

Vershire Selectboard minutes for 3/2/21 approved

In attendance (via zoom): Vernal Stone-Chair, Ken Bushey, Ethel Pike, Gene Craft-Admin.Asst., Alan Lyford-HW Foreman, Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y. Guests: Nicole White-Fogarty, Reva Seybolt, Tonya Gunn, Neil Hochstedler, David Hooke (at 8:28)

Vernal Stone called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and the Board proceeded to review the agenda. Highway Foreman report: Lyford reported that it had been an interesting morning, as he found the power was off and the generator didn't want to start as the regulator was frozen due to the frigid temps. He was able to thaw the regulator and get the generator going. The crew also had trouble with one the side wing plows that didn't want to rise. Lyford informed the Board that the packer truck had gotten a new windshield and been inspected. Stone and Bushey asked Lyford about the paving schedule for South Vershire Rd and noted it was rough by Mero. Lyford stated that he was concerned about the EPA clean-up project at the mines and how that equipment might damage any pavement. Craft shared that Ed Hathaway from the EPA had stated that any damage occurring from the project on the town roads would be repaired by them. Lyford, the Board and Craft agreed it best to find out the EPA schedule before spending paving funds in that area, but might consider certain sections. Lyford added that the section by Miller Pond Rd was holding up well and that the shifting area below Mero may have to be addressed. He added that from VRS Rd up to Rte 113 which was paved in 2012 and is a Class 2 road needs to be done again. Lyford added that the TCB parking lot is in bad shape. Bushey asked what time frame Lyford might suggest. Lyford stated that he would need to speak with both the paving companies and VT Dept of Trans. District 4 on several topics and he needs to talk to the Dist. 4 supervisor about the area on Rt 113 from Brown Road to the town center. The Board and Lyford acknowledged that both fuel and paving costs are rising.

Mero Road corrections: Craft said that the property owner stated he had not received the agreement that the town sent to him for review and signature. Craft will mail out again.

Gunn wanted to clarify if she was authorized to order the commercial refrigerator for the Town Center kitchen. Stone stated that they had authorized that at the previous meeting and Gunn stated that VerShare had funds to cover the purchase and will check with the VerShare Board to ask if the refrigerator would belong to the town or Helping Hands/VerShare. Pike noted that many of the events held at the Center building are sponsored by VerShare. Craft stated that the annual insurance inspection for the town properties had been done today. Seybolt noted that the freezer could be ordered later after the rear storage room is readied. Stone asked when the refrigerator might be delivered and Gunn replied she was planning on mid to late April after the snow if gone to accommodate better access. Bushey asked what the appliance warranty might be and Gunn stated one year. Kingsbury suggested that they might look into purchasing an extended 3 year warranty at a minimal cost.

Gunn asked for permission to introduce herself at the Durgin recycle site on Saturday the 13th. Pike noted that there is a limited amount of lingering at this time, but putting names and faces together may be helpful. Stone added that perhaps all three candidates do some sort of poster or handouts. Stone and Pike (Bushey recused

himself as a candidate) gave permission for the candidates to introduce themselves at the Durgin site on the 13th. Craft stated that he had attended a webinar and that the candidates might host a forum via zoom.

The topic of a town energy committee was addressed as it was a subject at last years' town meeting. David Hooke and Neil Hochstedler have spoken and might be willing to organize. Having a town wide survey to establish how much fossil fuel is actually used in town may be a starting point and orchestrating weatherization workshops and education of energy audits etc. The question was would this committee be ad-hoc or work for the town/Board? Hook was favoring a standalone committee that would be educational to benefit the town government and then they could write up an energy plan for suggestions of best use and direction. Hochstedler felt surveys could be anonymous and simply ask people what they wanted so as to target efforts. He and Hooke might gather some names, interact with others, post on the list-serve and get back to the Board. Pike suggested that they might establish the committee to share a comparison of the existing garage fuel usage versus a new energy efficient garage and having dry sand being loaded on the trucks instead of wet. Craft will compose a notice about reconstituting the energy committee and send it to Hooke, Hochstedler and Gunn for review.

New garage process: Craft stated that a check for \$1229 was submitted along with the storm water permit application to ANR. They have 30 days to review and reply. Michael Lew-Smith is hoping to complete the wetlands application later this week.

Discussion followed as to when to hold the town information hearing prior to the Australian ballot voting on 4/6/21 in lieu of the usual Town Meeting. It was agreed that the information hearing will be held via zoom on Sunday March 28th at 1 pm. Having co-facilitators to handle the zoom info hearing and time frames for each person to ask questions will be reviewed in more detail on Friday the 5th at 7pm. Laura Craft and David Hooke have agreed to be the co-facilitators. It was also agreed that candidates running for town positions will be allotted time to introduce themselves at the end of the Zoom info session. Craft informed the Board that the newsletter along with the warning will be mailed out soon.

Minutes for 2/16 and 2/23 were approved as amended. Pike made a motion to accept the warning as amended. Stone seconded and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned until Friday 3/5/21 at 7 pm to structure guidelines for the information hearing to be held via zoom on 3/28/21 at 1pm. Meeting ended at 9:20 pm.