

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 7:00pm, 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, Mike Gunn, and Terry Lemieux.

Call to Order: K. Bushey 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 A. Lyford and G. Harvey met with the FEMA representative today to continue compiling and sharing the information needed to process Vershire's funding request. She is requesting a procurement policy. He will ask C. Bump (District 4) about how this works for small towns. Another challenge will be to document the disposal of brush/wood from some of the damaged roads. FEMA requires a "cradle to grave" level of documentation with GPS coordinates for debris removal. Regarding town equipment, the town will need to purchase 2 tires for the loader before winter. They are approximately \$1700 each. He will finish the mowing tomorrow and intends to store the mowing tractor and the loader in the old garage for the winter. He will try to get one more week out of the metal dumpster and switch it out once more before it is picked up for the winter around November 1st. He will meet V. Stone at Mero Road at 3pm tomorrow to discuss the bridge project with an engineer.

Recycle Report: Mike Gunn thanked A. Lyford for filling in for him when he was away. V. Stone will call for the delivery of a new propane tank. It will need to be chained/secured. The signage at the transfer station is working well and most people now have punch cards. He wanted to alert everyone to the final Big trash events this season: in W. Fairlee on 9/16 (8-11); Thetford on 9/23 (9-12); and Strafford on 9/30 (9-12). N. White-Fogarty offered to take large items from the town to W. Fairlee on Saturday.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the meeting minutes of 8/29/23. 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.

Access VT RTE 113 - Terry Lemieux who lives near the temporary bridge on 113 is concerned that the ROW is now so limited that fuel trucks and/or other emergency vehicles will not be able to access her home this winter. The Selectboard recommends bringing this problem to the Planning Commission meeting tomorrow night 9/13 at 7pm and to request the Development Administrator look into the causes of the ROW limitations.

Town Garage Update: EVT and MERP applications-G. Harvey summarized verbally (and in written form to the selectboard) the results of her phone call with the garage architect, James Coe on Wed. 9/6. Based on his feedback and recommendations, the Selectboard will forgo applying for the EVt incentives at this time but will move ahead and apply for the MERP assessments in order to keep all funding options open for town building efficiency upgrades in the future. G. Harvey will call H. Falconer at TRORC and find out next steps for the MERP application.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that they are preparing for the dedication of the pavilion on Sept. 22 and for a harvest festival in October. He would like to recommend that Amanda Gilman be appointed to serve on the Recreation Committee. Amanda is also interested in picking up the cabaret event from D. Kingsbury and coordinating it under the umbrella of the Recreation Committee. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to appoint Amanda Gilman to the Recreation Committee. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Energy Committee: No report.

TC Committee: R. Seybolt wanted to discuss the timing of a notification to Better Places about the completion of the pavilion. This enables Vershire to receive the balance of the grant funds. Related discussions involved site functionality and rain-water drainage in the area **Action:** K. Bushey moved to notify *Better Places* grant program (Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development) and TimberHomesllc in Vershire that the pavilion project is now complete and the town is ready to receive the balance of the Better Places grant funding. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

R. Seybolt also shared details of the agenda & planning for the pavilion dedication event scheduled from 5-8pm on Friday September 22nd. The Selectboard wanted to verify that all appropriate invitations will be sent out. Another topic needing discussion is a usage policy for the new pavilion. Additional topics covered included the need to establish a usage policy for the pavilion, the ditching estimates that are coming in, sharing the TC wifi password with the public, and assessing the budget balance for the TC.

Action Items/Assignments:

- Employee Handbook Review—G. Harvey will request model policy for small towns from VLCT.
- Site Visit Allen's Salvage Yard— G. Harvey will notify A. LaFlammed that the SB is able to schedule a site visit on Saturday, Sept. 23rd at 1pm.
- G. Harvey reported for the Dev. Administrator about a requested drive by site visit. The SB requested that the DA offer regular reports to the Planning Commission to be captured in its minutes.
- G. Harvey provided a letter requested by the Board for a signature.

Action: V. Stone moved that the Selectboard accept and sign this year's road salt quote from Cargill for the upcoming season. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.