

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes / DRAFT
September 20, 2016

Members present: Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Michael “Red” Muir, Jim Warden.

Town officials present: John Bull, road foreman; Sally Torrey, delinquent tax collector.

Visitors present: Daniel Crossman, Betsy Etchells, Bessie Sessions, Monica Tupper.

1. 5:45 p.m. Annual review — assistant town clerk/assistant treasurer (probable executive session). For a draft of the minutes, please see the town website.

2. 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting — call to order.

Loretta Lawrence, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

3. Approve minutes — September 2, 2016 (special meeting); September 6, 2016 (highway department personnel reviews); September 6, 2016 (Atkins Farm Association); September 6, 2016 (regular meeting).

Red Muir made a motion to approve the minutes of September 2, 2016 (special meeting), as presented. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of September 6, 2016 (highway department personnel reviews), as presented. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Warden made a motion to approve the minutes of September 6, 2016 (Atkins Farm Association), as presented. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Red Muir made a motion to approve the minutes of September 6, 2016 (regular meeting), as presented. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4. Selectboard new business

(a) John Bull — highway department report. John stated that the crew is still mowing. The pavers have completed Four Winds Road; Little Chicago Road and Plank Road will be next. He announced that Kyle Bradley has received his CDL permit. He said he is thinking about winter sanding now that all of the trucks are repaired.

John informed the board that he is still getting calls about past due invoices; Ferguson is the latest one and it should have been paid over a month ago. John plans to follow up with Garrit Smits, town treasurer, on Wednesday.

(b) Sally Torrey — delinquent tax collector — tax sales. Sally Torrey reported that four tax sales were pending and three agreements had been reached. If a tax sale is necessary, Sally informed the board that a representative from the town would need to attend. She asked the board for permission to use the town’s attorney, if needed, to research deeds, answer questions, etc., noting that any legal costs would be reimbursed, and included at the time of each tax sale. Each person would be billed individually. Steve Gutowski made a motion to authorize Sally Torrey as delinquent tax collector to

utilize the services of the town attorney for tax sales. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

5. Selectboard old business

There were no items under old business for this meeting.

6. Selectboard general business

(a) Vermont Green Line (VGL) Committee update. Jim Warden, a member of the town's VGL Committee, stated that the Committee will meet on September 27, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.; following that meeting, the VGL Committee will meet with Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell at 5:30 p.m.

Jim Warden submitted an invoice approved by the VGL Committee to the selectboard. After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to approve payment of the September 2, 2016, invoice from Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell, in the amount of \$369 from the VGL escrow account. Jim Warden seconded. Jim Benoit, Loretta Lawrence, Red Muir, and Jim Warden voted in favor. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Red Muir — building maintenance discussion and updates. Regarding water coming into the basement of the town offices from the outside, Red Muir stated he received two quotes from Northern Basement Solutions: approximately \$17,000 to install a curtain drain, fabric, and stone with piping out to daylight, and approximately \$22,000 to install a system in the basement with pipes; Red will email these quotes to all board members. He has not yet received a quote from Green Mountain Basement Solutions.

7. Public comment

Daniel Crossman asked how the traffic study of Plank Road was going. After a lengthy discussion about the changing speeds that make travel unsafe, Jim Warden stated he will ask the town clerk to contact Sherriff Don Keeler of the Addison County Sheriff's Department to conduct a traffic study in the general area of 2166 Plank Road.

Monica Tupper asked for clarification regarding the board's role to oversee the performance of Garrit Smits, town treasurer. Loretta Lawrence replied that the only thing the board can do is set his pay since he is an elected official. She suggested that Monica contact the Secretary of State's office for further information.

8. Other business

Loretta Lawrence commented that she spoke to Sid VanderWey. Sid brush hogged the entire corner of VT 22A and US Route 7. He did a very nice job. He plans on going back to finish a really rough spot, when time permits.

Jim Benoit made several comments regarding the Kelly Brush Ride, including that he watched two groups of riders pass through stop signs. He voiced his concern about the town's legal responsibility having granted permission for these types of races, even though each ride event provides its own insurance.

9. Correspondence

(a) Selectboard to Gary Eley — Vermont Senior Games Association. Loretta Lawrence stated she sent a letter to Gary Eley informing the association that at the September 6, 2016, selectboard meeting, the board voted to discontinue this type of cycling event in Ferrisburgh; the criticisms the town receives do not warrant future support.

11. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Personnel policy. Jim Benoit made a motion to sign the personnel policy. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Ferrisburgh Historical Society — rental agreement for upstairs community hall — October 9 and December 11, 2016. After discussion, Jim Warden made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the Ferrisburgh Historical Society, waiving the rental fee but requiring proof of insurance and the \$500 damage deposit. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Selectboard warrant. After review, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$1,727,646.28. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

12. Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira