

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at the Town Center Building & via Zoom

Attendance: Vernal Stone-chair, Ken Bushey, Nicole White-Fogarty, Alan Lyford-highway foreman, Gene Craft-clerk/treasurer, Gretchen Harvey-secretary; Guests: Sandy French Stockwell, Reva Seybolt, Mike Gunn & Debra Kingsbury.

Call to Order: 7pm

Agenda Review & Modifications: none

Public or staff comments: R. Seybolt had questions concerning the TCB: what is the status of outside storage and the ditching outside, and asked about the quality of the router. The storage solution has not yet been decided, the SB is seeking an excavator to do the ditching, and the router only needs periodic rebooting to work efficiently.

Highway: Road Report: A. Lyford provided a status report on ongoing road work in Vershire. Trucks have been receiving yearly undercoating to help prolong their life. The truck #1 body is getting worn from salt exposure, even with routine pressure washing, but they will continue to repair the body as needed. He has been researching the best options for purchasing a new plow for truck #1. A. Lyford is also waiting to hear about receiving a state grant for equipment purchases and will be looking for a leaf blower attachment for the tractor. He is regularly applying for available grants in order to meet the maintenance needs of town roads, equipment, and facilities. Pat Ross is authorized to work on stream bank alternation on South Vershire road. Lafayette will replace the guard rails on South Vershire road if the town crew removes the current guardrails. A. Lyford is still pursuing a quote to get the TCB lot paved. He also will arrange the removal of the metal recycling dumpster for the winter. V. Stone moved to authorize A. Lyford to spend up to \$6,600.00 for a new 10ft. plow. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Highway Garage Updates: K. Bushey has received possible dates to meet with James Coe (architect) to discuss questions raised by the town energy committee about energy efficiency standards for the new town garage. The SB agreed to set the date for Wed. 10/27 within the time frame of 6-7:30pm. All agreed it would be a good idea to get the main questions to J. Coe a few days ahead of the meeting. K. Bushey recommended having a tour of the existing garage so that residents can see first-hand the need for a new facility, as well as the progress that has been made toward this goal. The SB is planning to host a tour of the current town garage on November 6, from 10:00-12:00. Tom Bardon could be invited to provide an overview of the proposal and its costs. The most recent design plans will be on display.

Approval of Last Meeting Draft Minutes: K. Bushey moved to approve the amended minutes of September 28, 2021. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Current Period Warrants Approval: V. Stone moved to approve the warrants. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Recycling Memorandum of Understanding: A new MOU covering recycling services will need to be signed with NRRRA (northeast resource recovery association). This led to a robust discussion about what processes could be improved and if it would be cost effective to separate out some of the more valuable materials like cardboard and aluminum. The town might be able to save some money by adjusting the current process. A summary of how other adjacent towns run their systems provided food for thought. The SB decided to table the topic and the signing of the MOU until more cost analysis can be done and some comparisons with the previous MOU are made.

Town Transfer Station: S. French-Stockwell announced her resignation from the Town Transfer Station. The SB thanked her for her time working and has appreciated her help.

Bread Oven Pavilion Addition: discussion tabled to do more research.

Committee Reports:

Town Center Committee: no report

Recreation Committee Report: K. Bushey summarized the latest research on erecting an ice rink at the TC. He noted the costs for different sizes (40x60 vs. 40x70) and that these costs include brackets and the liners but not the wood, which he would like to try to get donated or at least have the costs off-set by donations. The SB recommended he visit with potential donors and bring back a proposal of costs, including lighting needs, for future action by the board. All agreed that the 40x60 size would be appropriate. K. Bushey noted that he did not receive the grant he applied for, but would continue to apply using feedback from the grant funder.

Action Items/Assignments:

Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP): This contract needs to be signed. It identifies local partners Vershire can work with in the event of major emergencies. V. Stone moved that the board approve and sign the document as required. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Request to waive homestead filing penalty: A Vershire resident suffered an injury the day after the town meeting in 2021 and is still away from home for rehabilitation services. As a result of these circumstances, he was unable to file the homestead form on time and incurred the 8% late file penalty and is asking the board to waive the penalty. He has not filed late in the past and waiving the fee will not increase anyone else's tax burden. The fee is essentially to recompense for the time needed to refile, update, make tax adjustments and re-issue a new tax bill. V. Stone moved to approve waiver of the homestead filing penalty due to the extenuating circumstances. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive session: None

Town land on Durgin Hill road: The SB is going to run another 2-week advertisement for the land on Durgin Hill road and will review any offers at the next SB meeting.

Adjourn: 8:45pm: V. Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.