

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 6, 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, Allen LaFlamme, Mike Gunn, Gene Craft-clerk/treasurer, David Hooke, and Reva Seybolt.

Call to Order: K. Bushey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: Added: Animal Control Officer.

Public and Staff comments: None at this time.

Highway: Road Report: A. Lyford reported that the crew is hauling sand and has put in a culvert and done some ditching on Taylor Valley Road. They are watching the weather as it is beneficial to do road grading when there is moisture in the ground. They brought the mowing tractor to Chelsea and have returned the hydro-seeder. He has ordered 4 new tires and sent in others to be recapped. There is a chloride invoice that needs attention: **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve and pay the invoice of \$4,785.21 and to add it to the current warrants. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the meeting minutes of 5/23/23 and the special meeting minutes of 5/26/23. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Town Garage Update: V. Stone reported that Lajeunesse Construction Inc. (LCI) has been digging for the foundation, footings, and making lots of progress generally since ground was broken on June 1st. The SB acknowledges that there have been a couple of complaints about smoke from the brush fire, but hope residents will be understanding of the need to have a one-day burn. A. Lyford noted that some of the trees (hemlock and yellow birch) tagged for removal may not need to be removed after all. K. Bushey spoke to the worksite crew and James Coe about the culvert work so that the order for a longer culvert would be clarified. Soil testing will take place on June 7th. K. Bushey spoke to G. Craft and J. Coe about how the invoicing schedule will work most efficiently. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved that invoices from LCI would be automatically paid by the 15th of the month subject to oversight by James Coe. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. K. Bushey purchased a camera for the site as requested by LCI and it will be installed this weekend. The SB requested that a post to the town be issued to remind people to watch for construction vehicles in the VCR area and to invite residents to call or email the SB if they have any questions.

Recycle Report: M. Gunn reported that we are now in the season when bears are coming around to check out the packer truck. He will monitor the situation but one

solution might be emptying the truck more frequently. G. Craft has sent him a new video on how to recycle batteries correctly. A. Lyford will order the call for the switch out of the metal dumpster when it is full. M. Gunn is still trying out different drop-off configurations and marking with orange cones to allow for either efficient drop off or visiting at the site. There are some parking spots if anyone wants to take their time and/or visit the kiosk.

Salvage yard: Allen LaFlamme reported that the crusher he purchased will arrive in about a week. He did move some cars inside the gates and some have been moved off site. He admits that not as many cars have been removed in the allotted time frame as indicated earlier, but he intends to remove between 4-500 cars before he closes up for the winter as agreed upon. The reason for the delay was that the first crusher he wanted to purchase did not work out and had to look for another one. The SB's biggest concern is keeping all cars and vehicles off of RTE 113. Once he starts off loading crushed cars to a scrap dealer, he will submit slips to the Town Office so the SB can track how many cars are removed from the yard. The SB asked A. LaFlamme to send an email message once his crusher is on site and working. Board members would like to visit and see it work. The SB also requested that he set up safety cones when big trucks are entering/leaving the yard. The renewal of the yard's Certificate of Location later this year will depend on making good progress towards the mutually agreed-upon goals.

ACO Planning: The SB discussed how to share the duties of animal control needs in Vershire. The pager remains active and will rotate among SB members for the time being. G. Craft will set up an ACO email address and continue to issue tickets for unlicensed dogs.

K. Paronto's well: Mr. Paronto indicated recently that he was seeking help for financing a new well from his homeowners insurance policy. G. Craft asked him to share any documentation with the town that might indicate liability for the contamination of his well. Additionally, if he wants to research past meeting minutes, he is welcome to come into the town office for assistance. Without any evidence, however, the town does not perceive any liability for problems associated with his well. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to authorize K. Bushey to sign a letter to Mr. Paronto summarizing these findings. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported there will be an end-of-the school year party on June 16th and that summer events are being planned. The first live band event is scheduled for July 7th. The committee is also planning activities for Vershire Day on July 1.

Energy Committee: D. Hooke has drafted a listserv message thanking folks for coming out to discuss the energy systems under consideration for the town garage.

The SB asked G. Harvey to combine the message with a notice about the groundbreaking event/awareness of construction vehicles at 815 VCR.

The Energy Committee is also planning an energy fair for Vershire Day similar to last year's event. It will be staged in front of the TCB and run from approximately 2-5pm. The Committee also is continuing to work on promoting the van pool concept. With respect to the MERP grant money that was awarded, G. Craft has offered to help administer the grant by tracking expenses if a member of the EC writes the final report. The funds will be spent on energy education and outreach generally, and includes finishing the kiosk, procuring a design for a park and ride lot, supporting the window dressers program particularly for low-income households, and enhancing the EC page on the town's website. The SB would not need to approve these expenditures but would expect to see them as they are included with the warrants. **Action:** K. Bushey moved to authorize G. Craft to administer the Energy Committee's MERP grant of \$4000. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

TCB Committee: R. Seybolt proposed that 50% of the pavilion change order be paid given the fact that missteps in communication, oversight, and actions taken without notification occurred. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to pay \$840 of Timber Homes change order request. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. K. Bushey will stop by the office to sign the change order noting the amendment.

R. Seybolt also reported that the effort to recruit volunteers to raise the pavilion and provide food for the workers is going well. The timbers will be brought to the site during the week of June 19 and the raising will begin at 8am on Saturday, June 24th. Volunteers will sign a waiver to protect the town from liability. Timber Homes has its own insurance. D. Hooke will share the text of the waiver with the SB at the June 20th meeting. The Journal Opinion will take photographs and write a story on the pavilion raising. The event will go forward rain or shine but work will halt if there is thunder/lightning. Soil from the garage excavation may be used at the TC and K. Bushey will make the transport arrangements when needed.

AA employment position: A final draft of an advertisement and a job description is ready to post online, on listservs, and in hard copy format at town locations.

Action Items/Assignments:

Action: K. Bushey moved to approve the 2023 Selectboard Rules of Procedure. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to shift the regularly scheduled meeting of Tuesday, July 4 to Wednesday, July 5. As a result of the holiday, employee checks will be available one day later than usual. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:42pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.