

Vershire Selectboard Minutes for 4/14/20 (Approved)

In attendance (via Zoom): Vernal Stone-Chair, Marc McKee, Sarah Thrasher, Gene Craft, Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y, Alan Lyford- HW Foreman, Sande French-Stockwell and Mike Gunn-Recycle coordinators, Eric Gilbert-VF&R member, Steve Atwood-Health Officer, Laura Craft-EMT

Vernal Stone called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Highway Foreman report: The crew has been hauling sand and graded roads today. Lyford shared an estimate from Daniels Construction for work to be done on the bridge near the town garage and will get other estimates for the bridge project. Lyford plans to submit the required paperwork asking for a state structures grant which is a 90/10 contribution. Should the grant materialize the project must be completed within two years. Lyford needs to get the Board's signatures on the grant application form and submit by 5/15/20. Thrasher made a motion to authorize Craft to sign the grant application on the Board's behalf and provide any required town financial statements to submit for the structure grant. McKee seconded and all were in favor.

Lyford reported that plowing after the last snowstorm caused extensive wear on the smaller truck's plow and it needs a new edge. Lyford indicated the crew would be working on Parker Rd tomorrow and added that a tree came down across Parker late last night. He also reported that the roads around Moody Hill appear to be in good shape. The highway crew hopes to do more grading this week and is presently stockpiling gravel at the Durgin site, which they will remove to enable the metal recycling container to be brought back in May. The crew has been wearing masks in the garage and practicing social distancing as required by the governor's order.

Craft reported that the Vermont Bond Bank presently has a moratorium on towns borrowing and added that Hooke had researched potential funding for a sand/salt shed a few years back. At that time, funding was thought to be an 80/20 grant. Craft stated that the Covid-19 situation will pass and reminded the Board that they should still be fine tuning the details for the new town garage. Craft added that a local surveyor had initiated research on subdividing the 27 acre Durgin Rd parcel. The Board discussed the

retention of 4-5 acres at the corner of Route 113 and Durgin Hill Road for the purpose of recycling/trash collection.

Lyford stated that he plans to apply for a paving grant for upper Goose Green Rd by 5/15 and will update the Board at the next meeting.

Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) Craft has spoken to Eric Gilbert to be listed on the plan as the Emergency Management Director. Craft will work with E. Pike (lister) to generate a 911 list and review the list for residents who may vulnerable during any natural disaster as well as potentially at risk during the current pandemic. Stone noted that he'd like that list for the Board, VF&R, and for the Health Officer, Steve Atwood. Atwood offered to work with VF&R and their EMTs.

Craft stated that Laura Craft, Zanni Lacey and Tonya Gunn have been organizing a food distribution program through VerShare and its "Helping Hands" and have acquired some grant funds to purchase needed food and supplies. They will announce the time and protocol prior to the first distribution planned to be Friday the 17th at the Town Center Building. Atwood offered to attend to assist them with proper health precaution protocol.

Atwood spoke of a need to get townspeople used to wearing masks and social distancing to control the spread of the virus. Laura Craft stated that she was hoping to be able to distribute masks with food on Fridays at the Town Center. She added that the volunteers would be wearing masks and asking participants to as well.

Atwood will research with UV Strong to see where people can go to be tested for Covid-19 as knowing that status would be important in future planning. He also has a call into Dartmouth-Hitchcock for info. The Board accepted and encourages his continued efforts.

Gene Craft added that when families use the TCB playground they should be wearing masks and social distancing there as well as at recycling.

Craft reported that the town doesn't have an "emergency fund account" in place. However, there are funds set aside for a new mapping cabinet for the vault and asked the Board if those funds might be better used to assist with food and masks. Atwood felt masks were crucial. Laura Craft asked how we could purchase masks. It was stated that Pam Stone is making washable cloth masks and that she'd be happy to help. Mike Gunn stated that VT Glove Co. in Randolph is also making washable masks. Atwood will research. Locating hand-sanitizer and bringing containers to acquire was discussed. Gunn stated that perhaps Flag Hill LTD could assist on that front. Gene Craft said he would call Flag Hill. Thrasher made the motion to dedicate the money for the mapping cabinet (in the general fund) to an expense line related to Covid-19. McKee seconded and all were in favor.

Stay-Home order/wearing of masks/limited interaction signs for the TCB under the bread oven roof and at the entrance at recycling were discussed. Sande French Stockwell will make signs for recycling. The board approved a plan for the recycling coordinators to limit the number of cars allowed inside the gate to three vehicles at a time, with one vehicle unloading at a time. This accomplished by stopping vehicles at the gate and keeping the interaction minimized all reviewed. Masks must also be worn by residents while unloading trash/recycling.

Craft stated that now that the vershirevt.org website is up and running that draft minutes are required to be posted within 10 days of meetings. Kingsbury will oblige.

Craft informed the Board that the Planning Commission had approved the request for their secretary pay to be revised and is asking for the Board's approval. McKee moved that the PC sec'y pay be increased by \$2 per hour. Thrasher seconded and all were in favor.

Orders will be signed when the board can individually go into the town office in the next day or two.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Debra S. Kingsbury, Secretary