

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 14, 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, Mike Gunn, Richard Jayne, and Reva Seybolt.

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

Agenda Review & Modifications: None at this time.

Public and Staff comments: None at this time.

Highway: Road Report- None at this time. The road crew is out plowing.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the meeting minutes of 2/28/23 as written. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Announcement: The EPA timeline and estimated work schedule on the Ely mine site is now posted on the Town's website.

Town Garage Update: K. Bushey reported that the bids are due Friday at 4pm and requested a special meeting to be held on Friday 3/17/23 at 4:30pm to announce that the bids are in. N. White-Fogarty reported that she heard from Oakes Brothers that they knew of quite a few local contractors who will be putting in bids. G. Craft reported that he has sent funding requests to Senator Sanders' office and will be sending a similar request to Senator Welch's office this week (Congressionally Directed Spending Requests for 2024).

Recycle Center Report: M. Gunn reported that is has been a busy week due to the multiple storms the previous week keeping residents close to home. He noted that the kiosk is in place and that residents are still becoming familiar with the new punch card system.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that there will be another game night on Wednesday 15th and an Easter egg hunt is planned for Saturday, April 1st. There have been a few skaters on the ice recently, but he noted the ice rink season is finished for the year due to all the snow cover and melting of the past two weeks. The committee will look into fundraising for a stronger snow blower for next year.

Town Center Building Committee: R. Seybolt reported that the committee will consider the status of trail(s) leading out from the TC at their next meeting, after which they will share their input with the Rec Committee. She reported that the construction of extra shelving in the storage room will be undertaken soon and that new shelves are needed to store window inserts and Recreation Committee gear/supplies. G. Craft noted that care should be taken to mitigate dust accumulation/cleanup during the construction process. Two committee members are putting together a kitchen needs list and R. Seybolt is developing a pavilion donor list to be posted on

the town's website. Both drafts will be shared with the SB prior to its next meeting. *Better Places* would like to hold up Vershire as an example of what small towns can do with its grant funds and R. Seybolt asked if the SB is comfortable with turning either the raising or the roofing events (estimated to be June 17th and 24th respectively) into a larger celebration that honors both Vershire's success and includes a recognition of the *Better Places* grant program. The SB is happy to enlarge the celebration and recommends the raising on June 17th as the best option.

Energy Committee: R. Jayne reported that the EC's request for funds from the town is being scaled back because of the availability of MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) grant funding made possible by Act 172. R. Jayne also indicated that the EC wants the town to initiate a fund for energy-efficiency projects. K. Bushey noted that the other town committees engage in fundraising rather than approach the town for funding and asked if the EC has plans to do the same. He also requested to see the data gathered from the survey conducted to test interest in the van pool concept. Further, the SB wants to see a specific design and cost accounting for the park and ride/ EV charging station concept before a grant application is submitted. There are still many unanswered questions, some of which are: who pays the monthly base cost for having a meter; who would be the primary users of the EV charger; can the charger be used as a mechanism for accepting donations of someone's solar "electric balances"; and what is the EC's plan for snow removal and mud season parking spots.

Action Items/Assignments:

Review Energy Committee request for Kiosk materials: V. Stone moved to approve up to \$100 for materials necessary to complete the recycling center kiosk. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session: N. White-Fogarty moved to enter into executive session for the purpose of an employee evaluation as per 1 V.S.A. §§ 313(a)(3). K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to invite G. Craft and G. Harvey into the executive session. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Selectboard exited the executive session with no decision and a request for more information.

Announcement: Rivendell Interstate School District 2023 Annual meeting, March 21, 2023 at 6:30pm, at 10 School Drive, Orford, NH.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.