

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
November 2, 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: Karlene DeVine, Judy Langeway

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

Jessica James called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Jessica James asked if there were any changes to the agenda due to the executive session. Chris Campbell moved that item 4a) Selectboard Old Business – Vorsteveld tree cutting in ROW update – executive session – confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body. 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1), be moved to the end of the schedule after warrants. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, October 20, 2020

Red Muir moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 20, 2020 as submitted. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Jim Benoit mentioned a possible change to the insurance section. The section was reviewed and confirmed as written. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard New Business

(a) Vermont temporary broadband subsidy program

Jessica James shared an email she received from Steve Huffaker regarding a temporary broadband subsidy program to help Vermonters get a credit for their broadband subscription. This information has also been on Front Porch Forum. Registration for the credit can be entered at <https://vermont.force.com/economicrecovery>. Jessica also shared the survey for the Addison County Communications Union District. Fourteen people in Ferrisburgh have accessed the survey. The information from the survey and the Town of Ferrisburgh Facebook page, regarding challenges with internet access, will be shared with the state. This group is working on the feasibility study preview determining what can be done for areas without broadband or internet access, sharing the hotspots and different programs in those areas. Jessica James is a delegate for this group. Pam Cousino completed a survey for the town, with Bill Wager, on cellular and broadband coverage.

4. Selectboard General Business

a) COVID-19 updates

Jessica James will attend an emergency manager local municipality briefing on Thursday, 11/4 on winter preparedness. She has asked Chief Wager to join the call as well.

5. Public Comment

Judy Langeway attended to express concerns about the lack of stop signs on Hawkins Road and Little Chicago Road. Jessica James spoke to John Bull last week and they will be putting a new stop sign on Hawkins Road on the other side of the road from the one that is already there. Judy also mentioned that her brother, Jack DeVine, said cars speed by his house on Little Chicago Road. The only speed limit signs on Little Chicago Road are as you are driving toward route 7. Karlene DeVine

said she doesn't believe there are any speed limit signs on Hawkins Road or the other side of Little Chicago. Jessica James indicated she will look into a speed cart. Chris Campbell stated that he and the Sheriff are meeting with the new commander of the New Haven State Police Barracks on Friday and he will bring this up with him.

Pam Cousino mentioned that on the next Selectboard meeting agenda, the board will be asked to vote on potentially having all town meeting articles, usually voted on in person, be voted by Australian ballot for just March 2021. Usually the town would need to vote to change voting to Australian ballot; however, due to COVID-19 the Selectboard can make this change for March 2021.

6. Other Business

No other business

7. Correspondence

a) Appeal of Application No. 20-023 of Findings and Decisions of ZBA

Jessica James displayed the letter from Bonnie Barnes, ZBA. Pam Cousino summarized that there was a fence built without a permit, then a permit was obtained, but the permit indicated the first 20 feet of the fence closest to the lake could only be 4' tall and the rest could be 8' tall. This is what they are appealing.

b) The Appeal of Application No. 20-083 of Findings and Decisions of ZBA

Jessica James displayed the letter from Bonnie Barnes, ZBA. This appeal is about a two story garage in the same footprint.

c) Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes – thank you note for funding

Jessica James displayed the handwritten thank you note. The Board expressed appreciation for the handwritten note.

d) Elderly Services – thank you note for funding

Jessica James displayed the handwritten thank you note.

e) Vermont Center for Independent Living – thank you note for funding

Jessica James displayed the thank you note.

8. Selectboard to approve or Sign

a) Selectboard warrant

Jessica James asked for a motion to approve the warrants. Clark Hinsdale made a motion to approve the selectboard warrants in the amount of \$11,033.67. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

9. Selectboard old business

(a) Vorsteveld tree cutting in ROW update – executive session – confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body. 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)

Jessica James asked for a motion to move to executive session to find that premature general disclosure of attorney-client communication regarding the Vorsteveld tree cutting on Arnold Bay Road would put the town at a substantial disadvantage. Jim Benoit made the motion. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

At 7:05 Jessica James asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss attorney-client privileged communication of the Vorsteveld tree cutting on Arnold Bay Road under the provision of Title I, Section 313 (a) 1 of the Vermont State statues. Jim Benoit made the motion. Chris Campbell seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

At 7:35 Red Muir made a motion to come out of executive session. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

At 7:35 Chris Campbell moved to resume the regular Selectboard meeting. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

The board did not take any action during executive session.

10. Adjourn

Jessica James asked for a motion to adjourn. Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Allen