

**Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 28, 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, Debra Kingsbury, Gregory Wilson, Harry Falconer-TRORC, Tonya Gunn, Andrea Wasserman, Mark Fogarty, Reva Seybolt, and Caro Bick.

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

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

**Public and Staff comments:** None at this time.

**Highway: Road Report**- A. Lyford reported that more snow has fallen than predicted and more storms are coming later this week. The mud season road signs are ready for posting later this week around the usual March 1st date. The equipment is holding up with some repair work needed on the Little Truck. He is working with Pike Industries to procure estimates for the paving work that is needed. Pike will wait to do a site visit until some of the snow has melted. The grant for the work is due April 1 and there still is time to get an estimate.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** V. Stone moved to approve the meeting minutes of 2/14/23 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.

**Harry Falconer-TRORC:** H. Falconer presented a high-level overview of the newly created MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program). This grant program is a product of ACT 172. The purpose of the program is to make funding available for energy efficiency upgrades in municipal projects. There are three levels of grant funding: mini grants of up to 4K, municipal building energy audit grants, and project implementation grants. Although the grants are designed to fund energy efficiency retrofits, Vershire has received an exemption to allow it to submit an application for its 'new construction' town garage project. T. Gunn asked the SB to consider including the house (at the garage site) for inclusion in a grant proposal. Next steps include: building a timeline, working through the energy audit phase, and scheduling another meeting with H. Falconer to learn more as the details in grant applications are developed.

**Energy Committee - Park and Ride Discussion:** A. Wasserman reported for the EC. She provided additional details concerning the grant application for a park and ride, which has a June due date. There are permitting requirements (Title 22-archeological/historical resource and stormwater), ADA compliance, and signage requirements. If awarded, funding would be available in late 2023 or early 2024. The SB requests a design layout and more information about what will be expected from the road crew during snow season before approving a grant submission. K. Bushey asked to see the survey results compiled by the EC in relation to creating a park and ride and participating in a Valley Transit Rideshare program. In early discussions, the EC has considered how to keep the project simple and in line with the character of a small town.

**Recycle Center Kiosk:** The EC requests some funding (approximately \$200) in order to finish the kiosk project by putting a plexiglass cover/door to protect posted materials or brochures. The Selectboard will make a decision on funding at its next regular meeting on 3/14/23.

**5k Event Presentation:** G. Wilson reported that the 5K route will be moved away from VT 113 and that they are going to map out some options soon. He also connected with volunteers from VFR who will help make sure safety features for the fun run are in place. Instead of hiring an outside group to organize the timed start and finish, the organizers decided to hold a more low-key fun run event. Vershare has secured some Mascoma grant funding for the event, including the wellness classes (still in the planning stages) that will follow the 5K run and lunch at the TCB. June 3rd for this 5K & Wellness Festival event has been penciled into the town's calendar.

**Listers - No Suit Pending:** D. Kingbury-Lister requested permission to submit her annual report that there are no lawsuits or grievances pending with respect to the town's land parcels. The form requires signatures from the Selectboard. **Action:** V. Stone moved to sign the *Certificate of No Appeal*. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Town Garage Update:** K. Bushey reported that currently, there are 7 potential contractors who have requested bid package information from Coe & Coe. A pre-bid site meeting is set for Friday March 3, 2023 at 10am. The SB members have done extensive outreach to get the word out to as many large and small contractors as possible and expect a good turnout on Friday.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that the committee wishes to hold another adult game night on March 15th. The first game night included about 8 people and everyone had fun. If game nights continue to be popular, the committee would like to host them every 3rd Wednesday. The committee is also hoping to organize an Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 1 at 9am.

Energy Committee: Report above.

Town Center Building Committee: R. Seybolt was very happy to report that the pavilion fund drive raised \$28,186 in the last 3 weeks. She will request closing the on-line fundraising with Patronicity and send a message out to all donors about the goal being met. Ideally, the plan is to get as much of the excavation work accomplished in May so that the grounds are ready for events in June. R. Seybolt requested listing donors on the website and the interest in exploring options for some type of Abenaki land acknowledgement statement for the pavilion.

**Executive Session:** Review Contract Proposal

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter executive session due to a finding that premature general public knowledge regarding a contract to expand the town office and vault 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 a contract to expand the town office and vault under the provision of 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)(A). K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Selectboard exited the executive session with no decision and a request for more research.

**Action Items/Assignments:**

**Energy Committee Request for Kiosk materials:** See above.

**Adjourn:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.