

**Town of Ferrisburgh**  
**Selectboard Minutes / DRAFT**  
September 6, 2016

**Members present:** Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Michael "Red" Muir, Jim Warden.

**Town officials present:** John Bull, road foreman.

**Visitors present:** Aubrey Choquette, Carl Cole, John Eisenhardt, Craig Heindel, Jeanne Kelly, Bessie Sessions.

**1. 5:00 p.m. Personnel — Highway department employee review — probable executive session.** This agenda item was discussed in executive session; to read a draft of the minutes, please see the town website.

**2. 5:45 p.m. Joint meeting of selectboard and Atkins Farm Association.** This was a special meeting; to read a draft of the minutes, please see the town website.

**3. 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting — call to order.**

Loretta Lawrence, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**4. Approve minutes — August 16, 2016, regular meeting; August 23, 2016, special meeting.**

Jim Warden made a motion to approve the minutes of August 16, 2016, as presented. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the minutes of August 23, 2016, as presented. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**5. Selectboard new business**

**(a) Vergennes Area Rescue Squad (VARS) request to hang volunteer recruitment banner at intersection of Vermont 22A and US Route 7.** VARS is in desperate need of volunteers and is doing a recruitment campaign. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to allow the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad to hang its banner on the corner of 22A and Route 7. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(b) Request for permission to repair headstone of Isaac Church in Friends Cemetery/Quaker Cemetery.** After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to grant permission to Bruce Wright to repair a family headstone, at no cost to the town, in the Friends Cemetery. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(c) Complaint regarding Vermont Senior Games Bike Race on August 27, 2016.** Discussion ensued about a complaint from Ferrisburgh resident Keith Gonyeau, which stated that parts of Hawkins Road, Avery Road, and Little Chicago Road were basically taken over by riders from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for time trials and the race. Steve Gutowski commented that the town has received complaints about this event in past years. He also questioned how many of these events the town can hold in a given year. Steve stated that you have to respect the people who live on these routes, given that the route for each race is similar. After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to authorize Loretta Lawrence to send a letter to Gary Eley of the Vermont

Senior Games Association stating that this event will no longer be held in Ferrisburgh. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(d) Rachel Straw request regarding Locust Lane.** The town highway department addressed this agenda item prior to tonight's regular meeting. Rachel Straw is satisfied with the result of the work.

## **6. Selectboard old business**

**(a) Personnel policy — review personnel policy draft.** Red Muir brought up an issue for discussion regarding benefits for employees who work between 20 and 40 hours per week. After discussion, Steve Gutowski made a motion to accept the town of Ferrisburgh final draft of the personnel policy. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. The personnel policy will be signed by each board member at the next regular selectboard meeting on September 20, 2016.

## **7. Selectboard general business**

**(a) Vermont Green Line (VGL) Committee update.** Craig Heindel, chair of the town's VGL Committee, reported that there has been no progress since the last selectboard meeting. Carl Cole commented that he received a letter on Saturday from VGL stating it would like about a half acre of his land.

**(b) Red Muir — building maintenance.** Red Muir informed the board of the scope of the work needed to repair the seal leak on the circulator pump located in the basement of the town offices. After discussion of the cost to replace the pump, Jim Benoit asked for a breakdown of Mountain Air Systems' estimate of \$3,325.

Regarding water coming into the basement of the town offices from the outside, Red Muir stated he has not yet received quotes he requested from Green Mountain Basement Solutions and Northern Basement Solutions.

Red Muir presented the details of estimates for painting the front porch of the town offices building from two companies: Leach Painting Company's estimate was \$1,500 to \$2,000; G R Painting's estimate was \$4,000. Jim Warden made a motion to accept John Leach's estimate of \$1,500 to \$2,000 to paint the front porch after it is power washed by Blue Sky Power Washing. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

## **8. Public comment**

Aubrey Choquette asked for any information the board had regarding VGL's plan to use temporary and permanent easements to bore under his property. Craig Heindel, chair of the town's VGL Committee, offered to speak with Aubrey following the meeting.

## **9. Other business**

No items were brought up by board members under other business for this meeting.

## **10. Correspondence**

**(a) Gary Ely, Vermont Senior Games Association — thank you.** The board received a letter from Gary Ely thanking Bill Larrow for use of his farm for the event, and thanking the board for use of town roads. Acknowledging that the board may have received complaints from town

residents, Gary stated he hoped the donation of \$330 to the fire department from the riders helped ease the criticism.

**11. Selectboard to approve or sign**

**(a) National Bank of Middlebury — refinancing of loan for Sisters' property.** After discussion of the particulars of the loan, Red Muir made a motion to accept the terms of the four-year loan and pay the first payment of \$25,352. Steve Gutowski seconded. Loretta Lawrence, Red Muir, and Jim Warden voted in favor. Jim Benoit and Steve Gutowski voted against. MOTION PASSED.

**(b) Selectboard warrant.** After review, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$146,307.84. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**12. Adjourn**

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira