

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 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, Mark Fogarty, and Reva Seybolt.

Call to Order: V. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: None at this time.

Public and Staff comments: None at this time.

Highway: Road Report - A.Lyford reported that the roads during this year's mud season are in better shape than last year. Some sunny days will help dry them out further. He has scheduled some repair for truck #2 and is continuing to solicit estimates for various paving work that needs to be done. Problem areas include a section of Eagle Hollow road, the lower section of Durgin Hill road, the apron on North road and the Town Office and Town Center Parking lots. He will apply for grant funding to accomplish some of this work where possible. He reviewed the EPA remediation schedule for this year to gauge the impact on the roads this season.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the meeting minutes of 3/14/23 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.

Town Garage Update: A decision was made to pause the selection of a contractor for up to 2 weeks in order to investigate a late-breaking and significant opportunity to apply for federal funding from the USDA RD grant program.

K. Bushey expressed concern that not all selectboard members were apprised equally of the funding conversation held with USDA representatives this morning. Nor was everyone included in the decision to delay the selection of a contractor. Likewise, N. White-Fogarty was caught off guard by the decision to notify the 4 contractors who submitted bids about this delay prior to the selectboard meeting this evening. K. Bushey requested that this email from James Coe dated 3/28/23 be included in the minutes:

Hi Selectboard,

Nella and I spoke with Shaun Fielder this morning and Gene spoke with Eric Law.

...Gene and Nella and I spoke subsequently.

We decided that it is prudent to postpone a selection of Contractor tonight.

A meeting is scheduled on Friday with Eric Law to gain more information on funding opportunities.

We have communicated to the bidding Contractors that the decision is postponed and that we would provide a decision or more information next Monday the 3rd.

We do not see a need for Coe and Coe to attend the Selectboard meeting tonight.

But we will communicate and aim towards this Friday meeting and strategize with you there forward-

Thanks all -
James

Eric Law is the USDA RD Community Program Director for NH, and Misty Sinsigalli, also involved in the discussion, is USDA RD Area Director. They have requested a meeting with members of the Selectboard for Friday, 3/31/23 at 8:30am to share rules and information about possible federal grant funding for the town garage project. Selectboard discussion of this opportunity will occur on Monday, 4/3/23 at 6:30pm.

Animal Control Officer Report: N. White-Fogarty summarized an incident involving two dogs. E. Thurston has been in communication with the owner about needing to have the dogs registered by April 1. The rabies clinic went well and approximately 20-22 dogs received immunizations. As a new year approaches, it would be good to discuss strategy with the ACO for keeping on top of the process to keep Vershire dogs and their owners in compliance with Vermont regulations.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that there will be an Easter Egg hunt as planned on Saturday, April 1st beginning at 10am. It has been well advertised and last year around 30-40 attended, so they expect a good turnout again this year. He encourages the town to consider a plan for the baseball field that goes unused. In its current state, the ball field does not meet the specification requirements for organized youth leagues. Sending out a survey to solicit feedback from townspeople would be a place to start the discussion. The TCB committee would like to have some sense of public opinion prior to commencing the landscaping for the pavilion.

Energy Committee: No Report tonight. The Selectboard received an email from D. Hooke with comments and they will duly note them.

Town Center Building Committee: R. Seybolt discussed with the SB the best way to acknowledge all those who donated to the pavilion on the town's website. She reported on the plans for June 24th when approximately 20 people will assist with the raising of the pavilion. She would like to explore making it a general work day at the Town Center if more volunteers want to be involved in the activities on that day.

Action Items/Assignments:

Executive Session: To discuss the four contractor bids for the town garage project.
Discussion deferred until Monday 4/3/23 at 6:30pm—see below.

Adjourn: V. Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm to a date and time certain on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6:30pm. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Resume & Call to Order on April 3, 2023: V. Stone called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.

Attendance: Vernal Stone-chair, Nicole White-Fogarty, Ken Bushey, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, and James Coe.

Executive Session: To discuss the contractor bids for the town garage project.

Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to enter executive session due to a finding that premature general public knowledge regarding the town garage contract 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 the town garage contract under the provision of 1 V.S.A. §§ 313(a)(1)(A) and invited J. Coe and G. Harvey into the session. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to exit the executive session with the finding that the Town of Vershire decided to issue an intent to award the town garage contract to Lajeunesse Construction, Inc. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: V. Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.