

**Ferrisburgh Selectboard Budget Meeting Minutes**  
**December 10, 2024**  
**5:30 pm**

Members in attendance: Clark Hinsdale, Chris Campbell, Jim Benoit, Walter Reed, Jessica James

Others in attendance: Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Alison Brigger, Treasurer, John Bull, Road Commissioner, Reily LaBerge, Road Foreman, Jenna Lindemann

**1) Open Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Clark Hinsdale.

**2) VARS (Vergennes Area Rescue Squad) – Jenna Lindemann**

Jenna Lindemann from VARS spoke about the improvements they have made over the past year. The out of service time was decreased and their staffing had increased to 3 full time staff, 1 part time staff member and several per diem positions. This has improved their scheduling but still leaves some openings. The request for the 2025-2026 budget year is proposed to be \$25.00 per capita, last years was \$15 per capita. \$25.00 x 2664 for population would be \$66,600.

Walter Reed suggested that it makes more sense to have one person from each town on the VARS board, not just one person to cover the entire coverage area.

**3) John Bull – Highway Budget**

John Bull and Reilly LaBerge presented the municipal highway budget for 2025-2026. Last years budget was \$787,718. This year's budget as presented totals \$793,738, less than a 1% increase. There was much discussion regarding the box culvert in the Hollow. Cost would be between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000. Another option would be to put a 4' culvert beside it, which would cost under \$100,000. John Bull says that the area needs to be surveyed as there are no easements with any of the neighbors at this time. The river engineer from the state will need to approve whatever we do.

Reilly LaBerge then went over the wages. He suggested 3 ½% to be used for the highway wages contingency figure. The board agreed that would be a good amount for the budget.

**4) Pam Cousino – Town Clerk Budget**

Pam Cousino gave a very brief rundown of the Town Clerk's budget. She felt that the 3 ½% figure for possible future wages in the wage contingency would work. She reminded the board that she will be retiring at the end of August 2025. The January 7<sup>th</sup> budget meeting will include time to review the Town Clerk's budget, as well as an overview of the entire budget.

**5) Employee Wages – Executive Session – 1 V.S.A. § 313(s)(1a)**

Since the wages had already been discussed there was no executive session.

**6) Other Issues**

There were no other issues to discuss.

**7) Adjourn**

At 7:00 p.m. Jessica James moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pam Cousino