

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes / DRAFT
February 2, 2016**

Members present: Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Red Muir (by phone), Jim Warden.

Town officials present: Gloria Warden, town clerk; Garrit Smits, town treasurer.

Visitors present: Bob Beach, Pennie Beach, Ray Brands, Bill Chamberlin, Bill Clark, Carl Cole, Roderick Cole, Will Cole, Vaughn Collins, George Gardner, Marsha Hoffman, Bob Jenkins, Ron Kampner, Gerald Leberge, Liz Markowski, Peter Markowski, Bob McNary, George Merkel, Doug Moses, Bruce Nason, Bill Scott, Bessie Sessions, Charlene Stavenow, Andrew Thomas, Monica Tupper.

1. 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting — call to order.

Steve Gutowski, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approve minutes — January 19, 2016; and January 21, 2016.

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2016, as presented. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Warden made a motion to approve the minutes of January 21, 2016, as presented. Loretta Lawrence seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Red Muir was not present by phone to vote to approve, and he was not present at either of the meetings that the minutes refer to.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) Charlene Stavenow – law enforcement – letter of support. Charlene Stavenow spoke about an effort to pull together townspeople who wanted to continue contracting police service with the Addison County Sheriff's Department. Vaughn Collins, author of the letter of support, stated it had 128 signatures, which included 25 local businesses, mostly located on Route 7. Loretta Lawrence corrected a misconception regarding the cost difference of police services between the Vergennes Police Department and the Addison County Sheriff's Department: the Sheriff's Department's hourly rate of \$27 per hour does not include mileage. Using an estimate of the past four bills, Loretta stated the cost of the police services by the Sheriff's Department averaged \$37 per hour versus \$48.10 per hour for the Vergennes Police Department.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) Bill Clark, Ferrisburgh Central School board chair. After an explanation by Bill Clark on the process of Act 46 school board unification, discussion ensued regarding several issues including the suggested separation of excess land that would remain under the control of the town, determination of responsibility for the waste water system shared by the school and adjacent properties, concern about outstanding financial obligations by the town if the district dissolves, and the legality of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Bill asked for assistance with further rewording of the MOU and said he would ask the attorney for the school board to contact Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the legal firm of English, Carroll & Boe.

Bob McNary requested that the Ferrisburgh Central School building and land be appraised.

(b) Town Plan – set hearing date. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at the town offices. This meeting will be warned in the *Addison Independent* on Monday, February 8, 2016.

(c) RHR Smith & Company – audit report. By mail, the town received audited financial statements dated June 30, 2015, from RHR Smith & Company, certified public accountants. Since Ron H. Smith was unable to attend this meeting, Steve Gutowski tabled this agenda item until the next selectboard meeting on February 17, 2016.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) None

6. Public comment

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the selection of law enforcement services with several visitors voicing opinions supporting either continuing with the Addison County Sheriff's Department or hiring the Vergennes Police Department. The items of consensus among visitors who spoke and the board were the need to increase the current three hours per week and more clearly define the role of police services.

7. Other business

(a) Law enforcement decision. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion asking if the town of Ferrisburgh will continue to contract with the Addison County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services. Loretta Lawrence seconded. Jim Benoit, Jim Warden, and Red Muir voted yes. Loretta Lawrence voted no. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Personnel policy discussion. Steve Gutowski tabled this agenda item until the next selectboard meeting on February 17, 2016.

(c) Will Cole – solar projects – 3980 US Route 7 and Pierce Lane. Will Cole, project manager from Bullrock Deutsche-Eco Solar, asked the board if the board had any questions regarding two proposed solar projects: 3980 US Route 7 and Pierce Lane. Stating the growth of solar arrays in the town, Steve Gutowski suggested that in addition to seeking input from the selectboard, that Mr. Cole also discuss the projects with Charlene Stavenow, Zoning Board of Adjustment chair, and Bob Beach, Planning Commission chair; both were present at the meeting.

(d) Change of meeting time. Steve Gutowski announced that the February 17, 2016, selectboard meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. to allow time for Mike Coyle, town fire warden, to discuss a model open burning ordinance drafted by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

(e) Jeff Glassberg, Addison Northwest Supervisory Union chair. Jeff Glassberg will attend the February 17, 2016, selectboard meeting to discuss unification of schools in the five-town district.

(f) Delinquent tax collections. Loretta Lawrence had contacted Sally Torrey, the Delinquent Tax Collector, to share facts she wanted to present to the board. Working a little less than 100 hours this

year, Sally received a salary over \$19,000 and incurred less than \$400 in expenses. Sally also stated that advertising and legal fees were recovered before or at the time of sales. Loretta thought this information would be helpful to the board. Sally Torrey will be at Town Meeting Day to share this information and more.

Note: Items **7(d)**, **7(e)**, and **7(f)** were discussed after **9(c) Election training for town clerks**.

8. Correspondence

(a) Richard Bernstein letter – Greenbush and Stage Road stop signs. By letter, Richard Bernstein followed up on Long Point Corporation's request for a three-way stop at the Stage Road and Greenbush Road intersection. He cited portions of the 2009 US Department of Transportation Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices that support this action.

(b) Department of Environmental Conservation – Wetland Individual Permit 2014-058. As required by the provisions of Section 9 of the Vermont Wetland Rules, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has requested a Wetland Individual Permit. VTrans is requesting approval for an amendment for increase in impacts for the installation of a new culvert in Ferrisburgh, south of Monkton Road and west of South Middlebrook Road. The proposed project will impact 684 square feet of Class II wetland and 3,517 square feet of Class II wetland buffer zone.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Multiple Sclerosis (MS) bike ride – August 6, 2016. By letter, Drew Davis, Director of Logistics for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society of Greater New England, requested permission to use the town roads from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the Green Mountain Getaway MS Bike Ride on Saturday, August 6, 2016. Jim Warden made a motion to ask the organization to attend a selectboard meeting prior to August 6, to discuss the part of the route missing from the map sent to the town, possible construction the day of the race, and other points. Loretta Lawrence seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Villari's of Ferrisburgh – rental agreement – all Saturdays in 2016, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to Villari's of Ferrisburgh, for youth and adult self-defense classes, for the rental fee of \$50.00, the required \$500 deposit, and proof of insurance. Loretta Lawrence seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Election training for town clerks – community hall – February 11, 2016. After discussion, Loretta Lawrence made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the Secretary of State's Election Board, waiving the rental fee but requiring the \$500 deposit and proof of insurance. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(d) Selectboard warrant. Loretta Lawrence made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$35,448.40. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Loretta Lawrence made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Silveira