

**Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Vershire Town Center.**  
**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, Alan Lyford-highway foreman, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Erica Thurston-animal control officer, Debra Kingsbury, Mark Fogarty, Steve Atwood-health officer, Michael Tarrant-town attorney, Tonya Gunn, Mike Gunn, and Reva Seybolt.

**Call to Order:** V. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** Request to add the MOU to NRRRA (Northeast Resource Recovery Assoc.) to action items and include discussion of the town's contract with Coe & Coe, Inc. in an Executive Session.

**Highway: Road Report**- A. Lyford reported on some truck repairs but otherwise noted the equipment was holding up well and experiencing only normal wear and tear. They have been cleaning snow from some intersections to improve visibility and are getting ready for the expected cold spell this weekend. With regard to road sanding, they continue to spread sand across town roads in a consistent manner as has been done in the past. He noted however that snowfall/weather does affect when sand is distributed. There was a brief discussion about whether or not to open the recycling area this Saturday due to the expected sub-zero temps. M. Gunn who was in attendance said he was willing to staff the site and supported being open.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** V. Stone moved to approve the meeting minutes of 1/17/22 as written. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Town Garage Update:** K. Bushey reported on the productive meeting between members of the selectboard and others and Vermont state officials who stopped by Vershire on Monday 1/23 to discuss infrastructure and funding needs for municipalities. G. Craft noted that Rep. Demrow is willing to keep track of this issue and continue to look for funding options for Vershire and in particular for a new town garage. The state officials requested some additional information concerning the old garage site. G. Craft will follow up with Rep. Demrow.

**Animal Control Officer Report:** E. Thurston reported on her work in recent weeks. She is still waiting to hear from Dr. Tullar's office before setting a date for a rabies clinic. She also summarized a few stray/loose dog incidents that have since been resolved with one exception. The road crew will keep their eyes out for one adult dog; with severe cold weather coming it would be important to secure the dog and find its owner. She noted that she uses her encounters with pet owners to encourage annual registration and proper restraint systems.

**Health Officer Report:** S. Atwood provided a summary of his work as THO over the past few years and some proposals for future community health planning. The most important work done has been holding immunization clinics in Vershire and W. Fairlee between 2021-22. What began in response to the need for Covid immunizations expanded in subsequent "pop-up" clinics to include Covid boosters and flu shots that accommodated the particular needs of all ages. As the clinic offerings expanded, the numbers of attendees also increased, which was and is very

encouraging. He recommends a continuation of these successful immunization clinics and noted that as long as Covid persists, immunizations will save lives. He is also working with a group at Dartmouth Hitchcock on issues relating to rural health care and noted that some educational information/programming might become available. Mental health concerns are especially challenging to address for Town HO's because they do not have any authority to cross thresholds and can only do so by being invited inside a dwelling. Looking ahead, Dr. Atwood would like to expand the preventative care work that he and others do. For example, offering various kinds of routine screening clinics might be a good option. Success would depend on having good referral options & resources and those relationships will need to be established first. Furthermore, screening and educational clinics would provide towns with valuable information about specific community health needs which, in turn, would inform future programming.

**Executive Session:** M. Tarrant: Attorney/Client Communications. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter executive session due to a finding that premature general public knowledge regarding attorney-client communications would place the public body or person involved at a substantial disadvantage. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter executive session to discuss attorney client communications under the provision of 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(F) and invited G. Craft and G. Harvey into the session. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** V. Stone moved to exit the executive session at 9:00pm. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

Coe & Coe, Inc.'s Contract with the Town of Vershire. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter executive session due to a finding that premature general public knowledge regarding Vershire's contract with the town garage architect would place the public body or person involved at a substantial disadvantage. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter executive session to discuss Vershire's contract with the town garage architect under the provision of 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(A)) and invited G. Craft and G. Harvey into the session. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** V. Stone moved to exit the executive session at 9:22pm. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to accept the contract with James Coe for time and materials through construction with precise cost to be negotiated. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Town Meeting date review:** The Governor recently signed a bill to allow towns to adjust the date and processes of Town Meeting. **Action:** V. Stone moved to adjust Vershire's Town Meeting date of March 7, 2023 to a time and date to be determined at the next regular selectboard meeting. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Conflict of Interest** - Discussion postponed until the next regular SB meeting.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that an adult game night is being planned for Feb. 15th with any donations collected going towards the pavilion fundraising campaign.

Energy Committee: No report

Town Center Building Committee: No report.

**Action Items/Assignments:**

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to sign the MOU with Northeast Resources Recovery Association. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next budget meeting is tentatively set for Feb. 7th at 6pm.

**Adjourn:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:38pm. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.