

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
March 15, 2022**

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

**Town officials present:** Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, Deb Healey, Treasurer, Brian Goodyear, Lister, Reilly LaBerge, Highway Crew

**Visitors present:** Bessie Sessions, Justin Soter, Toni Mikula

**1. 6:00p.m. Call regular meeting to order**

**a) Town Clerk – call the meeting to order**

Pam Cousino called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**b) Motion to elect chairperson**

Pam Cousino asked for a motion to elect a Selectboard Chair. Jim Benoit moved to elect Jessica James as the Selectboard Chair. Clark seconded the motion. Clark Hinsdale called to close the nominations and asked the clerk to cast one vote. Pam Cousino voted for Jessica James to be the chair. Jim Benoit, Clark Hinsdale, Chris Campbell, and Red Muir voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**c) Motion to elect vice chairperson**

Jim Benoit moved to elect Clark Hinsdale as the vice chairperson. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**d) Motion to elect clerk of the board**

Jim Benoit moved to elect Red Muir clerk of the board. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**e) Motion to appoint minute taker**

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Carol Allen minute taker for the Selectboard. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**f) Motion to adopt the Ferrisburgh Selectboard Rules of Procedure**

Jim Benoit moved to adopt the Ferrisburgh Selectboard Rules of Procedure. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**g) Motion to set the first and third Tuesdays as the meeting schedule**

Chris Campbell moved to set the first and third Tuesday as the meeting schedule. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**h) Motion to designate the official newspaper**

Red Muir moved to designate the Addison Independent as the official newspaper. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**i) Motion to designate the official posting of agendas/meetings/warnings**

Jim Benoit moved to designate the Ferrisburgh Town website, Ferrisburgh Town Office, Ferrisburgh Post Office, North Ferrisburgh Post Office, West Ferrisburgh Bulletin Board, and Front Porch Forum as the official posting sites. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**j) Motion to authorize all Selectboard members to sign weekly payroll warrant**

Red Muir moved to authorize all Selectboard members to sign the weekly payroll warrant. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**2. Approve Minutes – Special Meeting, February 24, 2022; Regular meeting, March 1, 2022**

Jim Benoit moved to approve the special meeting minutes of February 24, 2022 as presented. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Chris Campbell moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 1, 2022 as presented. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Selectboard New Business**

**a) John Bull/Reilly LaBerge – highway operations report**

Reilly LaBerge provided the highway operations report. They are working on tree cutting near John Lussier's and Ernie Benoit's in preparation for building up the road this spring. They built a mud plow and he reported that worked really well. They will begin cutting dead trees on Botsford Road and start spring cleanup. Red Muir asked that Reilly get a status on the signs for the parking at the Union Meeting Hall.

**b) Toni Mikula, Vermont Fish and Wildlife – seek support for potential acquisition of former Kimball Brook dairy farm, Ashley Road**

Toni Mikula attended to ask for support on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife potential acquisition of the Kimball Brook dairy farm. This would be added to the Little Otter Creek Wildlife area. Clark Hinsdale expressed concerns about the project. The property was conserved by the VT Land Trust using public funds and would be a loss of prime agricultural soils and state wildlife areas are often the site of large parties. He wondered why they were purchasing the entire farm, including agricultural property, as opposed to just the environmentally sensitive area. Toni responded they have been working with the Vermont Land Trust on this purchase and plan to rent the agricultural land and farm buildings. Clark stated he objects profoundly to tax payers' money being used to buy the farm three times, doesn't want the state to become a landlord, and would like to see the state buy just the wooded wetlands and let a farmer buy the agricultural property. Jim Benoit and Chris Campbell supported Clark's comments. Red Muir asked if the use of recreational vehicles and hunting would be allowed on the land. Toni responded that it would not be allowed on wildlife management areas.

**c) Brian Goodyear – Common Level of Appraisal redetermination update, probable approval – lists concerns/updates**

Brian Goodyear attended to discuss the state's response to the Common Level of Appraisal redetermination request. He is questioning the statistics and is working to get a clear answer on

how the number was achieved. A hearing has been scheduled for April 11, 2022. Brian stated the lister's recommend that the Selectboard not accept the latest redetermination.

**d) Town Center Committee**

Clark Hinsdale outlined the recommendation from the Zoning and Planning boards to have a committee formed to focus on the core center of the town. Clark Hinsdale moved to create and appoint a Town Center Committee. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor.  
MOTION PASSED

**5. Selectboard Old Business**

**a) Vergennes Fire Department – update and status**

Jessica James received an email with a fact sheet from Adam Lougee at Regional Planning and will be reviewing it.

**b) Other ARPA funds allocation discussion**

Red Muir learned that the school playground is in very bad shape. It is missing parts of equipment, has broken equipment, and areas that need to be regraded. There is nothing in the school budget for maintaining the playground and he wondered if ARPA funds could be used for this. Jessica James stated the PTO will be doing a walk through on Thursday to create a list of what needs to be done to make the playground functional and safe. She will share the report with the board for further discussion.

**c) Purchase & Sales Agreements – property 22A & Route 7 – negotiate or secure real estate purchases or lease options – probable executive session 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (2)**

Jessica James provided some contract change recommendations from Kevin Kite.

Red Muir moved to go forward with Kevin Kite's recommendations on the purchase and sales contract for the 22A and Route 7 property and allow further negotiations to be made by counsel. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**6. Selectboard General Business**

None

**7. Other Business**

Jim Benoit stated he had a phone call from John Bull regarding a flatbed truck body they were offered by the town of Monkton. Jim said it is a good price and would be beneficial for town highway work.

Jessica James stated that the board received an email from Steven True regarding some guidance for municipalities on the laws, rules and regulations around cannabis control.

**8. Correspondence**

**a) Chris Olson, Addison County Forester – report on condition of maple trees on the town green**

Chris Olson evaluated the maple trees on the Union Meeting Hall green and indicated most of them are healthy enough to tap.

**b) T-Mobile Northeast – petition requesting a Certificate of Public Good**

A letter was received requesting a Certificate of Public Good for the wireless telecommunication facility at 3980 Route 7.

**c) Bonnie Barnes – appeal of permit for 3-lot planned unit development**

Bonnie Barnes submitted a letter regarding an appeal of a permit. The Environmental Court has not yet scheduled a hearing and she does not anticipate the need for the town attorney to participate.

**9. Selectboard to approve or Sign**

**a) Union Meeting Hall – Otter Creek Engineering contract to design septic system and apply for grant funding**

The contract is not ready.

**b) Selectboard Warrant**

Red Muir moved to approve and sign the warrant for \$1,590,469.53. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**10. Adjourn**

Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Allen