

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
December 7, 2021**

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

Town officials present: Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, Deb Healey, Treasurer, Tom Steadman, Delinquent Tax Collector, Bonnie Barnes, Zoning Board Administrator

Visitors present: Bessie Sessions, Mike Winslow, Steve Huffaker, Carl Cole

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

Jessica James called the meeting to order at 6:34p.m.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, November 16, 2021; budget work session, November 16, 2021; budget work session, November 30, 2021

Clark Hinsdale moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting, November 16, 2021, the budget work session, November 16, 2021, and the budget work session on November 30, 2021. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

None

4. Selectboard New Business

a) Mike Winslow – Triangle Bike Loop – Walk-Bike Council of Addison County

Mike Winslow of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission attended to provide preliminary information on a grant they plan to apply for in the spring to create the Triangle Bike Loop to connect Middlebury, New Haven, Bristol, and Vergennes. He is seeking cooperation from the towns to place route signs. He provided a map of where he proposes signs be added in Ferrisburgh and requested to work with the town road foreman to determine correct placement. A grant will be used to purchase the signs and once the grant is approved they would ask the road crew to install the signs.

b) Notice of Appearance re: Appeal of ZBA Decision – Summer Point Lane

Bonnie Barnes provided background information on this appeal and requested that Kevin Kite enter his notice of appearance in this matter.

Clark Hinsdale moved to have Kevin Kite enter his notice of appearance. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) Health Officer update

Jaimeelyn Gaboriault submitted her letter of resignation today for the positions of Health Officer and Animal Control Officer. These positions will be posted on the town website and Front Porch Forum.

b) Delinquent Tax Collector – approve lawyer for tax sales – approve delinquent tax policy

Tom Steadman attended to continue the conversation on working with the town attorney on delinquent tax sales. He also noted he recently received a VLCT Delinquent Tax

Collector Handbook. The delinquent tax policy was revised and Tom will review with the town attorney to see if any additional changes are needed before approval. He also provided a series of delinquent tax reports.

Chris Campbell moved to approve the delinquent tax collector working with the town attorney on delinquent tax sales. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Vergennes Fire Department – update and status – progress on contract (2021-2022)

Pam Cousino created a draft model of Ferrisburgh parcels, the number of parcels covered by the Vergennes Fire Department, and included a possible rate for the 2021-2022 contract. Jessica James will present this report at her next meeting with Ron Redmond.

d) Trails Committee – appoint committee members

A list of nine names was presented for the Trails Committee. Two asked for more information and Clark Hinsdale is following up with them. Clark also heard from Anne Cohn that she would like to be on the committee.

Clark Hinsdale moved to appoint Rick Detwiler, Courtney Kanetzky, Janel Jewell, Amanda Crocker, Amy Dohner, Robert Colbuern, Dave Cahill, and Anne Cohn. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

e) National Opioids Settlement

No new names were submitted for the National Opioids Settlement committee. Pam Cousino proposed that she work with Suzanne Hinsdale and a Selectboard member to review the documents and make a determination if the town will join the settlement. This will be continued at the next meeting.

f) Building Maintenance Comm. Report – request funds for front window repairs at UMH

Carl Cole attended to request ARPA funds to repair three of the front windows at the Union Meeting Hall. A qualified craftsman, Jim Hunt, has had an opening in his schedule this winter and submitted an estimate of \$17,350 to repair the three windows. This estimate is much lower than others received. Discussion was held regarding the potential need for upgrades to the fire station boiler and lighting. Red Muir stated he is looking for more clarity on what ARPA money can be spent on. Steve Huffaker shared a FAQ link from the Treasury Department that is 80 pages of additional clarification on what qualifies for the ARPA funds. Everyone will review the FAQ and continue the discussion next week.

g) Building Maintenance Comm. – ARPA funds request for engineering assessment for town center septic connections

Carl Cole provided some information on the current town center septic system. He spoke with an engineer regarding the system and the engineer recommended a feasibility study be done to determine the details and requirements of potential changes. The engineer proposed a budget of \$2,500 for the study. This item was tabled until everyone can review the FAQ from the Treasury Department.

h) Other ARPA funds allocation discussion

Clark Hinsdale asked Steve Huffaker what funding Maple Broadband has received. Steve stated that three towns have committed funds so far, Weybridge, Cornwall, and Ripton. They have received a \$2.3M grant for pre-construction activities that does not include materials. He is concerned about pre-purchasing materials as the supply chain issues have had a huge impact on fiber optic supplies.

6. Selectboard General Business

a) Land Use Regulations minor corrections

Bonnie Barnes reported that eight substantive errors were found that need to be addressed. The Planning Commission has reviewed and asked the Selectboard to review. This was tabled for a future meeting.

7. Other Business

The next budget meeting will be held on December 14th from 6p.m. to 7p.m. followed by a special Selectboard meeting at 7p.m. in lieu of the regular 3rd Tuesday of the month meeting. There will be no Selectboard meeting on December 21st.

8. Correspondence

a) Bonnie Barnes – zoning violation, 2078 Jersey Street – compliance in process

Bonnie Barnes provided information on this violation. The land owner has begun working toward compliance and is on the agenda for the January Zoning Board meeting.

b) Agency of Natural Resources – annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

Notification was received from the Agency of Natural Resources of the annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes for FY 2022.

c) Addison County virtual public meeting – December 10, 2021 to discuss proposed county budget

Jessica James shared the invitation to the Addison County virtual budget public meeting.

9. Selectboard to approve or Sign

a) Parcel Mapping Contract for 2021 – 2022

Jim Benoit moved to approve the parcel mapping contract for 2021-2022 in the amount of \$3,400.00. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b) Listers Correction – Raymond Stearns, Parcel #10/01/24.3, Shellhouse Mtn. Road

Tabled for a future meeting as the information was not available.

c) Listers Correction – Hol-Ket Farms LLC, Parcel #10/01/47.1 – 1709 Middlebrook road

Tabled for a future meeting as the information was not available.

d) Selectboard Warrant

Clark Hinsdale moved to approve the warrant for \$1,628,100.12. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00p.m. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Allen