

**Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes--- DRAFT  
Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 7:00pm at Vershire Town Center building.  
There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.**

**Attendance:** Vernal Stone-chair, Nicole White-Fogarty, Gene Craft-clerk/treasurer, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Alan Lyford-highway foreman, Samantha Levebvre-VT Representative, Debra Kingsbury-lister, Mark Fogarty, David Hooke, Gregory Wilson-planning commission, and Earl Robinson.

**Call to Order:** N. White-Fogarty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. V. Stone arrived remotely at 7:15pm establishing a quorum.

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** None at this time.

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

**Highway:** Equipment: A. Lyford met with Jeff Slade today to get an estimate on a new backhoe for the town. He also has a quote from John Deere. The ordering backlog is about 7-9 months. The town could order now and lock in a price (prices are still rising) with the contingency of making the final decision after the town meeting. The demand is so strong that the suppliers can easily sell the backhoe to another customer. He will bring cost estimates for review to the next meeting. A backhoe more than an excavator is a crucial piece of equipment for a town like Vershire because it is more versatile and can serve as a backup for a loader if needed. Road Report: The roads are dusty but most are in pretty good shape. A little rain will allow for grading work. Some gravel has been delivered to the Chelsea road section off McIver road for the improvement effort in that location.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the minutes of August 2, 2022 as written. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Garage Update:** The informational meeting for interested bidders on this project will be held at 10am on Thursday, 18th. J.Coe is coordinating the schedule.

**Increased cost for mowing:** G. Craft reported that Green Mountain Mowing is raising its prices by 20% to account for the increases in fuel costs.. The cemetery trustees agree that this increase is reasonable. GMM also mows at the town center, the town office, and does a minimal amount of mowing at the new town garage site location. V. Stone recommended that the mowing at the garage site be discontinued. **Action:** V. Stone moved to accept Green Mountain Mowing's price increase to cover its fuel costs. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Katrina Monzon's appointment to Vershire Energy Committee:** The question about whether members of town committees should be registered voters in Vershire was discussed. K. Monzon is an employee of the Mountain School (also a former student) and is very interested in maintaining strong ties between the school and the town, in addition to supporting the energy committee's work. Because it is an advisory committee, it has no power to make policy or

allocate resources. Instead, its volunteers work to generate public interest in sustainable energy generally and to develop recommendations for the SB to consider adopting. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to appoint Katrina Monzon to Vershire's Energy Committee. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**\*\*Village Development Designation:** D. Kingsbury described the updated Village Designation boundary map that was condensed somewhat upon the advice of a representative from the state agency that will vet the application: the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD). The current recommendation is to apply for a Village District that extends from the Post Office to the jct of Vershire Center Road/VT113 (rather than all the way to Durgin Hill Road. All commercial enterprises and nonprofit organizations located within the Village District will be eligible to apply for select community development grant funding. M. Fogarty noted that the hub of the community on Saturday mornings is located at the recycling center and ideally the district would stretch to Durgin Hill Rd. The representative from ACCD, however, did not recommend this larger district because Village Districts are typically quite small and do not include so much open/private land within their boundaries. G. Wilson and R. Seybolt have taken photos of the relevant properties to include with the application and all believe Vershire is making a very strong case for the size of the district proposed, as it is still larger than is typically proposed. Rep. Lefebvre wanted to note her support for the application and offered her assistance if needed. Village Designation, once received, extends for 8 years and can be renewed. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to accept the revised Village District boundary map and related application materials and photographs for Village District status. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports:**

Town Center Building Committee: N. White-Fogarty reported that the committee met last night and continued its discussion of a pavilion and the requirements of a grant proposal to help fund its construction. Because the septic system will be scoped later this week, its precise location will be mapped/noted and allow a proposal to move forward. The picnic tables have been sanded and the members intend to stain/seal the new ones.

Recreation Committee: No report.

Energy Committee: D. Hooke reported on some of the topics/proposals under discussion: the committee is talking about tapping Efficiency Vermont or other agency funding in order to provide a "Weatherization 101" type of workshop locally. Certain small changes or upgrades can yield significant energy savings for homeowners. They are also in conversation with other towns and with Tri-Valley Transit to determine if a park/ride lot and/or transit service for Vershire residents is viable. Financing inserts in the windows in the town center, proposing a FedEx drop box at the Post Office, and building a kiosk to be located at the recycling center are also on the EC's agenda.

### **Old/Unfinished Business**

Social Media Policy (postponed)

G. Craft in a follow up from the last meeting noted that it is no longer required to record (audio) its meetings.

**Action Items/Assignments:**

**Follow up Letter NOV Recipient on Taylor Valley Road:** M. Tarrant, attorney for the town, recommended that the selectboard send a followup letter noting that the resident is still in violation, the appeal period has now passed, fines are accruing at \$100 per day, and that the selectboard would be filing an action with the environmental court of Vermont. **Action.** V. Stone moved to allow N. White-Fogarty to sign the letter (noted above) in his absence. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Solid Waste Punch card Design Review:** A draft of the new punch card is being circulated. It is modeled after the one used in Lebanon. The town is about to run out of stickers and it makes sense to move to a punch card system now and avoid ordering more stickers that won't get used. The cards will have helpful information printed in the middle, and include Vershire's logo, a number, and an embossed stamp to discourage counterfeit reproduction.

**Planning Commission Recommendation for Development Administrator:** The Planning Commission approved a motion to recommend Aaron Hoopes for the position of development administrator at its 8/10/22 meeting.

**Executive Session:** N. White-Fogarty moved to invite G. Craft and G. Harvey and Aaron Hoopes into an executive session at 8:30pm to interview A. Hoopes for the development administrator position as per 1 V.S.A. §§ 313(a)(3). V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. N. White-Fogarty moved to leave the executive session at 8:50pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** The selectboard decided to hire Aaron Hoopes as Development Administrator for a 3-year term to begin immediately and overlap with the existing DA's term to facilitate a smooth transition. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjourn:** V. Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.