

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Vershire Town Center.
There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.

Attendance: Ken Bushey-chair Nicole White-Fogarty, Vern Stone, Alan Lyford-superintendent, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Mark Fogarty, Reva Seybolt, Tonya Gunn, Gene Craft-clerk/treasurer, VT. Representative Carl Demrow, Gregory Wilson, and Dan Clifford.

Swearing in: G. Craft delivered the oath of office to newly-elected selectboard member Nicole White-Fogarty.

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

Agenda Review & Modifications: Poronto well and TC fence will need to be tabled to allow more time to gather needed information.

Public and Staff comments: None at this time.

Selectboard Reorganization: Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to elect K. Bushey chair of the selectboard. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** K. Bushey moved to elect V. Stone road commissioner. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** V. Stone moved to appoint Alan Lyford highway foreman, with a name change to highway superintendent. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** V. Stone moved to appoint Mark Fogarty tree warden. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Highway: Road Report: A. Lyford reported that the roads are holding up well. Some new moisture/rain would help with grading. Compared to elsewhere, our roads are in good shape. He noted that much of the equipment is aging and it will be important to plan for future needs. The small truck that is used for salt is 8 years old and has a lot of corrosion. It is possible to get another year out of it, but he wanted the SB to know that wait times to purchase this type of truck are approximately 1.5 years. Likewise, the grader is still working well but is 20 years old and will need replacing in the not too distant future. The highway crew attended a class sponsored by TRORC focusing on roads and culverts state-wide and have been working on entering Vershire's data into the state reporting website..

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the meeting minutes of 5/9/23 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: K. Bushey reported that the SB has been making good progress on a checklist created by Lajeunesse Construction, Inc. (hereafter LCI). Additional construction plans include making sure to comply with all testing requirements. N. White-Fogarty reported that the flow report will be ready in the next few days. K. Bushey also noted that LCI would want a basic security camera installed at the site. **Action:** V. Stone moved that the Selectboard send Lajeunesse Construction Inc. a "Notice to Proceed". N. White Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** V. Stone moved to approve S.W. Cole to do the concrete, rebar and soils testing. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** V. Stone moved to authorize G. Harvey to initiate a contract for internet service with Consolidated

Communications for the purpose of having wifi phone service at the garage site for construction workers. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VT. Representative Carl Demrow asked the SB for clarification about what questions he should bring to VT - Buildings and General Services (BGS) and perhaps others who might help him identify grant opportunities for garage expenses. There was much discussion of how best to position Vershire's request for funds once the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) grant funding rules and applications open in 2023-2024. Questions needing answers: will solar panels and installation be covered by MERP funding; what is the timing of the grant roll out; can Vershire apply for funds if the garage is new construction; and can Vershire apply retroactively to cover costs already incurred for heat pumps etc. C. Demrow promised to get back to the SB in about a month. Regardless of the answers to these questions, the SB is obligated to decide on a heating system by May 30th.

Van Dyke Road—Dan Clifford summarized his history with Van Dyke Road for the selectboard. He recently purchased some property there that had once been owned by his father, when it was a working farm in the 1950s. His father sold the land in the 1970s and it more recently came available to purchase by Mr. Clifford. He believes that the road was then and remains a class 3 road, according to a map he possesses. Town and state records/maps list it as a class 4 road. The SB explained that if the road classification had changed, there would have been a hearing and a record in the minutes. V. Stone examined SB minutes through 1978 and could find no indication that the road classification was ever anything other than a class 4 road. The state might have records of road classifications, but town maps only show it as class 4.

K. Paronto's well: Tabled. More information needed.

Town Center fence repair/removal: Tabled. More information needed.

Vershire Day & 5K—T. Gunn spoke on behalf of a group organizing a 5K and wellness workshops. Because of a calendar mixup, the group requested rescheduling the 5K for the morning of Vershire Day. The race will begin at 9am and participants will be directed up VCR to the Mountain School where they will turn around and return via the same route to the TCB. The distance is exactly 5K and the route would keep runners/walkers off of VT113. The SB members asked some additional questions and were satisfied that the 5K would be a good addition to the Vershire Day events.

Mowing contract at TO & TC: G. Craft spoke with Green Mt. Mowing and indicated they no longer need to mow at the garage construction site. Mowing was done at the TO and TC today. The company has not asked for a new contract and will keep mowing these two locations as in the past. Asking for bids and a contract in the future would conform to best practices.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that the next planned event will be a pizza training on June 4th. Additional dates will be confirmed with G. Craft at a later date. The committee did

not schedule a band for the end of school year celebration on June 16, but will have a bouncy house then. Scheduling bands is being explored for events later in the summer.

Energy Committee: No report. G. Craft spoke to D. Hooke about who would administer the MERP grant the energy committee received. It looks like the town will be able to administer the \$4000 grant award, and this will allow the town to utilize more of the funds that would otherwise be needed to pay for administration by someone at TRORC

TCB Committee: R. Seybolt summarized the recent site work done to prepare for the raising of the pavilion. There was a discussion of a change order that was submitted and some of the construction decisions that were made causing the request for costs adjustments. The discussion was tabled until D. Hooke could attend a SB meeting to discuss the specifics of the change order request.

Additional TCB discussion topics included: the site work for the property broadly defined, including the plan for moving dirt that is being excavated to appropriate locations; the shelving being constructed for the storage room, the disposal of old picnic tables, the ditching and drainage work needed near the TCB, the grant-writing for kitchen improvements that would upgrade it to commercial kitchen standards; and the effort to find someone who can redo the calligraphy document that goes with the quilt on display in the TCB. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to authorize R. Seybolt to purchase 2 new collapsible tables for the TCB. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Employment: Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard position. It was decided to focus on finalizing the job description. G. Craft and G. Harvey will work together to provide a final draft for SB review and approval at the next regular meeting.

Executive Session: None required.

Action Items:

The selectboard asked G. Harvey to send out a press release about the garage ground-breaking on June 1st.

The motion to proceed with construction was passed above.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:02pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.