

**Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 9, 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, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Reva Seybolt, Mike Gunn, Tonya Gunn, Mark Fogarty, Erica Thurston, Pat Barnes, Neal Hochstedler, and Allen LaFlamme.

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: V. Stone reported on a problem on Van Dyke road, where a landowner wants to construct a house near the section that links it to Taylor Valley Road. The landowner wants the town of Vershire to improve this section from a class 4 to a class 3 road. V. Stone recommended the landowner attend a Selectboard meeting to discuss his plans for road improvements before he does any work on it. N. White-Fogarty reported that she has updated the town's lpad and it is in good order for use by the Highway foreman.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: K. Bushey moved to approve the meeting minutes of 4/25/23 as written. V. Stone 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: K. Bushey updated the Selectboard on recent emails, paperwork, and meetings related to the town garage project. Greg Dixon (Krebs and Lansing Consulting Engineers. Inc.) will visit the site and make sure all is ready to break ground. This includes locating the building footprint for the contractor so as to avoid any encroachment by trucks or other onto the wetland buffer. A soil report will be scheduled soon. J. Coe learned that the 150KW generator included in the purchase list would not be available for at least a year and he recommended purchasing a 100KW generator instead. After a discussion on power needs, all agreed that the 100KW model would provide ample power even during an extended outage. Ordering the smaller model would also yield a cost savings. K. Bushey summarized a message from H. Falconer (TRORC) who noted that the MERP grant program will not be accepting applications until later this year and possibly not until early 2024. He could not guarantee that these funds would be available to a project already in progress. **Action.** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the purchase of the 100KW generator. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ely Mine Start Date & Request for Informational Meeting on June 13th: The work at the Ely Mine site is starting this week. The EPA would like to schedule a community informational meeting to update residents on the work plan for 2023. **Action:** V. Stone moved to schedule an informational meeting on June 13th at 7pm at the TCB. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Recycle Center Report - M. Gunn reported that the too small container brought to the site a few weeks ago has been switched out for the regular size container at no cost to the town. He is

becoming aware of the problems with recycling black plastic, no matter if there is a triangle imprint on it. He will follow up and find out what can/can not be recycled. He counted 110 bags for GreenUp day, M. Fogarty reported that with what the road crew picked up the total is closer to 130 bags. Coordinators Kelly Bushey and Eleanore Zue compile this information for the VT program. New drive through and parking configurations are still being tried out and discussed; some signage about where to park if interested in stopping might be helpful in addition to the cones marking the drive through track. M. Fogarty noted that there are affordable signs that can be attached to the orange cones.

ACO Report- E. Thurston provided an update on the work she has been doing. Notices went out to 53 residences that were delinquent on renewing dog licenses. She requested extending the deadline for compliance from May 1 to June 1 this year due to the later date in April when the notices were mailed out this year. She agreed to put something in the listserv to notify dog owners of the new deadline and the fees that accrue after it passes: a flat fee of \$50 is charged plus \$1 per day/per dog each day the dog goes unlicensed. There was some discussion about placement of dog cages for ACO needs at the new garage site prior to the start of construction. **Action:** K. Bushey moved to change the license renewal deadline for 2023 from May 1 to June 1. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Salvage Yard Plans 2023: V. Stone summarized the ongoing problem with cars being parked and worked on outside the salvage yard gates on VT113. Something needs to change right away to avoid accidents. The newly paved roadway means that traffic is moving faster than ever. A work area inside the fence must be created and usable year round, not only occasionally when space allows. The SB proposes a 10-15 day time span to get this problem under control by getting all the vehicles moved off of VT113. A. LaFlamme assured the SB that a crusher will be arriving on May 21st. It can handle approximately 25-30 cars/week, which translates to about 400+ cars by the end of September. He also has a scrap company willing to pick up one load per week. He is dismantling and crushing right now in preparation for the crusher to arrive on the 21st. After being pressed about the lack of space for a crusher inside the gate, A. LaFlamme also agreed to relocate drivable cars to an off-site location to make more room. The SB will hold him to these commitments and noted the salvage yard license is due to be renewed in 2023.

Taylor Valley Rd & GMP Co. V. Stone reported on the email received from GMP about getting access to a pole/light on Taylor Valley Road. He noted that GMP has the right of way and owns the pole and that the SB has no authority in this instance to assist them with access.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported they will finish dismantling the rest of the ice rink on Saturday. There was some discussion about both a temporary and permanent storage location for the materials. The committee also wants to discuss arranging live music at select events this summer. He will report back when more information is gathered. There is a food truck planned for next Wednesday, May 17th.

Energy Committee: P. Barnes and N. Hochstedler reported that the EC has applied for 4K from the MERP grant program and have allocated approximately half the funds to date. They also noted there are good arguments to be made for including solar panels in the initial garage build: some costs saving if installed now v. later, energy credits can be transferred to other town buildings, and heat pumps (even if delayed) make the most sense for financial payback when linked to solar. On the topic of an EV charger at the TC, the cost of administration is higher than

the benefit at this point. But newer technologies are coming online that will likely make it more cost effective for small towns to install EV charging stations in the future. The Park & Ride grant application is due at the end of June and offers an 80/20 match. It could utilize crushed stone costs for the lot or incorporate a quote for paving. The SB urged the committee members to talk to the highway foreman about the grant, the need for guardrails along the stream bank, and how snow removal will work if developed. The Selectboard agreed that a conversation about installing solar panels on the town garage would be good to have at this year's Town Meeting, especially if ARPA funds would be tapped for this purpose.

TCB Committee: R. Seybolt reported that work on the pavilion will begin next week. She encouraged members of the SB to stop by and take a look. She also requested being able to post an announcement that it would be best for families with children to avoid the playground area during this time frame. Timber framing is set for June 24th and the roof installation will occur on June 25th. There was a discussion about the best timing for a celebration and all agreed that once all work is completed would be the best option. The TCB and Rec committees will work together to plan this event. N. White-Fogarty shared the estimates she collected for taking down the dying trees along the stream bank with Vershare. Their board is fine with the removal of these trees on its land. R. Seybolt will try to arrange volunteers to cut and stack the wood and/or otherwise deal with the byproduct (chips) as needed. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the bid of \$1,500 for tree removal on the condition the funds are available to the Town Center Building. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

R. Seybolt asked for permission to use the upstairs of the TCB on Monday evenings beginning May 15 at 5:45pm. She wants to facilitate (by donation only) an Aging Discussion Group using the Sedona Method. She understands that a rental would always take precedence. The SB told her to try it out and report back on how it's working at a later time.

Executive Session: N. White-Fogarty moved to enter an executive session to conduct an exit interview with the Animal Control Officer 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). She invited G. Harvey to enter the session. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. N. White-Fogarty moved to exit the executive session with no finding. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items: PVR-Grand List Extension request. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to have the chair sign the PVR Grand List extension request. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.