

Vershire Selectboard minutes for 5/12/20 APPROVED (meeting held via Zoom)

In attendance: Vernal Stone-Chair, Marc McKee, Sarah Thrasher, Gene Craft-Admin Asst., Alan Lyford-HW Foreman, Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y, Steve Atwood-HO, Laura Craft-EMT, David Hooke

Vern Stone called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Highway Foreman report: Lyford stated that they had removed a fallen tree on the utility lines on Parker Rd and informed the Board of garbage and tires that had been left in several locations around town. Lyford told the board that the summer tires had been put on the town trucks and he needed to order one more set. The crew is continuing to grade, but it has been challenging due to weather conditions (snow, then rain etc). He has ordered new cutting edges for the grader and expects to get them this week. Lyford is planning to have the crew install a culvert on Taylor Valley road later this week. He stated that he has concerns about three separate rising beaver dams and that the major concern is one on Beaver Meadow road. That particular problem stems back to 2004. Lyford added that the state inspected and said that another baffle would help. Craft has spoken to the person in charge of that program and they have been delayed on installs as the weather has been too cold. Craft will contact them once again for an update as Lyford expressed his concerns as to the high water affecting the culvert there and the draining angle. Discussion followed about Powell Road, also where the beavers are.

Discussion followed about contacting the Mero Road land owner and how best to resolve the recently discovered unauthorized work done on a class 4 road. Craft stated that Town Counsel will be sending out a letter and that ANR has been contacted as well. The Board wondered how to further assess the situation for costs. Thrasher suggested that a local contractor be asked to give an opinion /estimate so they had some baseline and timeframes to refer to. Fines and state statutes were noted.

Atwood updated the Board about a property on Parker Road. He has asked the owner to remove the garbage there. He added that some progress has been made and will set May 30<sup>th</sup> as the deadline for removing the balance of the waste and explained that this is a serious health violation. Atwood agrees that vehicles, camper, boats also need to be removed from the property. However, that doesn't fall under his health officer duties, but under the State ordinances. If the property is not cleaned up and kept cleaned up, the Town can condemn per legal action. Atwood asked if the Board would consider supplying a few Green-up day

bags for the owner to remove the remaining trash at the site. McKee made a motion to provide Green-up bags to the residents to assist with trash clean-up the Parker Rd. property. Thrasher seconded and all were in favor. Atwood will monitor and inform the resident of the 5/30 deadline for trash clean-up and ramifications.

Craft stated that he's had reports that trash is accumulating at another property on Parker Rd. It was also noted that vehicles appear to have out-of-state plates when parked at the location during this Covid-19 crisis. Stone asked if whoever is residing at the location has permission from the property owner (presently confined in MA). Craft stated that he would contact the owner's cousin for information. Stone noted that VSP has been seen at the property recently. Atwood will monitor as HO as well.

The Board has received complaints about trash on a property in Rte 113. Craft stated it would be good to offer that owner some Green-up bags to assist with removing trash. McKee will try to contact the owner again.

The abatement hearing scheduled for 5/14 at 7pm was discussed.

Vershire Day: Stone stated that VF&R had recently met and felt that even doing curb-side chicken BBQ could be problematic and that gathering for fireworks would be too large a crowd to comply with the CDC recommendations. He added that the Chelsea Flea Market and the Tunbridge Fair have made the decision to cancel this year's events and that VF&R has decided that the BBQ and fireworks on Vershire Day must be cancelled as well. VF&R hopes to host an open house later in the year if the State allows and they are working on other fundraising ideas. The Board agreed that Vershire Day 2020 is officially cancelled.

Craft stated that the VT Dept of Taxes has stated that the Educational Tax rates may not be set until 8/1 and recommends that tax bills not be sent out until after that date. Craft added that there needs to be 30 days notice prior to collecting the first half of the taxes, now scheduled for collection on 9/3/20, and he suggested that the first due date may need to be set to 9/17/20. The Board and Craft will decide when more info available.

Lyford and Craft stated that Evergreen Tire will accept tires and they will continue to research. More information will be announced in the Newsletter but as of now, tire and electronics will not be collected on Green-up Day.

To recap—Green-up trash bags will be collected that the Town Center Building. McKee will provide his tractor to assist getting the bags lifted/loaded in to the town truck there. Scrap metal, recycling and regular trash will be collected at the Durgin site.

ECFiber representative: The Board voted to reappoint Nate Thames as the town representative and Jeffrey Howe as the alternate.

David Hooke joined the meeting at 8:03pm. Hooke wanted to discuss moving the highway garage project forward and stated that Timberhomes, LLC had an interest in building it. He stated that his company had recently completed a large open span building in Montpelier. Hooke stated that he wasn't prepared to give a quote as yet. The Board and Hooke agreed that the project should go out to bid. Stone asked if the soil exploration appointment had been set. Craft replied that K. Bushey had been working on that aspect prior to the Covid-19 situation and that he would follow-up with him. The Board agreed that was the next essential step prior to putting the project out to bid. McKee made the motion to authorize K. Bushey to move forward with scheduling the soil exploration at a cost of approximately \$1450 with the Highway crew's assistance. All were in favor.

Thrasher asked Hooke to provide photos of his company's recent large scale, open span building project for the Boards review. Hooke will do that in the next few days. Craft stated that the Bond Bank is not making loans at present to towns for building projects but are focused on assisting with no interest loans should tax payers not be able to pay the educational and municipal taxes and keep the town and schools running.

The Board stated that the plan was to build the garage towards the entrance to the VCR property and have the sand and salt sheds outback of the existing cabin.

Orders will be reviewed and signed when the Board members can go into the Town Office individually tomorrow. Postage for the RISD ballots was discussed and Craft noted that the school will reimburse the town for postage.

Minutes for 4/28 and 5/5 meetings were approved as amended. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.