

## Vershire Selectboard minutes for 3/30/21 Approved

In attendance: Vernal Stone-Chair, Ethel Pike, Gene Craft-Admin. Asst., Alan Lyford-HW Foreman, Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y Guests: VT Sen. MacDonald, David Hooke, Steve Atwood-HO, Tonya Gunn, Nicole White-Fogarty, Mark Fogarty

Vernal Stone called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Agenda reviewed. Craft shared information about the permit status for 815 Vershire Center Rd. It was noted that ANR had notified adjacent property owners and that one had stated he might call a meeting. The Board noted that they may want to do a 30 day warning for a meeting after Town Meeting/elections. Discussion followed that Matt Barker, from Maple Hill Works had inspected the system at 815 VCR. Hooke stated that he would check his files to see if the report could be located and did locate the report in his files at 7:15pm.

Craft spoke with Bushey on Friday and reviewed the advantage of having James Coe from Coe & Coe, handle the architectural aspect, finalizing the building plans and submitting to the State with the required architect approval stamp. The Coe and Coe contract submitted in January itemized his fees to be \$12K to bring it to the bonding stage. Stone moved to accept and hire Coe& Coe for the architectural design and complete through the bonding stage. Pike seconded and all were in favor. Craft added that both the architect and a local contractor had reviewed the site work plan provided by G. Dixon of Krebs & Lansing and agreed on an estimate of \$275K-\$300K, including materials. Craft has been in touch with Morton Buildings. Prior to the Pandemic the estimate for the 5000 sq ft building was under one million. Now, due to building cost increases, the estimate has risen to approx 1.5 million and many commercial builders have had to limit new contracts because of supply chain delays. Craft is planning to submit Congressional earmark project documentation for the town by March 31st to the Welch earmark projects list and should it make it through that initial review by April 16th, it could then go from Welch's office to the U.S. House of Representatives to see if there could be funds directed to assist Vershire with the unexpected increases in construction costs. Hooke suggested that Craft call Welch's contact person, Rebecca Ellis, VT State Director for any input about the Community Funding program. Craft, along with Pike, have been structuring a support letter to accompany the grand (grant) documentation. Stone moved that Craft be authorized to sign the letter of support and the application on the Board's behalf. Pike seconded and all were in favor.

Stone asked about the subdivision of the town owned parcel on Durgin Hill Rd and had Rob Townsend completed the survey and the septic design, and submitted them to the State. Discussion followed as to where the North End line be placed between what will be sold and what the town will keep. Kingsbury suggested that a 10 acre parcel with an approved waste water permit be marketed in the \$45-49K range.

Lyford asked if any paving quotes had been submitted to the town office. He reminded the Board that the Bridge and Road standards form needs to be authorized prior to any grant submissions. Craft stated that needs to be done after Town Meeting with the new Board.

Lyford stated that mud-season has arrived and the crew is dealing with new locations daily. The crew has been grading and adding gravel on Eagle Hollow, Parker, Chamberlain, Vershire Center and Brown Roads most recently. He has spoken with the West Fairlee highway crew and asked for permission to bring Vershire town trucks up Beanville Rd to access the S. Vershire area (as roads are all posted). Lyford interacted with the RISD bus driver this am and she seemed fine with the road conditions on the bus route at present. Stone added that Vershire's roads are holding up quite well compared to other towns.

Hooke stated that he had 7 volunteers willing to serve on a Town Energy Committee. Pike moved that the 7 people noted be appointed and that it be established as an official energy committee to serve the town and present their ideas to the Board for review/approval. Stone seconded and all were in favor.

Gunn came to ask about shelving for the rear storage room at the Town center building. The Board asked if the HW crew might bring the packer truck over to remove the excess items in the storage area. Mark stated he could accommodate that as the packer primary driver. Craft stated that W. Parker would be installing the dehumidifier unit in the TCB sometime in April.

The Board asked Senator MacDonald if he might organize a time for the Orange County legislatures to host a Zoom roundtable to update us on bills being reviewed during this session. The Board suggested holding the roundtable Zoom meeting on Saturday 4/10/21 at 9am. MacDonald will research and get back with a reply.

Health Officer Atwood wished to share his thoughts that Covid-19 may constantly come and go and possibly require a series of annual shots. He recently hosted an educational conference with 17 medical students from around the globe and they had shared that the pandemic is terrible in Latin America. Atwood would be happy to elaborate more with the public and host a zoom discussion.

The Board went into executive session at 8:29 and returned at 8:48 with a decision to approve a 3% Cost of Living increase to highway Foreman Lyford.

As this was Pike's final session as interim Board member, she wanted to thank the Board for allowing her to be part of the group and the adventure. Stone thanked Pike for stepping in and shared that she was always welcome to attend meetings. Pike added that regardless of what happens with the candidates running for the Board, that she asked them all to stay involved. Stone added that all townspeople are welcome and enjoys the input.

Minutes for 3/15/21 were approved as amended and orders will be reviewed and signed when the Board members can access the town office individually.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.