

**Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 9, 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, Steve Atwood-health officer, Mike Gunn, Debra Kingsbury, and Mark Fogarty.

**Call to Order:** V. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**Agenda Review and Modifications:** N. White-Fogarty requested adding pavilion discussion to the agenda.

**Public & Staff Comments:** None at this time.

**Highway-Road Report:** A Lyford noted how well the recently acquired leaf blower is working. It is doing a really good job removing leaves from stone-lined ditches and from the road edges allowing easier access for grading. The grading of Goose Green road is finished. They are currently spot grading for potholes and generally preparing for winter. The guard rails on S. Vershire road will be back in place soon.

**Ayers Road Question** The SB discussed an inquiry expressing interest in returning Ayers road to its original location near where it intersects with Mero road. The current configuration has been in place for at least 60 years. There are multiple State rules and procedures for changing a state-recognized road. There is also a large culvert there that would need moving. Another key question involves why the road was moved in the first place and whether it was to avoid existing wetlands in that location. V. Stone moved to close the discussion about moving Ayers road. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Highway Garage updates:** K. Bushy reported that there was a good turnout at the open house for residents who wanted an update on plans for a new town garage. All agreed it provided residents opportunities to see the latest drawings and to ask questions. The SB will plan another such opportunity in the new year when more of the financial details are updated and in place. K. Bushy will follow up with J. Coe about progress concerning his agreement to contact Efficiency Vermont and make requested changes to the drawings. He will also do more research on estimating costs for a sand and salt shed.

**Approval of Last Meeting Draft Minutes:** V. Stone moved to accept the minutes of 10/26/21 as amended. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Current Period Warrants Approval:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the current period warrants. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Health Officer Report:** S. Atwood offered an oral summary of a written report he has sent to the Selectboard concerning his efforts to address health concerns at an apartment building on VT113. The health concerns relate to a hot water leak that has led to some damage, and mold problems. He has sought advice from state authorities and has worked with the resident and the

landlord to address the problem. In the construction process of fixing the damage there will likely need to be lead paint chip mitigation needed as well.

He also wanted the SB to consider allowing him to arrange another Covid-19 spot clinic that could be combined with flu shots. This would not occur right away as clinics are very busy right now with vaccinating school-aged children. He is also considering drafting a public health announcement regarding the latest recommendations for combating Coronavirus (Covid-19) disease.

**Recycling Coordinator Position:** S. French-Stockwell has offered to serve as a temporary fill-in on Saturday mornings at the recycling center until someone else is hired to fill the position. K. Bushey moved to hire S. French-Stockwell to help cover Saturday mornings at the recycling center from 9am-12pm until a new employee is hired or until the end of December, whichever comes first. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Recycling – MOU Discussion:** M. Gunn summarized his discussions with Bonnie at NRRA since the last SB meeting; He has sent a written report to G. Craft with the details. His basic conclusion is that doing more separating of recyclables for the purpose of increasing their value to the town would also end up costing the town more in equipment, rentals, and trucking costs. V. Stone moved that G. Craft should sign the MOU and file it with the proper authorities N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Report of Salvage Yard Visit:** V. Stone summarized the findings for the SB. There has been some progress with respect to the removal of cars but it is unclear how many new ones have come into the lot in the interim. Progress overall is occurring very slowly. The SB will plan another visit in the future to assess compliance. .

#### **Old/Unfinished Business:**

**Executive Session:** N. White-Fogarty moved to go into executive session at 8:28pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The stated conclusion of the executive session is that a member of the SB will be on site at the recycling center on Saturday mornings for the next few weeks to assist with the workload.

**Recreation Committee Report:** K. Bushey has received all the ice rink hardware. He also reports getting a donation of 40% off the lumber needed from Bethel Mills and is seeking a donation from Home Depot with the help of Elizabeth Willard Thames. Donations to the Town are deductible for tax purposes whether they are made by businesses, organizations, or by individuals. K. Bushey will also talk to the committee members about recreational budget needs and share requests with G. Craft. N. White-Fogarty moved that the SB approve the letter requesting a donation from Home Depot for ice rink supplies. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Town Center Building Committee Report:** No report

**Pavilion Report:** V. Stone recommended tabling the discussion, as well as a discussion for how the town might best use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds until a future meeting. Vermont League of Cities and Towns has guidelines posted on their website about gathering community input as well as the allowable projects that could be funded with these funds.

**Action Items/Assignments:**

K. Bushy would like to begin constructing the ice rink on Nov. 20th and will recruit help to do so.

**Adjourn:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07pm. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.