

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
December 17, 2024**

Members present: Clark Hinsdale, Chris Campbell, Walter Reed II, Jim Benoit, Jessica James

Town officials present: Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, Reilly Laberge, Highway Department Foreman

Visitors present: Bessie Sessions, Jean Richardson, Rick Ebel, Craig Heindel, Vaughn Collins, Katie Hill, Bonnie Barnes

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

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Clark Hinsdale asked to add an agenda item under 6) Selectboard General Business to discuss renewal of a couple of certificates of deposits coming due.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting December 3, 2024

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for December 3, 2024 as presented.

Walter Reed II seconded the motion. Chris Campbell, Jim Benoit, Walter Reed II, and Jessica James voted in favor. Clark Hinsdale abstained. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

None

4. Selectboard New Business

a. John Bull – Highway Operations Report

Reilly Laberge stated they are filling their stockpiles before Pike closes for the year. When they reopen next year there will be a 5% increase in costs.

Reilly proposed hiring spare drivers to help with emergency situations. The driver would be paid a \$250 annual stipend to keep them on the roster. After discussion it was decided to put on the next meeting agenda for approval.

b. Discussion about Process for Health Officer Procedures

Suzele Atkins tried to join the Zoom meeting but was not successful. Pam will invite her to attend in person.

5. Selectboard Old Business

a. Vergennes-Panton Water District informational update – Jon Deming

A list of questions was sent by the Town Planning committee to the Vergennes-Panton Water District. Jon Deming submitted a response including some maps of water line locations.

Discussion was held around the answers, additional questions, and next steps. It was decided that representatives from the Town Planning Committee and the Selectboard would attend a future Vergennes-Panton Water District meeting.

b. Approve putting Proceeds from Brown Church Sale in Temporary CD

Pam Cousino presented an updated list of expenses of \$18,839.17 related to the Brown Church. Discussion was held on how much could be placed in a CD.

Chris Campbell moved to direct the treasurer to invest \$81,000 of the money from the sale of the Brown Church to a CD. Jessica James seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

6. Selectboard General Business

a. Certificates of Deposit Renewals

Clark Hinsdale stated he was asked by the treasurer what should be done with two certificates of deposit that are reaching maturity date. After discussion it was decided to have her reinvest the funds into a CD.

7. Other Business

Personnel – Zoning Administrator – Possible Executive Session – The appointment or employment or evaluation of a public office or employee (but the public body must make a final decision to hire or appoint in an open meeting and it must explain the reasons for its final decision). 1 V.S.A §313(a)(3)

7:25 p.m. – Jim Benoit moved the premature disclosure of an appointment or employment or evaluation of a public office or employee (but the public body must make a final decision to hire or appoint in an open meeting and it must explain the reasons for its final decision). 1 V.S.A §313(a)(3) would put the person and town at a substantial disadvantage. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

7:25 p.m. – Chris Campbell moved to go into executive session to discuss the Zoning Administrator position and invite Pam Cousino.

7:35 p.m. – Jessica James moved to invite Katie Hill to the executive session. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

7:52 p.m. – Chris Campbell moved to come out of executive session. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

7:52 p.m. – Chris Campbell moved to reconvene the open session. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Jim Benoit moved to hire Katie Hill as the Zoning Administrator on 1/6/2025 under the terms in the employment letter at \$30 per hour, 32 hours per week, with a mutual review in 90 days. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

8. Correspondence

a) US Route 7 Bridge Project – Turning Lane on to Greenbush Rd from Laura Stone

Received a letter from Laura Stone summarizing the public meeting that was held. There was no information in the letter regarding the status of the turning lane the town had requested. Clark Hinsdale will contact John Bull to discuss the next steps.

- b) VARS Monthly Report – Jenna Lindemann**
Received the November Report from VARS.

9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign

- a) Sign Christine Chamberlain Tax Mapping Contract**

Jim Benoit moved to approved and sign the tax mapping contract with Christine Chamberlain for 2025 in the amount of \$3,000. Jessica James seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

- b) Selectboard Warrant**

Walter Reed II moved to approve the warrants in the amount of \$649,001.61. Jessica James seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Jessica James moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Allen