

## Vershire Selectboard Minutes for 8/31/21 Approved

In attendance; Vernal Stone-Chair, Ken Bushey, Nicole White-Fogarty, Gene Craft-Admin Asst, Alan Lyford-Highway Foreman, Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y. Guests; Gretchen Harvey, Ethel Pike, David Hooke. Members of the Board introduced themselves to Gretchen Harvey. Craft noted that the Board needs to limit the meetings to two hours and end as close to 9pm as possible.

Vernal Stone called the meeting to order at 7:18pm.

The agenda was reviewed and two items were added; voting on a secretary replacement and marketing of 18 acres on Durgin Hill Road

David Hooke came as a representative from the Energy committee and wanted to review avenues for energy savings for the new town garage. Stone and Bushey noted that the architect has been handling those aspects but should the committee wish to compose their questions in an email, the board can review and interact with the architect. White-Fogarty asked what their focus might be. Hooke replied low carbon footprint and noted there are new systems and better insulation packages. Bushey asked if the committee had reviewed the posted garage design/details as yet. Hooke replied that they had not. Hooke asked about updating energy audits for both the town office and center building and offered to research costs for an audit. White-Fogarty pointed out that Washington electric coop offers that service. Hooke added that the committee had wondered about installing a solar field in the front acreage at 815 Vershire Center Road to supply the garage and the two town buildings and that local residents might buy/invest in. Stone asked what he thought the size of the project might entail but Hooke stated it was just an idea at present and didn't know the size or scope, and suggested that Strafford and Thetford's solar fields be used as models. White-Fogarty asked about the required buffer space and bushey added that the board needed to be sensitive to any structures on the field area. White-Fogarty asked about the longevity of any solar equipment and how to dispose of hazardous waste. Hooke estimated that the current solar systems are estimated at a 25 year lifespan and agreed the end disposal was a good question. Hooke's final question was that the energy committee would like to generate a separate website link from the town link to redirect and post information. Craft will ask town counsel for advice on this.

Bread oven /shed expansion; Hooke noted there may be federal funds available. The board stated that any grant requests for town property structures needs to come before them for approval prior to a grant application, and that should also be submitted from the town board. Bushey added that they are still researching what is needed for storage and weather coverage for future bbq etc. A covered pavilion over the picnic tables would be a desirable item. Hooke added that McKee had contributed wood for a timber-frame addition to the existing pavilion and asked if that concept has changed. Jack Kruse from The Mountain School has offered to keep the initial project moving forward. Stone stated that the project needs to be on hold until final plans are approved by the board with additional input from the recreational committee and Vershire Fire & Rescue. It was agreed that the board and Hooke would meet at the tcb/bread oven pavilion on 9/8 at 5pm for 45 minutes to review ideas.

Highway Foreman report; Lyford stated that he's had a request to install underground power in a town right of way. Craft spoke to Town Counsel about the subject and referred to it as an '11-11' permit. Question as to how to deal if it crosses others land ... should there be an easement request?. Do we need to establish a town policy? Stone asked what the power company requires as they will have to inspect and then the town might be able to establish a Right-of-Way policy based on how the utility company handles. The Board and Lyford agreed that a waterline request should also be incorporated into the same policy/procedure.

Lyford informed the board that the plow for truck #1, the smaller truck, needs to be replaced and plow orders for new plows are eight weeks out. Therefore he's asking to get a price for a medium duty plow. He added that this is the 8<sup>th</sup> winter for the Western Star truck which now has 100k miles on it and is beyond the warranty. Lyford asked the board to consider trading it in 1-2 years and pointed out that there are two more payments due on the 2017 truck and the other two trucks are paid for. He asked that the board consider asking to transfer any budget surplus amounts in the Highway Fund budget into the Capital Equipment Fund for future truck and other equipment purchases.

Mero was discussed as both Stone and Lyford have inspected the work completed so far.

Minutes for 8/17 were reviewed and will be approved as amended. Warrants reviewed and authorized.

Coal for Allen's Affordables salvage yard is not ready to issue at this time and LaFlamme has been notified the board will interact with him in two weeks.

It was noted that there was a person reported on numerous occasions and the vt state police have been consulted, but the individual has not broken any laws. It was noted that the person was supposed to be residing in Chelsea which is his stated address. This brought up the topic of a police contract for next year's budget. Having a town constable was also reviewed, which involves training /certification costs.

Durgin hill; the town owned property has been surveyed and subdivided with a state approved septic permit in place. The board approved to market the 18 acre parcel with a price of \$68,500 asking for sealed offers to be submitted to the town by 9/28/21. The Board asked for the Listers office to help work up the details and market the property to the public.

Propane prices for winter 21-22 were discussed.

The board went into executive session at 8:46pm and returned at 9:18pm. Stone made the motion to appoint Gretchen Harvey to fill the secretary role. Bushey seconded and all were in favor. Stone and the board thanked Debra for her 11 years serving in that role. The board will invite the recycle/trash employees to attend the next meeting for their annual review.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21pm.