

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
November 16, 2021**

Members present: Jessica James, Chris Campbell, Jim Benoit, Clark Hinsdale

Town officials present: Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Deb Healey, Treasurer, John Bull, Highway Department Foreman, Tom Steadman, Delinquent Tax Collector, Bill Wager, Fire Chief

Visitors present: Bessie Sessions, Jean Richardson, Randy Petroniro, Dianne Jackson, Jess Wilson, Ken French, Ashley LaFlam

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

Jessica James called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, November 2, 2021; ARPA Public Meeting, November 2, 2021

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular Selectboard Meeting minutes on November 2, 2021 as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Jim Benoit moved to approve the ARPA Public Meeting minutes on November 2, 2021 as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Chris Campbell, Jim Benoit, and Jessica James voted in favor. Clark Hinsdale abstained. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

None

4. Selectboard New Business

a) Ken French – Media Factory - Introduction

Ken French and Jess Wilson with the Media Factory attended to discuss the audio/visual upgrades that will be made. They provided an overview of the services they can provide assistance with like filming large meetings, archiving of meetings, and statistics on who views the meetings. They are scheduled to film the 2022 town meeting.

b) Funding for Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Development with Bill Wager

Bill Wager explained that there is currently a basic Hazard Mitigation Plan in place that expires in August of 2022. He would like hire a professional planner to develop a more comprehensive plan and there is a grant opportunity to help fund it. The COVID pandemic and the future Amtrak passage bring to light new risks. The local match commitment letter outlines a cost of \$11,150 with the federal share of \$8,363 and the towns match of \$2,787.

Clark Hinsdale moved to apply for the grant and approve the funds to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) ARPA Funding Request – Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Dept – Towards new “Engine II”

Bill Wager reported that the Fire Department has been fund raising to purchase a new mini-pumper and would like to request \$100,000 in ARPA funds. It would replace a 1988 truck and would be a first strike vehicle. During the COVID pandemic they found they had reduced available staff, a mandate to limit staff in the vehicles, and a limited pool of qualified truck operators. This truck will allow them to get into tighter spots and could be driven by any

firefighter. Clark Hinsdale added that the pandemic brought many seasonal residents to their homes through the winter and access to these homes is via small roads that a larger truck cannot access.

Jim Benoit moved to approve \$100,000 of the ARPA funds to be spent on Engine II for the Ferrisburgh Fire Department. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

d) John Bull – highway operations report

John Bull provided the highway operations report. They are currently working on roadside mowing, filling shoulders on Monkton, Old Hollow and Basin Harbor Roads. The delivery of the new truck has been pushed to November 22. All equipment is ready for the snow season and they are cross training on routes. They removed six trees from Greenbush Road and the stumps. John asked for clarification on the sign request for the Union Meeting Hall. He will install a fire lane sign. John is looking at replacing the 22 year old backhoe.

e) Basin Harbor Road speeding issues

Pam Cousino said they did have the Sheriff patrol this area on Basin Harbor Road. Randy Petroniro commented that he's expressed concerns to Pam Cousino a few times and he would like to work together to address the concerns. He said that children and the elderly are frequently crossing this road as well as people are launching boats. He is very concerned that someone will get hurt. Dianne Jackson stated in the 17 years she's been there its progressively getting worse and this last weekend someone missed the corner, left the road and hit a tree by the marina. John Bull will do a road safety audit and provide recommendations. Chris Campbell will try to have some patrols there again.

f) Shellhouse Mountain/Middlebrook Road Speeding Issues

A call was received regarding speeding on Shellhouse Mountain and Middlebrook Road. Pam Cousino is trying to find the speed study for this area.

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) National Opioids Settlement – for a committee

Clark Hinsdale reported that his wife, Suzanne is willing to serve on this committee. A posting will go on Front Porch Forum and the Hollow listserv seeking other volunteers.

b) Reaffirm motion from last meeting to pay for Audio/Visual Equipment through ARPA

Pam Cousino presented a revised estimate for the A/V equipment. Sound bars for both areas were added to the quote as well as the original Owl purchase and WIFI upgrade for upstairs.

Chris Campbell moved to fund the A/V system for the town hall with ARPA funds not to exceed \$14,000. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Building Maintenance Committee Report – 15 Year Easement with UMH Grant Funding

Jean Richardson stated that the Preservation Trust Grant for the Union Meeting Hall requires a 15 year easement.

Clark Hinsdale moved to accept the 15 year National Park Service easement. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

d) Health Officer Update

A certified letter was sent to the Health Officer requesting her attendance at this meeting. The Health Officer was not in attendance.

6. Selectboard General Business

None

7. Other Business

Tom Steadman, Delinquent Tax Collector, attended and presented a revised tax collection policy for the board to review. Discussion was held around the current process for collecting taxes. Jessica James will review the revised policy.

8. Correspondence

a) Tri-Valley Transit Thank you letter

A letter was received from Tri-Valley Transit thanking the town for last year's support and requesting level funding for FY23.

9. Selectboard to approve or Sign

a) Selectboard Warrant

After reviewing the warrant, Chris Campbell moved to approve the warrant for 1,095,550.59. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. Chris Campbell, Clark Hinsdale, and Jessica James voted in favor. Jim Benoit abstained. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:44. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Allen