

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
October 15, 2024**

Members present: Clark Hinsdale, Chris Campbell, Walter Reed II, Jim Benoit

Town officials present: Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, Reilly LaBerge, Highway Department Foreman, Karen Petersen, Office Clerk

Visitors present: Bessie Sessions, Nikki Bearor, Fred Kenney, Red Muir, Rick Kerschner, Kristina MacKulin

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

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting October 1, 2024, Special Meeting August 20, 2024

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for October 1, 2024 as presented. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Jim Benoit moved to approve the special meeting minutes for August 20, 2024 as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

Red Muir summarized the Union Meeting Hall status as covered in the Building Maintenance Report. VT Heavy Timber has resumed work and will remain on site until the roof is closed. The windows are still in progress, although delayed due to health issues. A contract extension request will likely be presented in the coming weeks as it's getting too cold to install the windows.

Red Muir stated that reading about the proposed detention center in Vergennes had him wondering about the impact on the proposed road changes for the bypass. He wanted the board to be aware he had heard discussions about Vergennes seeking a charter change. Clark Hinsdale stated he has emailed Vergennes officials to say he is willing to meet with them to discuss.

4. Selectboard New Business

a. John Bull – Highway Operations Report

Reilly LaBerge presented the following highway operations report.

- culvert work is complete
- working on pruning and ditching on Locust Lane
- working with FEMA on July storm damage
- will take delivery of new truck once loan is signed – they will not be trading the old truck
- salt and sand are being brought in
- paving is underway and expected to finish this week or next and then shoulder work will be done

Jim Benoit asked Reilly to look at Cross Road where previous work was done to see if bringing in some stone will help prevent future issues.

b. Ferrisburgh Central School as the Emergency Shelter – Chris Kayhart

Kristina MacKulin and Nikki Bearor presented what they have learned about steps needed to designate the school as an emergency shelter. Much discussion was held on what steps need to be taken, what types of emergencies, other building options, and how to proceed.

Clark Hinsdale summarized the discussion stating the Selectboard is highly interested in engaging in the process to designate an emergency shelter and partnering with the school board.

c. Addison County Economic Development – Fred Kenney

Fred Kenney, Executive Director of the ACEDC, provided a presentation on what his organization has done for Addison County and what they can do to help towns with economic development.

d. Appoint Karen Petersen Interim Zoning Administrator

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Karen Petersen as Interim Zoning Administrator. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

5. Selectboard Old Business

a. Approve the Final Design of the proposed Art Installation

The design was not available.

b. Easement Agreement for Union Meeting Hall

The easement agreement is still being revised

c. Union Meeting Hall Updates

See Public Comment.

d. Hazardous Materials Ordinance – Approve

Discussion was held on the status of this ordinance. Next step is to send it to Kevin Kite for review.

e. Brown Church Updates – Parking Agreement

Rick and Nancy Benson proposed a revised parking agreement. Discussion was held regarding a license, instead of an easement, until such time the Sister's property becomes available.

Chris Campbell moved to agree to a temporary parking agreement with Blue Moon Property Group until the Sister's property is available. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

6. Selectboard General Business

Jim Benoit stated that several grant requests have been submitted with a deadline of the next day. He needs time to review the material so he can determine long term cost to the town. Discussion was held on the process. Jim proposed that grant materials be presented at a meeting with the expectation a vote will take place at the next scheduled board meeting. Everyone agreed.

7. Other Business

a) Update on Volunteer recognition dinner

Walter Reed II stated responses are coming in and he has more invitations to deliver.

b) VARS Update

The September report was received from VARS. Walter Reed stated that the service numbers look good.

8. Correspondence

a) Thank you note from Age Well

Received a thank you note from Age Well for the \$1,100.00 allocation they received from the town.

b) Thank you note from John Graham Housing & Services

Received a thank you note from John Graham Housing & Services for the \$825 contribution from the town.

c) Thank you note from Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes

Received a thank you note from the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes for the \$500.00 donation received from the town.

9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign

a) Approve and Sign Loan for Tandem Dump Truck – Community Bank

Jim Benoit moved to approve and sign the loan for \$225,000 to purchase the tandem dump truck. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b) Approve Second Class License, Tobacco License and Tobacco Substitute Endorsement for Stewart's Shops Corp. (N. Ferrisburgh Mobile)

Jim Benoit moved to approve a second-class license, a tobacco license and tobacco substitute endorsement for Stewart's Shops Corp. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Selectboard Warrant

Walter Reed II moved to approve the warrants in the amount of \$1,857,036.40. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Allen