

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
November 26, 2013**

Members present: Loretta Lawrence-Chair, Sally Torrey, Jim Warden, and Jim Benoit.

Jim Warden made the motion to enter executive session at 6:00 to discuss Union Meeting Hall boundary issues. Jim Benoit seconded, all in favor.

Jim Benoit made the motion to leave executive session at 6:17, Jim Warden seconded, all in favor.

No action taken.

Others present: Bob McNary

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. the purpose of the meeting is to interview candidates for the position of Selectboard.

First candidate is Steve Gutowski.

Why do you want to serve? He enjoys service to his community and he now has the time to serve. He has been on Solid Waste and Zoning and he has experience in the town and county. If appointed he would run for election in March. He is used to dealing with the public and is in town for the long haul.

Bob McNary asks the following questions:

Have you had any leadership experience in the private sector? Yes he manages Point Bay Marina

What would you do to support local business? Make sure zoning will accommodate local business.

How would you improve community spirit? There needs to be more involvement.

The Board thanks Steve.

Second candidate is Walter Reed.

He is on the planning commission and would resign if appointed. He has been on planning and has a good feel for the town and would like to step up to the Board. If appointed he would run in March. He has no hidden agenda and wants to represent the town in the best manner possible to make the best decisions for the town, it is important to listen. His time on the planning commission has given him experience in working for the town.

Bob McNary asks the following questions:

Have you had any leadership experience in the private sector? Yes he holds office in a large organization.

What would you do to support local business? One way is to shop at the local businesses.

How would you improve community spirit? He would listen to the local community.

The Board thanks Walter.

The third candidate is Ralph Shepard.

Why do you want to serve? He feels it is time to give back to the town. If appointed he would run in March. He has a degree in public administration and he has no hidden agenda. He wants to learn and help and has an open mind. How to support local business. They should be encouraged to fit the local community, be clean and high-tech. How would

he handle complaints; with tact and patience. He supports alternative energy and applying for grant money to support local business.

Have you had any leadership experience in the private sector? Yes he was the director of operations and managed 100 employees.

What would you do to support local business? Make sure zoning will accommodate local business.

How would you improve community spirit? There needs to be more involvement.

The Board thanks Ralph.

The fourth candidate is Arabella Holzappel.

She is on the Planning Commission and would resign if appointed. She would run in March if appointed. Why do you want to serve? She would represent people with an open mind.

She has few strong opinions with very strong values. She would like to see the Bixby board be elected because they spend a lot of tax money. We need more local businesses.

Have you had any leadership experience in the private sector? Yes she works at Middlebury College and represents 100 people.

What would you do to support local business? We need to recruit more local businesses and we need a nice diner in town.

How would you improve community spirit? We have a big town that is hard to get everyone together; we need to have community events around town.

The Board thanks Arabella.

The fifth candidate is Tom Drumheller.

Why do you want to serve? John DeVos suggested he apply. He loves the town and has a strong sense of civic duty; the future presents challenges. He currently an auditor and would resign if appointed and would run in March. He has no hidden agenda. He wants to do what is right for the town. We need to bring more businesses that fit the character into town. He would handle complaints by having them go to meetings to work with the Board. He would work hard to fulfill the position.

Have you had any leadership experience in the private sector? Yes he worked at Lane Press and was a foreman at Pizzagalli.

What would you do to support local business? We need to meet with and get to know the issues of the local businesses. Work on long term planning.

How would you improve community spirit? Reach out and increase communication, have more forums and open houses, increase communication of decisions, use the website and front porch forum and mailings.

The Board thanks Tom.

The sixth candidate is Dennis Armell.

Why do you want to serve? He was always interested in town politics and would like to be on the board. If appointed he would run in March. The Board needs to listen and express their opinions. He would keep things running smooth and work as a team. He would have people come to meetings to get their questions answered. New businesses need to fit the character of the town. He feels he would be a good fit as he is a long term resident and has leadership experience. He would answer questions by having the person come to board meetings.

Have you had any leadership experience in the private sector? Yes he is a supervisor in the Guard.

What would you do to support local business? The board have an open door policy.
How would you improve community spirit? The planning survey was very good.
The Board thanks Dennis.

The Board will meet with the Auditors and Treasurer to discuss an ad for Assistant Treasurer at 6pm December 3rd.

Jim Warden spoke with Bob Jenkins for a recommendation about repairs on the Union Meeting Hall. Bob recommended Bob Griswold.

Jim Benoit and Jim Warden will meet with John Bull and the Old Hollow Road residents to discuss the report on the traffic study.

Sally Torrey moves to enter executive session to discuss the candidates at 8:45pm; second by Jim Benoit. So voted.

Jim W. made the motion to leave executive session at 8:56. Jim Benoit seconded, all in favor.

Sally Torrey made the motion to appoint Steve Gutowski to fill the seat vacated by John DeVos until the next election. Jim Benoit seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02.

Respectively submitted,

Chet Hawkins Clerk