

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
October 6, 2020**

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

**Town officials present:** Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Deb Healey, Treasurer. All town officials participated electronically using Zoom.

**Visitors present:** Janice Perry, Jean Richardson, Kevin Kite, Susan Murray, Sheila Soule, Mike Quinn, Jaimeelyn Gaboriault

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

Jessica James called the meeting to order at 6:34p.m. with a roll call of all participants in attendance: Jessica James, Red Muir, Clark Hinsdale, Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell, Pam Cousino, Janice Perry, Jean Richardson, Deb Healey, Jaimeelyn Gaboriault, Kevin Kite.

**2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, September 15, 2020**

Jim Benoit moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2020 regular meeting as submitted. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**3. Selectboard New Business**

**(a) Superintendent Sheila Soule, Addison Northwest Supervisory District – New England School Development Council Demographic and Facility Study**

Sheila Soule provided an overview of the demographic and facility study from the New England School Development Council. The study included capacity and best use of facilities, a look at our community and what’s happening state wide with enrollment, real estate and population. It also included a look at the four buildings. The report gave some thoughts on future use of facilities. The study was also done in the Mount Abe District and included thoughts on how to combine the two districts.

Clark asked about private and home schooling trends in our district. Sheila indicated they have been fairly consistent until COVID which increased the numbers this year. Chris asked if there was any sense if these students would return to local schools. Sheila replied she does not have a sense for that.

Clark asked about the classroom of the future and if there is any research regarding kids in school with environmental protections allowing them to learn remotely in school but be there for other activities where they could be socially distant. Jessica mentioned she had read about flex schools and Sheila indicated that Vermont passed Act 77 which provides personalized learning focused on students in grades 7-12. This is also known as the Flexible Pathways Movement and the idea is that students are held accountable for demonstrating their learning and have flexibility in how they do that learning. For example, students could do community based learning, an internship, tech center, or early college.

The study information is available on the districts web page and there will be 2 virtual community engagement sessions this fall. Jessica mentioned it was difficult to find the study and suggested that a direct link be available near the top of the home page.

**(b) Dog Ordinance Discussion**

Jaimeelyn sent information regarding proposed changes to the dog ordinance. She has received a daytime noise complaint. Discussion was held regarding definition of business and kennels. The Zoning Board has a new land use draft out for review that does include some changes to home occupation rules, including the definition of a kennel. It was decided to review the zoning draft before making any decisions on the dog ordinance proposal. Jessica will forward Jaimeelyn's proposed changes to Jean Richardson.

**(c) Mike Quinn – health insurance**

Mike Quinn presented the employee insurance information for 2021. Pam will compile the information and send to the Selectboard for review and a decision at the next regular meeting on October 20th.

**4. Selectboard old business**

**(a) 3133 Hawkins Road – hold harmless agreement/1111 Permit**

Kevin Kite was asked to construct a prospective resolution and has put together a proposed findings and decision on the appeal of the 1111 permit denial and a corresponding permit if decided by the Selectboard. Susan Murray worked on drafts with Kevin and feels it's a good resolution for all parties. Clark Hinsdale moved to approve the permit with the permit conditions and findings and decisions on appeal of permit denial pursuant to VSA 1111. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All approved. MOTION PASSED

Janice said she is happy with the resolution. Kevin Kite indicated the plan is missing in the packet and needs to be attached to the permit. Susan Murray will send the plan to Kevin Kite and Pam Cousino.

**(b) Vorsteveld tree cutting in ROW update**

Kevin Kite provided an update on the Vorsteveld tree cutting in the ROW. It is now firmly in the discovery phase. The discovery requests are due within a week or so. The parties agreed to extend the deadline for expert witnesses for one month. The Vorsteveld Farm tried to go with a Summary Judgment but the court declined.

**5. Selectboard General Business**

**a) Revised education tax cashflow sheets**

During review of the cashflow sheet, Pam and Deb discovered a substantially higher amount of education tax would be sent to the state. Usually we receive a prebate download July 1<sup>st</sup> then another August 1<sup>st</sup> and the tax department combines the files and sends them to the education department. They did not combine the files this time which would have resulted in a much larger payment to the state education fund. So cashflow sheets were redone for the majority of the state. This does not affect the tax rate.

**b) Set dates for budget meeting**

Determine the date for the first budget meeting at 6pm on October 20<sup>th</sup>, just prior to the regular Selectboard meeting.

**c) Appoint Robyn King as zoning/planning minute taker**

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Jessica asked for a motion to appoint Robyn King as the zoning/planning meeting minute taker. Jim Benoit made the motion and it was seconded by Chris Campbell. All voted in favor.  
MOTION PASSED

**d) COVID-19 updates**

No updates

**6. Public Comment**

Pam Cousino was notified by Bonnie Barnes that the JSCL, LLC project planned for Tupper's Crossing is going to the Vermont Supreme Court. Bonnie indicated the town may want to determine if they want to be involved in it or not.

Pam Cousino mentioned that Chuck Johnson from Round Barn Farm will be attending the next Selectboard meeting. He is involved with the storm water permit for Round Barn Farm and the town is involved in the storm water permit with the Fire Department and they would like to do it as a combined effort. The first phase has to be done by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2021.

**7. Other Business**

No other business

**8. Correspondence**

**a) Town Auditors – results of recent audit**

An email was received from Walter Reed with the latest audit findings. The last audit on 9/16/20 had one finding of a late fee in July from Shelburne Limestone due to an invoice being submitted late.

**b) Letter to Donald Sisters**

The Town of Ferrisburgh sent a letter to Donald Sisters, regarding the need for a new roof, asking if he was interested in surrendering the lease early and would like to meet with the Selectboard to discuss. Requested a response by October 26, 2020.

**9. Selectboard to approve or Sign**

**a) Lister's Corrections – North Ferrisburgh Methodist Church, Parcel ID #18/20/95 227 Old Hollow Road**

A letter was received from Justus DeVries asking for a revised assessment on the North Ferrisburgh Methodist Church. Most of the church property is nontaxable but some is and the state said they had to be combined into one parcel. When combined it was listed as all taxable and this is now corrected. Jessica asked for a motion to approve the lister's corrections. Chris Campbell made the motion and Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor with Clark Hinsdale abstaining. MOTION PASSED

**b) Selectboard warrant**

Clark Hinsdale made a motion to approve the selectboard warrants in the amount of \$1,667,782.18. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**10. Adjourn**

Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

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Respectfully submitted,

Carol Allen