

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
September 21, 2021**

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

**Town officials present:** Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Deb Healey, Treasurer, John Bull, Highway Department Foreman

**Visitors present:** Bessie Sessions, Jean Richardson, Steve Huffaker, Ashley LaFlam, Laura Toole, Stephen Chiaramonte, Nick Charyk, Ken Robie, Katharine Otto, Joe Segale, Adam Lougee, Rick Kerschner

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

Jessica James called the meeting to order at 6:34p.m.

Red Muir moved to amend the agenda to add the Route 7 property zoning violation under Other Business. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, September 7, 2021**

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 7, 2021 as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell, and Red Muir voted in favor. Jessica James abstained. MOTION PASSED

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Selectboard New Business**

**a) John Bull – highway operations report**

Completed the Four Winds and Fuller Mountain Road grant work. John handed out cost details of the grant. They will need to re-ditch a section of Monkton Road. They will begin the 4<sup>th</sup> round of road side mowing. Culverts will be replaced on Dean, Shellhouse and Fuller Mountain Roads. Also a 6’ culvert will be replaced on Walker Road that will require the road to be closed for a couple of days. The delivery of the new truck is estimated to be October 2.

**b) Mike Winslow – Addison County Regional Planning Commission – Vtrans project to reduce impact of large trucks on VT22A**

Joe Segale, Nick Charyk, Adam Lougee, Stephen Chiaramonte, Katharine Otto, Laura Toole, and Ken Robie attended to give an update on the VTrans project to reduce the impact of large trucks on VT22A. A presentation was provided outlining their goals and next steps. Copies of the presentation were left with the Town Clerk and information can also be found at [www.vergennespel.com](http://www.vergennespel.com). They will begin forming focus groups from the surrounding towns and a public meeting will be held on November 1, 2021 from 6:30 pm to 8pm.

Red Muir asked if they were confirming town boundaries. Pam Cousino commented that Vergennes has begun looking at the surrounding boundaries. Jessica James added that Tim Cowan is presenting the information he has at a meeting probably in late October.

**c) Schedule first meeting for fiscal 2021-2022 budget**

A proposed schedule was presented for the FY22/23 budget planning meetings. The meetings will be held in person and on Zoom with the initial planning discussion to be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm prior to the Selectboard meeting.

**5. Selectboard Old Business**

**a) Public hearing and on-line survey re: distribution of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds**

Jessica James presented a draft survey she had compiled for residents to give feedback on how to spend the ARPA funds. A public meeting will be held on November 2 at 5:30 pm.

**b) Approve initial funding from ARPA funds to Maple Broadband**

Steve Huffaker provided additional information to the board regarding unserved and underserved residents and a draft budget. Red Muir and Chris Campbell expressed they would like to have the survey information before deciding how much money to give to this project.

Red Muir moved to approve the initial ARPA funds for Maple Broadband in the amount of \$112,000. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Jessica James voted in favor. Chris Campbell, Red Muir, and Jim Benoit were opposed. MOTION FAILED

**c) Ferrisburgh Day updates**

Jean Richardson handed out brochures that are available for Ferrisburgh Day. Basin Harbor will have a food truck at the Union Meeting Hall. Red Muir reported that the bathroom is complete at the Union Meeting Hall.

**6. Selectboard General Business**

**a) Appointment of Richard Kerschner to the Building Committee**

Jim Benoit moved to appointment Richard Kerschner to the Building Committee. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**7. Other Business**

**a) Route 7 property zoning violation**

Red Muir reported he spoke to Bonnie Barnes and she has completed all communication options she has to reach the owner. The certified letter was returned undelivered. The letter will be sent to the Sherriff's office to be served to the owner.

Jim Benoit reported that the traffic control for the Kelly Brush Ride was inadequate at the Green Bush, Robinson Road, Route 7 intersection. It was provided by ADA and was not very visible and blocked the view from Robinson Road. Pam Cousino will send a letter to the organizers. In the future, organizations will be required to provide a copy of their contract with law enforcement.

**8. Correspondence**

**a) Addison County Regional Planning Commission September 2021 update**

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission sent their latest newsletter.

**b) Vergennes Fire Department site visit/budget review/dinner – September 30, 2021**

The city of Vergennes called the site visit/budget review meeting to review the budget with the Selectboard. This meeting is only to discuss the budget not fire departments.

**9. Selectboard to approve or Sign**

**a) Cultural Facilities Grant Agreement – Union Meeting Hall**

Jean Richardson presented a modified agreement to clarify that the town owns the Union Meeting Hall not the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall.

Jim Benoit moved to sign the Cultural Facilities Grant Agreement with the proposed modification to section 7.3 to change Grantee to the town of Ferrisburgh. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**b) Selectboard Warrant**

Deb Healey said the invoice for the Maple Broadband amount is included in the warrant total and will need to be removed.

Red Muir moved to approve the warrants in the amount of \$1,605,459.37. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**10. Adjourn**

Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Allen