

Vershire Selectboard Minutes for 7/6/2021 approved at 7/20/21 meeting

**In Attendance:** Vernal Stone-Chair, Ken Bushey, Gene Craft-Admin. Asst., Nicole White-Fogarty-Sec'y Sub, Guests: Debra Kingsbury, Ethel Pike, Reva Seybolt, Ken Stella, Mark McKee, Steve Atwood HO, David Hooke

Vernal Stone called the meeting to order at 7:12pm. Discussion started about the need to continue to digitally record meetings. It is no longer required since the Governor has lifted all Covid-19 restrictions and the temporary rules in effect requiring Zoom (and other video conferencing) meetings to be recorded have been lifted. Board meetings, for now, are hybrid, offering in-person and zoom options. Stone motioned to no longer digitally record the meeting (but that a written draft will continue to be available within five days of the meeting), Bushey seconded and the motion passed. Selectboard meetings will no longer be digitally recorded and handwritten minutes will be taken by the secretary. Minutes will continue to be posted on the Vershire Listserve and on the town website.

McKee updated that he had spoken to Rob Townsend about the septic design on Durgin Hill property. Permits are filed and the town is encouraged to pursue selling the property. Craft will determine exact acreage being sold. Kingsbury offered to assist in the process. McKee shared that there is still interest in building a larger covered area at the Town Center Building. There is a need for logs as original ones have aged. Further discussion about size, location and materials at a later date.

**Town Roads Report:** Lyford updated on equipment; the backhoe is still not in complete working order due to receiving parts. In hopes to have parts within the next few days allowing backhoe to be serviced at the garage. Crew has been ditching on Goose Green Road, Lyford states the road is due to be repaved. Lyford has been working with Pike Paving to schedule paving Goose Green and on South Vershire Road to Parker Road while they are paving 113.

**Highway Garage Update:** Lyford has picked up stakes to mark out the building footprint at 815 Vershire Center Road. Bushey had spoken with Tom Barden who is encouraging the town to wait on starting construction this year due to material cost and other logistics. Discussion about what sitework could be started this summer ie: removing trees, driveway, etc. Craft is to speak with Greg Dixon to determine what sitework could be completed. Lyford, Bushey and Stone will install stakes this week. Next meeting Selectboard will look to schedule informational meeting for the townspeople.

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** Stone motioned to approve the minutes for 6/22, Bushey second and the minutes were approved. Stone motioned to approve the warrants, Bushey second. Orders were reviewed and will be signed when the Board members can access the town office.

**New Business:**

**Health Officer:** Atwood stated that the Covid vaccine clinic was a success. There were three people there to administer vaccines and one supervisor. In total six participants were vaccinated stating “they may not have been if it wasn’t for the local event”. Atwood would like to hold more events like this in the future.

Atwood had received a phone call about rats in an abandoned dumpster at 2775 VT Rt 113. Atwood visited the site confirming a Casella dumpster is full. Atwood attempted to contact the owner.. He did call Casella about having the dumpster removed and was informed they had to hear from the owner. Atwood wanted to inform the Selectboard as this is a town health issue. He will continue to attempt to reach the owner and work with Casella’s to get it removed.

**Energy Committee:** Hooke updated that the Energy Committee would like to send out a survey informing the community about the committee and assess what people would like to know more about. Hooke asked for a budget to send out the mailing. Bushey motioned to approve up to \$350 for the Energy to mail the survey, Stone seconded.

**Town Center Building:** Pike shared that the shed had some needed repairs completed upon moving it and appears weather tight at present. Vershare tents are currently being stored there until a future structure can be built.

Craft updated that Irving had attempted to service the furnace but just prior to starting they received an emergency call. Irving will be returning to service the furnace.

White-Fogarty updated that the steering wheel was installed on the play structure prior to Vershire day. White-Fogarty had been in contact with Rainbow Play Systems for wood chips and had received a quote. Stone motioned to approve the wood chips, Bushey seconded. White-Fogarty will contact and schedule delivery.

Bushey stated he had been in contact with Barre City Granite who provided him information about a product called New Stone which will clean the memorial instantly. Bushey will begin cleaning the memorial stones within the upcoming weeks. Bushey will look to see if other stones need to be moved and speak with the Historical Society. Then plan a long term cleaning process.

Beavers are building near the culvert on Reed Road. Stone will go to look at it.

**Selectboard Vacancy;** Tonya Gunn announced her resignation on 6/28. At the next Selectboard meeting the Board will appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next town meeting/vote.

**Town Office;** Craft shared that the policy he has adopted in the town office requires anyone entering the Town Office, if unvaccinated for Covid-19 (or experiencing Covid-19/cold or flu-like symptoms), to wear a mask when entering the Town Office. Stone motioned that anyone unvaccinated (or experiencing Covid-19/cold or flu-like symptoms) to wear a mask in all town buildings, Bushey seconded. The motion passed and the policy was adopted.

Stone had looked into an ultraviolet purifier that he'd seen being used in schools. Field Controls Trio Plus has been shown to be 99.99% efficiency against coronavirus. Stone moved to purchase this for the town office, Bushey seconded.

**Old/Unfinished Business;**

**Town Center Building Committee Update:** Seybolt stated that the committee will be setting a regular scheduled meeting to be posted on the calendar. Next meeting is scheduled for July 13th at 7pm. At this time the committee will be prioritizing building needs. Stone commented about the front ramp needing attention. Seybolt stated it was already on their list but would make it a higher priority.

Seybolt notified the board that two members had resigned, Gary Goodrich and Tonya Gunn. With their resignation Kareen Obydol-Alexandre had shown interest. Stone moved to appoint Kareen Obydol-Alexandre to the committee, Bushey seconded. Stone requested an updated list of committee members.

**Employee Review;** Selectboard moved to executive session at 9:28pm and returned at 9:36pm. Stone appreciated working with road crew employee Mark Fogarty and they made the decision to increase his pay rate by \$.50.

Stone motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bushey 2nd, meeting adjourned at 9:39pm.