

## **Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 7:00pm, the Town Center Building & via Zoom**

**Attendance:** Vernal Stone-chair, Ken Bushey, Nicole White-Fogarty, Gene Craft-clerk/treasurer, Alan Lyford-highway foreman, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Mark Fogarty, Earl Robinson and Doug Stone.

**Call to Order:** 7:05pm.

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** Transfer station interview canceled for this evening. Start time rescheduled for 7pm.

**Public & Staff Comments:** none.

**Highway-Road report:** A. Lyford reported that the town has 2 working trucks to do all the road work because the computer inside the 3rd truck has failed. A new unit will not ship until March 14; he is exploring options to get one sooner. It's a computer issue only and the rest of the truck runs fine. The crew managed the storm on Sunday using the grader, but it is a lot slower and sanding needs to follow the grader and this makes clearing the roads more time consuming. V. Stone recommended contacting the state to see if they have a spare truck in their fleet. A. Lyford is reaching out to nearby towns with the same question. Another temporary solution might be to rig a snow plow on the grader.

G. Craft asked if the schools responded to the question about changeable bus routes. A. Lyford asked about this prior to the last SB meeting but no one has responded yet. He will try again to find out about bus route scheduling after the break and once school is back in session.

G. Craft asked if the water pump on truck #2 is still under warranty for purposes of paying the repair bill. A. Lyford will verify. The SB also discussed whether existing truck radios can be improved without being replaced to save on costs. G. Craft reported that the generator recently ran its test cycle and everything is running fine. The next annual check by the installer is planned for February '22.

Because the Ely mine/Superfund site is now scheduled for cleanup, the town wants to prepare for the impacts to its roads caused by the trucks used in the cleanup process. It will be important to document the current road conditions before the work begins. It would also be advantageous to have a representative of the cleanup operation attend a SB meeting to communicate to the town their plans and timeline.

The town will plow the drive around area of the recycling center, but snow removal near the recycling containers and sanding where needed has always been part of the job description for those positions.

**Approval of Last Meeting Draft Minutes:** V. Stone moved to accept the minutes of December 7, 2021 as amended. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Current Period Warrants Approval:** V. Stone moved to accept the current period warrants. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Town Garage Update:** K. Bushey reported on the preliminary construction costs that the town has received. SB members had some questions about costs of materials and wondered if the price increases include trucking? SB members agreed to make calls for alternative estimates. K. Bushy will meet with A. Lyford after Christmas to go through the list. He also noted that getting the heating system right sized for the garage building is a straightforward process, but installing radiant heat does make the system more complex. This fact and addressing questions raised by the energy committee is the reason J. Coe recommended getting an additional estimate from a mechanical engineer.

**Salvage Yard Update:** N. White-Fogarty noted that equipment was being hauled out of A. LaFlamme's salvage yard recently, indicating that the crushing work is finished for now. The SB agreed they would request a tally of how many vehicles have been removed/crushed to date, noting also that access to the yard has improved.

### **Old/Unfinished Business**

**Town Center Committee:** No report.

**Recreation Committee Report:** K. Bushy reported that they installed the ice rink boards and prepared the ice in the rink. There was a good community volunteer turnout for this effort. The committee wants residents to know that it is important NOT to skate on the fresh ice until the rink is opened to the community. This will help maintain ice quality for all. A schedule for usage may be adopted once the committee can gauge the level and type of interest. There will be signage at the rink.

**Energy Committee:** No report. G. Craft reported that a representative from Efficiency Vermont conducted a walk-through of town buildings and has since sent a follow-up email with recommendations for efficiency upgrades. He has forwarded the email to the Energy Committee.

D. Stone asked the SB if the ATV ordinance has been updated. G. Craft stated that he thought it might have to go before the public for discussion at Town Meeting but will confirm. The proposal is to have the town policy comply with the rules defining ATVs in the state of Vermont and to adjust the maximum speed limit for ATV's on town roads.

### **Action Items/Assignments:**

In anticipation of the budget planning meeting scheduled for 12/28, SB members want to include a discussion of the nature and amount of services provided by the Animal Control Officer. The ACO will be asked to attend the January 4, 2022 meeting. Likewise, they wish to consider budget requests from the TC and Recreation Committees.

**Executive Session:** None required

**Adjourn:** 8:35pm. N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.