard meeting in October.

b) Listers – plans for next year – possible executive session

The Listers were not in attendance. This item will be moved to a future agenda.

c) Vergennes Fire Department contract discussion

Chris Campbell suggested tabling this until the Selectboard can meet with the Vergennes Fire Department to learn more about their plans. Everyone agreed.

d) Ferrisburgh Day updates

Jean Richardson provided an update on the Ferrisburgh Day plans. There will be food at the fire station, the Historical Society, and a food truck at the Union Meeting Hall. Jean asked Chris about the availability of a sheriff by the town office building. Chris said he can arrange that for the peak hours.

e) Building committee updates

Red Muir and Jean Richardson provided an explanation of the building reserve funds report. They proposed combining the town building and town hall maintenance categories into a single category. Jean drafted a memorandum of understanding that will set up a written protocol for how the funds that are raised by the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall will be appropriately expended in line with the fiscal responsibility that the town will retain.

f) Personnel – executive session – premature general public knowledge would clearly place the person at a substantial disadvantage. 1 V.S.A § 313(a)(1)

The Selectboard discussed when to address this and agreed to move this to item 9) c.

6. Selectboard General Business

None

7. Other Business

None

8. Correspondence

a) Long Point Corporation – announcement of elected officers from 2021 annual meeting

The Long Point Corporation notified the town of the newly elected officers. Mary Lou Ivey remains as president.

b) Vermont League of Cities and Towns – annual business meeting September 29, 2021

Notification of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns annual meeting was received.

c) Vermont emerald ash borer update

Craig Heindel sent an email update on the emerald ash borer sightings. The emerald ash borer has been found in Middlebury.

9. Selectboard to approve or Sign

a) Approve and sign loan with Community Bank for new tandem truck

Red Muir moved to approve and sign the note for \$190,000.00 and the authorizing resolution for the new tandem truck. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b) Selectboard Warrant

Red Muir asked Justin Angier some questions on the detail of his invoice. Justin indicated he can provide more detail on the next invoice.

Red Muir moved to approve the warrant in the amount of \$121,662.98. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Personnel – executive session – premature general public knowledge would clearly place the person at a substantial disadvantage. 1 V.S.A § 313(a)(1)

At 7:48 Chris Campbell moved to find that the premature general disclosure of communication regarding a personnel issue would put the town at a substantial disadvantage. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

At 7:48 Chris Campbell made the motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue under the provision of Title 1, Section 313 (a) 1 of the Vermont State statutes. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

At 8:07 Jim Benoit made a motion to come out of executive session. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

At 8:08 Jim Benoit made the motion to reconvene the open session. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Red Muir moved to recommend to Jessica James that she consult the town attorney regarding the personnel matter. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. Clark Hinsdale, Jim Benoit, and Red Muir voted in favor. Chris Campbell abstained. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Allen