

**Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 13, 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, Ken Bushey, Gene Craft-clerk/treasurer, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Steven Farnsworth, Debra Kingsbury, Mark Fogarty, Reva Seybolt, Mike Gunn, Tonya Gunn, David Hooke, and James Coe.

**Call to Order:** V. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

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

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

**Highway: Road Report:** None at this time. **Equipment Updates: Action:** K. Bushey moved to designate V. Stone to sign the lease agreement with Milton CAT of Richmond, VT for a town backhoe. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the minutes of August 30, 2022 as written. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Garage Progress Update:** J. Coe shared the latest information on the bids that have been submitted. One of the three is proposing substantial changes to the design. Minor change requests are common in the bidding process, but J. Coe's opinion is that this bid option would require comprehensive changes to the original design already approved to date. Further, a cost-plus scenario would make assessing the costs of such changes untenable at this stage of the process. **Action:** V. Stone moved to remain committed to the garage design that has been adopted by the selectboard and approved by the townspeople. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Garage Bid updates:** J. Coe will be issuing a 2nd addendum that addresses some of the requests for technical clarifications that he has received from bidders. D. Hooke reminded the selectboard about the invitation to tour the new Woodstock emergency facility's air to water system. V. Stone is able to visit on the morning of September 24th and D. Hooke will arrange.

**Ayers/Mero Road Trail Access:** Steven Farnsworth attended to inquire about the town's plans to cut some downed trees on Mero road. He would prefer the trees are left in place to prevent ATVs from traveling on that section of this class 4 road. He is especially concerned about potential damage ATVs could cause to wetland areas on this road. The selectboard informed him that Class 4 roads are town roads and the selectboard has no authority to limit access to a road to foot or horse travel only. Cutting the downed trees would equalize access for residents who are interested in using this class 4 road, which is required to be passable by a 'pleasure vehicle' at least once per year. The only mechanism for limiting access to a town road is to gather signatures for a petition, hold a hearing and then a vote among the townspeople requesting a change of designation from a town road to a town trail that allows foot/horse traffic only. Regarding the question of damage to wetlands, the topic will be tabled until the town has a

chance to gather more information about the rules governing class 4 roads that traverse wetlands.

**ARPA Public Meetings:** G Craft asked the selectboard to think about scheduling some open meetings to discuss the ARPA [American Rescue Plan Act] funds that the town has been awarded and will need to spend by 2026. Several meeting time scenarios were discussed with a general consensus that holding an open meeting this fall that answers general questions about how the funds might be used would be a helpful place to begin. A representative from TRORC (Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission) and/or the Vermont League of Cities and Towns could be invited to share their expertise on how these funds can be used. A time/date for this open meeting will be set at the next selectboard meeting.

**Recycling Report:** M. Gunn reported on stones that needed removal. The metals bin has not yet been picked up. He inquired about the new punch card system roll out. The cards have been ordered and will be made available for purchase once the stickers have been used up. G. Craft will put something in the next newsletter about transitioning to this new system for trash disposal.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Town Center Building Committee: R. Seybolt suggested two possible dates for the next “welcome to the community” potluck dinner. All agreed that the October 1st option would be better for using the pizza oven. Attendees will be encouraged to bring potluck side dishes and desserts and the event can serve as another pizza oven training opportunity. If the weather allows, people will eat outside. If it rains, they may eat inside the TCB. Pavilion update: A small group of committee members and volunteers will be making site visits to see two different timber frame roof styles to consider for a TC pavilion. Currently there are three timber framers interested in this project, but the committee wants to settle on a general design concept first before it seeks bids or begins fundraising/grant writing.

Recreation Committee: K, Bushey reported that the committee has rescheduled the back-to-school celebration/BBQ for Tuesday, Sept. 20th; it had been canceled due to rain. Several individuals and businesses have donated food for this event. He also spoke to A. Lyford about moving the storage shed. D, Hooke offered to help move it as well. The goal is to make some repairs and use it for ice rink/hockey equipment storage. He also mentioned wanting to level the surface area for the ice rink prior to setup this winter.

Energy Committee: D. Hooke reported that many projects mentioned earlier are ongoing and he noted progress on a few of them: FedEx has committed to providing a delivery drop box at the town office within the next month; the weatherization 101 workshop will be held this coming Saturday; and the committee intends to have an information table at the fall festival similar to at Vershire Day.

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

(social media policy—postponed)

**Action Items/Assignments:**

The SB will move its Tuesday 11/8/22 meeting to Monday, 11/7/22 at 7pm in order to accommodate the midterm elections being held on Tuesday, November 8th. G. Craft will be putting together the schedule for poll workers for election day and inquired about SB members' availability.

**Adjourn:** V. Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.