

Vershire Selectboard minutes for 2/16/21 approved

In attendance: Vernal Stone-Chair, Marc McKee, Ken Bushey, Gene Craft-Admin. Asst., Alan Lyford-HW Foreman, Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y Guests: Greg Dixon-Krebs & Lansing Engineers, Naomi LaBarr- Collector of Delinquent Tax, Ethel Pike, Tonya Gunn, Reva Seybolt, Nicole White-Fogarty, Samantha Lefebvre- VT State House Rep. Vernal Stone called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Craft stated that the meeting was being recorded. Craft and the Board reviewed the agenda and made modifications.

Bushey introduced Dixon to the group and explained that he'd been involved since the town tried to site a garage on the Durgin parcel and was now working on the parcel at 815 VCR, and had been for about a year. He added that Dixon is doing a great job moving the site layout forward and interacting with ANR. The site plan was put on the screen for all to view and Dixon pointed out the recent updates to abide by ANR's recommendations. The existing septic system was designed for the three bedroom house on the site and would accommodate the highway employees as well as a 1 or 2 bedroom unit/apartment as a future option. The concrete tank does need to be updated due to age but that repair is grandfathered as there is an approved design in place. Dixon hoped to submit the storm water plan by the end of this month and would continue to interact with Bushey and Craft for any signatures and fees required. He noted that the revised site plan had reduced approximately 1000 sq. ft. from encroaching into the buffer area and that ANR seemed pleased with the efforts.

The aspect of vegetation to offset the wetlands buffer item was also reviewed. Dixon noted that the engineer from Arrowwood-Michael Lew-Smith recommends more substantial trees, other than seedling type, be placed near the "do not cut boundary", combined with boulders. McKee asked what the time frame was to cease mowing and plant trees. Dixon stated that it could all be done simultaneously during the construction phase. He added that by minimizing wetlands per Federal Statutes aids in moving the application forward by reducing impacts. However, there will still be fees to the town due to the wetlands buffer zone impact and could run about \$2500.00. Dixon will work with Lew-Smith to finalize the permit and estimate the fees and ask if any can be waived and added that it doesn't look good for the state to charge towns fees when they are trying to enhance their community. Rep. Lefebvre offered her support to eliminate or minimize the impact fees. Bushey and Lyford clarified that the present garage generator could be moved there on a pad as well as the fuel tank set-up.

The need for a water/oil separator unit was discussed and how it would work; needing to be filtered and serviced every three years was also pointed out. Bushey noted that storm water guidelines had been increased in 2017 and lots of gravel would be required. Lyford stated that using town equipment to haul materials might minimize that cost. Size and depth of the stone for the driveway was discussed. Stone made the motion for Dixon to move forward with the permits. Bushey seconded and all were in favor. The Board thanked Dixon for his hard work and updates.

LaBarr came in to update the Board that she is scheduled to conduct a Tax Sale on 2/24/21 at 9:00 am at the Town Center Building. It will be in-person and attendees spaced accordingly. There are 7 properties still on the list and she added that they can still be paid in full prior to the sale. Stone made the motion to appoint Craft, as town

agent, to bid on behalf of the town on any parcels that did not receive bids by the other attendees. McKee seconded and all were in favor. Seybolt asked where the Tax Sale list was posted. LaBarr replied it was at the Town Office, both inside out, and was in the Journal Opinion the last two weeks.

Highway Foreman report: Lyford reported that the packer truck needs the windshield replaced before it gets inspected and areas on the cab and rear area need some metal patching. The packer is only driven 80 miles every two weeks and the tires, brakes are all good at this time. Lyford informed the Board that when arriving at 3:50am to go plowing this week that the 10 wheeler had a flat tire. Also, that a lift cylinder on the newest 10 wheeler is leaking and requires repair. It is beyond warranty now and will cost approximately \$1800. Lyford stated that a local diesel mechanic had recently done maintenance on the truck transmissions. He added that the roads will be posted on March 1st as we head towards mud-season and added that several logging operations are currently taking place in town.

The Listers, Pike and Kingsbury, explained the “No suits or appeals are pending as of 12/31/20” form that needs to be acknowledged and signed by the Board. Stone moved to accept and sign the required state form to close out the Grand List for 2020. McKee seconded and all were in favor.

Craft and the Board reviewed “Procedures and Rules” based on recommended VLCT formats. They include the following: Purpose, Application, Organization, Agendas, Meetings, Public Participation. Craft will finalize the details and send to the Board for final review.

McKee gave notice that he will step down from his Selectboard position allowing two weeks for any potential candidates the opportunity to file to run for the remainder of his two-year seat. Stone expressed his sincere thanks for working with McKee over these many years and that his wit and wisdom will be missed. Stone made a motion that McKee accept a role on the garage committee, which McKee accepted. Bushey seconded and the two Board members approved.

Stone moved that the meeting be adjourned to a date and time certain, 02/23/21 at 7pm. as the final budgets need final review, the Town Meeting Warning still needs to be signed, and pre-town meeting information times via Zoom need to be finalized. Bushey seconded and all were in favor.

Minutes for 2/2/21 were approved as amended. Stone and Bushey will go into the Town Office in the next two days to review and sign the orders.

Meeting ended at 9:05pm.

Vershire Selectboard minutes for 2/23/21 approved (appended to 2/16/21 meeting)

In attendance (via Zoom): Vernal Stone-Chair, Ken Bushey, Gene Craft-Admin. Asst., Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y. Guests: Ethel Pike, Earl Robinson, Tonya Gunn, Nicole White-Fogarty, Naomi LaBarr-Del. Tax Col., Reva Seybolt (joined at 7:29) Vernal Stone called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. The Chair and Craft reviewed the agenda and

Craft asked that the following items be added: Brief discussion on tax due dates and discussion on Selectboard appointees.

First item of business was to review the Rules and procedures structured at the previous meeting, 2/16/21. Stone made the motion to adopt the rules and procedures as written. Bushey seconded and all were in favor.

Gunn came in on behalf of Helping Hands a division of VerShare to discuss the Friday Food-shelf. She stated that along with Seybolt they were completing the application/requirements to partner with the VT Foodbank network to be able to offer a wider variety of food, and that the Food-bank delivers monthly to the network providers. Gunn stated that Helping Hands was going to be a recipient of two grants: one from Ben & Gerry's in the amount of \$2000 and one from the VT Food-bank for \$1500. Gunn stated that the group would like to use these funds towards a commercial refrigerator (approx 42 sq ft capacity) and install in the Town Center Building kitchen. She added that it would also work well for both summer camp and community lunch needs. Gunn asked if the two existing refrigerators could be removed, allowing space for the new commercial refrigerator and that a different outlet would be required for that appliance. She also stated that the Food-shelf would need a small freezer which they would purchase from the grant funds, and asked if that could be placed/plugged in the back storage room. Craft stated that some rewiring had happened in the kitchen when the large mixer stand was installed for the pizza preparation. Discussion followed about the availability of electric outlets in the storage room and the history of installing a much needed automatically emptying dehumidifier for the lower level of the Town Center Building.

Craft stated that he had gotten an updated proposal to install the dehumidifier unit for \$3180.00. The Board agreed that an electrician will need to advise on the electrical requirements for that combined with the new refrigerator and freezer units. White-Fogarty asked Gunn if the grants stipulate what the funds can go towards or if they could be applied to both the appliances and the electrical upgrades needed to accommodate their placement. Gunn thought they could go towards both and shared that she had estimates for the appliances of \$2500.00. It was noted that the current refrigerators do both work, however one does need a ground plug revision and that they could be offered on the list-serve (free, for removal). It was agreed to get Tilden in to size up the electrical needs. Bushey asked if there were funds in the Town Center Fund to pay towards initiating the electrical items and the dehumidifier set up. Craft replied the town typically puts \$14K in the General Fund for the purpose of operating the Town Center Building. LaBarr asked if the funds might come out of the Capital Project Fund. Craft and the Board thought that was another option. Stone stated we should get estimates and see what else would be needed to install the dehumidification unit as it will help with the entire building. Gunn added that getting the back storage room ready with shelving and the freezer would also act as Emergency Food (if the building was needed as an emergency shelter).

Craft took a few moments to briefly discuss the town's property tax due date. This date, and time, is (and historically has always been) set at the annual Town Meetings by the voters present and voting. The due date and time for property taxes to be paid, once set

by the voters at the meeting, becomes hard and fixed and no individual office holder, or board, has the power to revise it or grant a grace period.

Craft stated that due to McKee's decision to resign from the Selectboard that there was presently an unfilled seat. He added that there are two people running for the 3 year position, and 1 for the 2 year position. Craft state that a resident has offered to fill the vacated seat until town meeting on 4/6/21 and was not running for either seat. Pike stated she was making the offer for the short term. Craft added that the Board is required to appoint someone to fill the seat until the next election or hold a special election if it was a longer period of time until a town meeting. Stone asked Bushey for his input. White-Fogarty shared that she respected Pike for volunteering and agreed that it may level the playing field in fairness to all the candidates. Stone moved to appoint Pike to fill the open Board seat until the elections determine the new members. Bushey seconded and both were in favor. Pike will take the oath at the town office tomorrow.

Craft and the Board discussed the Health Officer's proposal for an annual fund to host a health fair. Stone noted that the interaction with VF&R at their medical info booth in 2019 was well received and felt allocating unused funds from last year could go towards establishing Atwood's goal for the first of what may become an annual Health Fair in town. Gunn added that other organizations can assist with formatting. Stone noted that Blood Pressure screening and info on diabetes could aid in preventative health care.

Stone made a motion to adopt both the General Fund and the Highway Fund budgets. Bushey seconded and all were in favor.

LaBarr shared how and why a Delinquent Tax Collectors salary was determined as to not put the burden on taxpayers that pay on time. She reminded the Board that the Tax Sale was being held tomorrow at 9am sharp at the TCB and 5 properties remained on the list. LaBarr added that she would be hosting the Sale as Town Council was in quarantine. Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.