

Vershire Selectboard Minutes 12/22/20 approved

In attendance: Vernal Stone-Chair, Marc McKee, Sarah Thrasher, Gene Craft-Admin. Asst., Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y, Alan Lyford-HW Foreman. Guests; Earl Robinson, Ken Bushey

Vernal Stone called to order at 7:03pm.

Highway Foreman report: Lyford stated that rain was in the forecast and that he planned to check the road condition on the bus route and Eagle Hollow Rd in the morning. The highway department has chains, and will install as needed for icy road conditions. Lyford reported that the equipment was holding up well. He's been in touch with radio communication specialists to review frequency and repeater numbers to better communicate with the school bus drivers. Lyford added that he's been speaking to Rita Seto (TROC), in reference to grant funds for next year. Craft stated that the Town had received a check for the Durgin Hill Road ditching in the amount of \$17K. McKee asked if everything was all set for trash/recycle collection on the 26th. Craft noted that M. Gunn was invited to the meeting and that he had asked Lyford to compact the recycle bins to get thru the next week. Craft stated that he had spoken to French-Stockwell and that she was doing better. Laura Craft is happy to fill in thru January. Craft will check again to see when French-Stockwell may be returning.

Stone stated that when he assisted with removing the woodstove at 815 VCR, it was excessively warm in the dwelling and has ordered a replacement thermostat with a 70 degree limit. Craft stated that the electrician had visited the property and provided an estimate for the smoke detector and exterior light replacements. Thrasher made a motion to approve the electricians estimate to update the smoke/carbon monoxide detectors and repair the entry light at 815 VCR. McKee seconded and all were in favor.

Craft stated that he had received an email from Julie Follansbee, ANR wetlands specialist, after receiving a request from engineer Greg Dixson, to meet with the Board to review the application process and the site plans for a new highway garage. Follansbee expressed that she could meet after the holidays beginning on 1/4/21. Discussion followed as to who might attend. Bushey said he could do 2 pm on 1/4/21, as did Stone and McKee. Lyford said he could attend as could Craft and Kingsbury.

Craft stated that the Town Office would be closed from 12/24/20 until 1/5/21. He added that the green trash bags were down to the last few and that the town would now be going to a sticker system. Residents that have the green bags may still use those until gone, and then purchase stickers for their own plastic bags. Craft will put an information piece in the next newsletter on how to purchase the new stickers required to deposit trash.

Parker road trash removal update: hauling fees were \$1600 and B. Garrow was requesting some additional funds to offset his expenses. Craft had been informed that the Willing Hands organization has a \$400 per household limit and might be able to

help. McKee stated that he had viewed the site, stating that more remains, and the boats were still there. Yet, it was headed in a positive direction, and the Board was very thankful for Garrow and Ordway's efforts to assist with the task for their employee.

Discussion followed about how to hold this year's Town Meeting. More research needs to be done but Bushey stated that the RISD Board appears to be having good success with attendance via "zoom."

McKee asked if there was any update from the surveyor on the Durgin parcel. Since there was no update, it was determined that McKee would contact the surveyor.

McKee stated that he has been in touch with one of the Selectboard members for more information about the highway garage in Glover. Bushey stated that the process would be to "design, bid, and build" and that often general contractors have their own architect and engineers that work in sync. Bid process reviewed. The Board agreed that the plan for the site work thru ANR was the next step, and then get estimates for building costs. Bushey noted that the soils report should accompany any requests for construction bids. Bushey agreed to contact two commercial contractors and McKee planned to contact the architect that worked with the town of Glover and invite him to view the site.

Craft stated that he had a recent response from the VT Dept of Labor regarding an employment issue.

Budget meeting will be held on the 29th at 7pm. Lyford stated that the 2013 truck has 85k miles on it. The grader was purchased in 2003 and the back-hoe in 2009. He plans to work on an equipment schedule for future replacement. Lyford will interact with Corinth Highway Foreman Blodgett as he has had good success with Army surplus purchases.

Minutes for 12/08/20 were approved as amended. Orders will be reviewed and signed when the Board members can access the town office individually. Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.