

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
November 7, 2023**

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

Town officials present: Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, Karen Petersen, Office Clerk, Bill Wager, Fire Chief

Visitors present: Carrie Barrows, Lindsey Brown, Bessie Sessions, Ron Ulmer, Bonnie Barnes, Valerie Masiello, Steve Huffaker

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

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

In the interest of the attendees' time, Clark Hinsdale proposed changing the agenda by moving the approval of minutes to item 7, adding Route 7 speeding issues under item 3 and adding Monkton Road Fence issue to item 6. Everyone agreed to these changes.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting October 17, 2023, Budget meeting, October 10, 2023, August 22, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes, July 29, 2023 Fence Viewers Meeting – Approve Corrections, Budget Meeting Minutes October 24, 2023

Red Muir moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 17, 2023 as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Chris Campbell, Red Muir, and Walter Reed II voted in favor. Clark Hinsdale and Jim Benoit abstained. MOTION PASSED

Jim Benoit moved to approve the October 10, 2023 Budget Meeting minutes as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Clark Hinsdale, Walter Reed II, and Jim Benoit voted in favor. Chris Campbell and Red Muir abstained. MOTION PASSED

Clark Hinsdale moved to approve the August 22, 2023 Committee Meeting minutes as presented. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. Clark Hinsdale, Chris Campbell, Red Muir, and Walter Reed II voted in favor. Jim Benoit abstained. MOTION PASSED

Chris Campbell moved to approve the revised July 29, 2023 Fence Viewers meeting minutes. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. Chris Campbell, Jim Benoit, and Walter Reed II voted in favor. Clark Hinsdale and Red Muir abstained. MOTION PASSED

Jim Benoit moved to approve the October 24, 2023 Budget meeting minutes. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Clark Hinsdale, Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell, and Walter Reed II voted in favor. Red Muir abstained. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

a) Route 7 traffic issues

Clark Hinsdale gave an overview of the discussions to date, including his post on Front Porch Forum. He has asked John Bull to inventory the town roads to see where turning lanes, using just painted lines, could be added. Solid lines on the bridge, signage, police enforcement, and expectations were also discussed. Bonnie Barnes stated that a form can be filled out to obtain a speed sign without the need for a study. The Selectboard will draft a letter to send to the Agency of Transportation.

4. Selectboard New Business

b) Town wide reappraisal discussion

Clark Hinsdale stated that the Selectboard has indicated they want to get on the schedule for a town-wide reappraisal. The listers are drafting Requests for Proposals.

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) Union Meeting Hall – contracts to review – Update, possible signatures

Red Muir stated that he and Ashley LaFlam are still working with Kevin Kite on the contracts.

b) Town center sidewalk/crosswalk study report – Request

Bonnie Barnes stated that the sidewalk/crosswalk scoping study was presented at public informational meetings and a modified third alternative was presented with the estimated cost. At this time the scoping study is complete. Bonnie Barnes has learned of a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to which Ferrisburgh could submit an application whether the project moves forward or not.

Red Muir moved to approve the Town Center Committee applying for the TAP grant. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Chris Campbell, Red Muir, Clark Hinsdale, and Walter Reed II voted in favor. Jim Benoit voted against. MOTION PASSED

c) Brown Church Childcare Update

Red Muir reported the drainage has been installed. Test pits were dug and perfect soil was found that would support a system of up to 1,000 gallons per day.

d) Fire Contracts Discussion – Bill Wager – Possible Executive Session – premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body at a substantial disadvantage 1

V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(A)

7:24 p.m. Red Muir moved that the premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body at a substantial disadvantage. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

7:25 p.m. Walter Reed II moved to go into executive session and invite Pam Cousino, Laurie Curler, and Carol Allen. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

8:33 p.m. Red Muir moved to end the executive session. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

8:34 p.m. Jim Benoit moved to reconvene the open session. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

No decisions were made during the executive session.

6. Selectboard General Business

a) Monkton Road Fence Issue

Discussion was held on the current status of the issue. Red Muir stated not all issues have been addressed.

7. Other Business

None

8. Correspondence

a) Deb Healey last day of employment

Received an email from Deb Healey stating her last day of employment would be December 31, 2023.

b) Letter regarding VARS out of service – S Fleming

Steve Fleming submitted his concerns regarding the number of times VARS has been out of service this year.

9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign

a) Certificate of Approval for Location of a Salvage Yard – Prime Auto Parts

A certificate is currently in place for the salvage yard and needs to be reapproved every five years.

Jim Benoit moved to approve the Salvage Yard Certificate for Brent Jerger. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b) Lighting Bids for the Town Garage

Two bids were reviewed for lighting at the town garage.

Jim Benoit moved to accept the Glen Peck Electric bid for \$3,157.60. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Sign updated Personnel Policy

The final version of the Personnel Policy was presented for approval.

Chris Campbell moved to accept and sign the Personnel Policy. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

d) Selectboard Warrant

After discussion it was determined three line items were not ready for payment and should be removed from the warrants. The line items removed were two for Top Floor, totaling \$877.85, and one for the City of Vergennes Fire Department for \$34,892.10.

Red Muir moved to approve and sign the warrant for \$898,313.87. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Allen