

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
December 14, 2021 Special Regular Meeting**

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

**Town officials present:** Deb Healey, Treasurer, Pam Cousino

**Visitors present via Zoom:** Steve Huffaker, Carl Cole

**1. 7:00 p.m. Call special regular meeting to order**

Jessica James called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, December 7, 2021; budget work session, December 7, 2021**

Chris Campbell moved to approve the minutes for the budget meeting from December 7, 2021 and the regular meeting of December 7, 2021 with one minor correction of the spelling of a name in section 5d) Trails Committee of the regular meeting minutes. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**3. Public Comment**

Andrew Martin from Neagley & Chase spoke about a project for Vt. Slaughter & Processing Co. They are involved in getting a grant and part of the grant application requires a letter of support from the town. The project doesn't require additional square footage, except for an area in the back where the animal holding will be. Clark Hinsdale made a motion to authorize the selectboard to authorize a letter of conceptual support contingent upon zoning approval and compliance with the town by-laws. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**4. Selectboard New Business**

None

**5. Selectboard Old Business**

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

Jessica James asked the board to review the contract with the Vergennes Fire Department for the 2021-2022 year. The year is half over and we haven't signed the contract nor paid any money to Vergennes. There was much discussion and it was then tabled to later in the meeting where it appeared again on the agenda under the approve and sign category.

**b) Building Maintenance Committee Report**

Carl Cole was present to remove his request for some money from the town for repair of the windows at the Union Meeting Hall as there may be some donors that will contribute to that project.

**c) Building Maintenance Committee – ARPA funds request for engineering assessment for town center septic connections**

Carl Cole spoke about new information that looks very promising which would provide State APRA funds for that project. He will keep the board updated as more information is received.

**d) ARPA funding request – Maple Broadband**

Steve Huffaker from Maple Broadband was present with a request for \$50,000 towards the Maple Broadband CUD from ARPA funding. There was much discussion regarding the amount of time this project may take as well as the viability of the project. Steve Huffaker spoke to the concerns that were made. After much discussion Red Muir moved to approve the funding request of \$50,000. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. The vote was 3 yeas by Red Muir, Clark Hinsdale and Jessica James and 2 nays by Jim Benoit and Chris Campbell. MOTION PASSED

**e) Other ARPA funds allocation discussion**

None

**f) National Opioids Settlement – Committee**

Marjorie London is interested in joining the National Opioids Settlement committee. The first step of the committee is to decide if the town should join this settlement which must be decided by January 2, 2022. Red Muir moved to appoint Marjorie London to the National Opioids Settlement committee. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**6. Selectboard General Business**

**a) Land Use Regulations – minor corrections**

As per discussion at the last meeting with Zoning Administrator Bonnie Barnes, these are minor corrections and errors that have been approved by the Planning Commission. They are not substantive changes that must be voted on by the voters. Red Muir moved to approve the Land Use Regulations minor corrections. Seconded by Jim Benoit. Jessica James, Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell and Red Muir voted in the affirmative. Clark Hinsdale abstained. MOTION PASSED

**7. Other Business**

None

**8. Correspondence**

**a) RHR Smith & Company – audit management letter**

The audit management letter was shared. Everything looks very good for the 2021/2022 FY audit. There was one minor issue that was mentioned. Joshua Quinn from RHR Smith & Co. will be present at the first meeting in January to go over his findings.

**b) Dylan Griffin & Family – request for ARPA funding for Broadband**

A letter was received asking that the board work towards having broadband available throughout the entire town.

**9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign**

- a) Listers Correction – Raymond Stearns, Parcel #10/01/24.3, Shellhouse Mtn. Road**  
This was to remove a \$5,000 parcel that should have been combined with another parcel. Clark Hinsdale moved to approve the listers correction for parcel # 10/01/24.3. Seconded by Jim Benoit. MOTION PASSED
- b) Listers Correction – Hol-Ket Farms LLC, Parcel #10/01/47.1, 1709 Middlebrook Rd**  
There is a tiny house on this property that should have been listed by itself. Clark Hinsdale moved to approve the listers correction for parcel # 10/01/47.1. Seconded by Jim Benoit. MOTION PASSED
- c) Property Valuation Review Certified Level Appraisal Appeal**  
Because the results of the new CLA have not been received, and there is a 30 day window to appeal, the listers will wait to receive the new numbers from the state and if an appeal is necessary it will be on the agenda for the first meeting in January.
- d) 2021-2022 Vergennes Fire Contract – as amended**  
Deb Healey informed the board the percentage of Ferrisburgh calls averaged over the past 10 years was 24%. Jessica James wants a signed contract to bring to the City Manager in Vergennes to show that we are serious about reformatting the way the Vergennes Fire Department is funded. Chris Campbell moved to change the amount for the 2021/2022 year contract from our level funded amount in our budget of \$87,060 to the 24% amount of the Vergennes Fire Department budget which equals \$53,814. He includes in the motion that we send a payment of the first two quarterly payments, a total of \$26,907 in the warrant that will be approved this evening. Seconded by Jim Benoit. MOTION PASSED
- e) Selectboard Warrant**  
Clark Hinsdale moved to approve the warrant for \$206,473.36 which includes \$26,907 for the Vergennes Fire Department contract. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

## **10. Adjourn**

Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Chris Campbell seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cousino  
Town Clerk