

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
November 19, 2024**

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

**Town officials present:** Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, John Bull, Highway Department Superintendent, Suzele Atkins, Town Health Officer

**Visitors present:** Bessie Sessions, Bonnie Barnes, Rick Kerschner, Mike Winslow, David Burke, Anne Audy, Ashley LaFlam, Lindsey Brown, Annie Cohen, J.P. Seeley, Craig Heindel, Judy Chaves, Shannon Sixt, A. Rose, Jeanne Comouche

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

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Clark Hinsdale proposed the following changes to the agenda and everyone agreed.

Move 4.e. Fill Vacancy on Selectboard to 4.a. to allow for the position to be filled and participate in this meeting

Add 7.a. – Review Volunteer Recognition Dinner

**2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting November 5, 2024, Budget Work Session October 15, 2024**

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for November 5, 2024 as presented.

Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Jim Benoit moved to approve the Budget Work Session minutes for October 15, 2024 as presented.

Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Selectboard New Business**

**a. John Bull – Highway Operations Report**

John Bull reported they have finished paving. The winter equipment has been serviced and is ready to go. He is still working with FEMA on storm damage and hopes to have the application submitted by December 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost is about \$59,000 and FEMA has covered 75% in the past. Monkton Road damage came in at \$36,000. He is working to find what federal funds are available.

**b. Update on Old Hollow Road Box Culvert**

John Bull reported he has met with two representatives from FEMA and they discussed mitigation options. The current structure does meet current specifications for the water that goes through it but does not meet the new standard based on screen width requiring a significantly larger culvert. An engineer may be needed to determine how to move forward. John will have more information for the budget work session. Jean Richardson presented her understanding of a communication she received regarding material taken out of the area and right of way. Craig Heindel stated he was not able to find any easement information on file and suggested that legal costs be added to the project to pay for this work to be done. John Bull said he will reach out to the VLCT to get clarification.

**c. Burning at 3708 Shellhouse Mountain Rd – David Burke**

David Burke presented information on his burning practices at his home. He stated he was visited by the Town Fire Warden during his first burn and was informed that he must call for a burn permit each time he wants to burn. Since the first instance he has followed the Open Pit Ordinance and requested a burn pit each time. He did receive a complaint and communication from the Town Health Officer stating he was not in compliance.

After discussion, the Selectboard found him not to be in violation and gave him permission to continue to burn in compliance with the Open Pit Ordinance.

The Town Health Officer will be asked to attend a future meeting to discuss the process.

**d. To allocate expenses on Brown Church from Sale Proceeds**

Pam Cousino stated there is approximately \$20,000 in expenses associated with the Brown Church. The money from the sale of the church is in the bank and the board needs to decide where it should be deposited. Pam will provide a detailed list of expenses at the next meeting.

**e. Fill Vacancy on Selectboard**

Clark Hinsdale stated a volunteer has expressed interest in filling the Selectboard vacancy until Town Meeting Day. After discussion of the process to fill a vacancy it was decided to move forward and vote.

Chris Campbell moved to appoint Jessica James to fill the Selectboard vacancy until Town Meeting Day. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Pam Cousino administered the oath of office and Jessica joined the meeting.

**5. Selectboard Old Business**

**a. Update on TAP Crosswalk Grant**

Bonnie Barnes and Mike Winslow, from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, attended to further discuss this project. Walter Reed II requested some clarification on the costs. Mike Winslow reported that he asked Dubois & King about negotiating their costs and they stated it was an estimate of what they think it will cost. Several residents spoke of their support for the crosswalk. Jean Richardson stated that the Town Plan calls for Complete Streets and this project is in line with meeting that goal.

Mike Winslow will follow up on questions he was asked and provide answers at the next meeting.

**b. Approve and Sign the Preservation Trust Easement for the Union Meeting Hall**

The final Preservation Trust Easement has been reviewed by the Selectboard.

Jim Benoit moved to approve and sign the Preservation Trust Easement for the Union Meeting Hall. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**6. Selectboard General Business**

Walter Reed II asked if there was an update on the town's request for a turning lane at the Greenbush Road intersection. There was no new information.

**7. Other Business**

**a) Update on Volunteer recognition dinner**

Thoughts were shared on the success of the volunteer recognition dinner.

**8. Correspondence**

**a) Vergennes Area Rescue Squad October Monthly Update**

The VARS October Monthly Update reported they had no out of service times.

**9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign**

**a) Selectboard Warrant**

Jessica James moved to approve the warrants in the amount of \$3,323,696.13. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**10. Adjourn**

Jessica James moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Allen