

Draft
Town of Ferrisburgh
Special Select Board Meeting
November 21, 2017

Members present: Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Michael “Red” Muir.

Town officials present: John Bull, road foreman; Deb Healey, town treasurer.

Visitors present: Heather Cosgrove, Richard Cosgrove, George Gardener, Tom Hand, Craig Heindel, Lincoln Landé, Paula Moore, Bessie Sessions, Kirk Shields, Silas Towler.

1. 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting — call to order.

Loretta Lawrence, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approve minutes — November 7, 2017, regular meeting; and November 14, 2017, budget work session.

Rick Ebel made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2017, regular meeting, as submitted. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2017, budget work session, as submitted. Steve Gutowski seconded. Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Steve Gutowski, and Loretta Lawrence voted in favor. Red Muir abstained. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) John Bull — highway operations report. John Bull asked the board if a date had been set to meet regarding insurance for town employees. Loretta Lawrence replied that it will be discussed at the November 28, 2017, budget work session. The final insurance cover decisions will be made by December 5, 2017. John said his department has been finishing up projects including roadside mowing and pruning stumps, as well as equipment maintenance. A brief discussion ensued regarding questions John had submitted about the recently instituted Computer Use Policy. He stated that all of his employees have submitted signed copies of the document. He described the details of a program created by regional planning which uses an iPad that is brought out to the field to collect data that can be downloaded and submitted to the state.

(b) Bixby Library — presentation. Paula Moore, president of the Bixby’s board of trustees, addressed the selectboard regarding the town’s financial support for the library. She stated that this year’s request would remain the same as last year: \$61,050. Loretta Lawrence reminded Paula that she had been asked last year if this amount would be steady for more than one year. Paula stated that although the library is more financially stable than last year at this time, the board of trustees could not make that promise. Silas Towler, a trustee, reiterated that these funds only go toward the operating fund; there is a separate fund for the building and maintenance. He also mentioned that they are looking for a Ferrisburgh resident to join the library board of trustees. Steve Gutowski brought up his concern from last year; he asked about a way to find out how many Ferrisburgh residents use the library. Paula said the library is giving surveys to attendees to check for residency. The board thanked Paula and Silas for their presentation.

(c) Lincoln Landé — groSolar. Lincoln Landé discussed the progress of the 5MW solar array on Clifford Harris’ property in the back fields by the railroad tracks, at the intersection of US Route 7 and Greenbush Road. He informed the board that Green Mountain Power (GMP) has joined the project. groSolar will build and maintain the array and battery storage unit; GMP will own the system. He introduced Kirk Shields, a representative of GMP. A lengthy discussion ensued between Kirk and the

board regarding several points including the size, type, and location of the battery to be used. Lincoln introduced Tom Hand, the landscape architect working on the project. He reviewed his drawings depicting potential ways to mitigate the presence of the array and battery storage unit, including a 30 foot-wide hedgerow of native species. A discussion ensued regarding installation of a 15kW array for the town at no cost, per the Memorandum of Understanding. Lincoln's asked the board to submit three potential locations for the solar array within the next month; this solar project will be built and maintained by groSolar.

(d) Town Charter — change date under transitional provisions. Loretta Lawrence received a call from the Vermont State Legislative Legal Council, Tucker Anderson, recommending that the selectboard change the effective date from September 5, 2017, to July 1, 2018. This will allow enough time for the bill to go through the legislative process. Jim Benoit made a motion to change the Town Charter date, under transitional provisions, from September 5, 2017 to July 1, 2018. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(e) Clark Hinsdale — request appointment to Zoning Board of Adjustment Loretta Lawrence announced that since the Zoning Board of Adjustment would like to interview Clark Hinsdale, this agenda item would be tabled.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) Wayne Stearns — finalize details of culvert replacement. Jim Benoit informed the board that he had spoken with Wayne Stearns, who will accept the town's offer to furnish him with a culvert and backfill. This item will be on the agenda for the next regular selectboard meeting on December 5, 2017. Wayne Stearns will be invited to attend this meeting.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Vermont Green Line (VGL) Committee update. Craig Heindel, chair of the VGL Committee, announced that Vermont Green Line, Devco, LLC has formally withdrawn its petition for a Certificate of Public Good at the Public Utilities Commission. The reason for the termination is unrelated to the town's partnership with VGL. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding National Grid's refusal to give the boring details and locations to John Bull, road foreman, despite an informal agreement to do so. Discussion ensued. Further discussion led the board to ask Craig to contact Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell, to see if the town should refuse to give the remaining funds in the escrow account back without receiving the borings information.

Craig submitted an invoice approved by the VGL Committee to the selectboard. After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to approve payment of the invoice from Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell, in the amount of \$19.00 from the VGL escrow account. This account, which funds expenses such as legal bills, is fully funded by Vermont Green Line Devco, LLC, not by the town. Rick Ebel seconded. Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Loretta Lawrence, and Red Muir voted in favor. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Security cameras — George Gardner — continued discussion. George Gardner, owner of George's Locks & Security, LLC described the details of his proposed closed-circuit television system for surveillance and security of the community hall and town offices. His quote of \$3,594.00 includes the purchase and installation of a LCD monitor, a DVR, two exterior cameras, three interior cameras, and a power supply. This system is motion-activated and can be accessed via the Internet. After discussion, the board decided to further review the quote. This item will be added to the agenda for the next regular selectboard meeting on December 5, 2017.

(c) Listers' office — request for new fireproof file cabinet using restoration funds. After discussion regarding a quote of \$1,299.00, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the purchase of a fireproof file cabinet by the listers, funding to come out of the non-budget restoration fund. Rick Ebel seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

6. Public comment

Silas Towler asked for an explanation of the term “restoration funds.” Deb Healey, town treasurer, stated that the funds come from the money generated by the fees paid to the town for recordings.

Craig Heindel informed the board that the former Laughlin property, which has a town right-of-way, has been purchased by Cindy Schultz and Tom Aldrich of Westchester County, New York. They will build a single family home and a garage and will not subdivide the property. With conservation in mind, they want to return the parcel to habitat for wildlife. The couple are going to meet with the Conservation Committee as they work through the building process.

Silas Towler detailed for the board the results of an inventory of the church pews and cushions stored in the basement of the community hall and town offices building. Discussion ensued regarding possibly restoring the pews, as well as moving them to a different location. The board asked Silas to comprise a list of items, besides the pew cushions, that could be sold.

Silas Towler said the Historical Society building needs a new roof; he will bring his request to the buildings and maintenance committee.

7. Other business

Rick Ebel stated that Gloria Warden had invited him, as a new board member, to come in for a visit and he wanted to share that invitation with the whole board. The board thanked Rick for passing on the information. Red Muir stated that he would be interested in coming in for a visit with Rick.

8. Correspondence

(a) Addison County Regional Planning Commission — proposed amendment and re-adoption of regional plan, as amended. By letter, the town was notified regarding the process that would be followed to amend the transportation section of the Addison County Regional Plan. A copy of the proposed amendment is available at the town clerk's office.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Ferrisburgh Historical Society — hall rental agreement — December 10, 2017, January 14 and March 11, 2018, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Jim Benoit made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the Ferrisburgh Historical Society, waiving the rental fee but requiring the \$500 deposit and proof of insurance. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Selectboard warrant. After review, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$433,820.48. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira