

**Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 7, 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, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Mike Gunn, Reva Seybolt, and Bob Harnish

**Call to Order:** K. Bushey 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:** A. Lyford has arranged for some additional help if needed. The trucks are all ready for the season. Sand is stocked and he intends to use up the salt they have before ordering more. He is hoping to get some spot grading done next week. K. Bushey asked about the NAPA tools bill on the warrants. A. Lyford will make a decision soon.

**Recycle Report:** M. Gunn asked when the metal dumpster will be removed. It is weather dependent and needs to be removed when snow plowing begins. He will put a sign on the dumpster's back entry to make sure the door stays closed. The new propane tank is secured. He returned the MOU to Casella and noted their price increases and the lack of alternatives. He is able to report some cost savings (about 2 pickups worth) by intentionally packing down the paper. M. Gunn inquired about purchasing rain/reflective gear for the site workers. He will include it in the budget request for '24-'25.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the meeting minutes of 10/24/23. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Current Period Warrants Approval:** V. Stone moved to approve the current period warrants. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Town Garage Update:** V. Stone reported that the construction workers have broken the phone/internet connection for a second time. A Consolidated technician was there today to assess the problem area. He noted that they could run a temporary line but with a plan to switch to EC Fiber, it might be worth setting that up now and having LCI pay Consolidated's early termination fee. K. Bushey will run the options past J. Coe and others. N. White-Fogarty asked about the soil that was hauled away and whether a determination of ownership has been made. The finishing of the settlement ponds also was discussed. A final topic involved the cost estimate for metal conduit for security system installation as opposed to a

much smaller, original estimate. Some workarounds were discussed and a member of the SB will follow up with the contractor. K. Bushey will contact Rita Seto about an 80/20 grant for next construction season for a sand and salt shed. G. Harvey reported that VLTC's insurance arm: PACIF will draw up coverage for the new building during the two weeks prior to the walk-through on December 18th.

**Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC):** Two representatives are needed from Vershire. Currently, the committee wishes to verify that Eric Gilbert is still willing to be the EMD and requests that a second representative be appointed by the Selectboard from among EMS or Fire Dept. members. V. Stone will follow up.

### **Committee Reports:**

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that volunteers will begin construction of the skating rink on Sat. 11/18 at 9am. N. White-Fogarty encouraged the committee to tap into the student volunteers who need community service. Later that day at 4:30pm there will be a "Townsgiving" potluck. A visit from Santa has been confirmed for December 9th from 1-3pm. Between now and December 9th, there will be box on the porch of Vershire that will serve as a winter clothing drive for children. The Rec Committee has arranged to be the contact between adults and children who want affordable options for winter skiing. The Dartmouth Skiway has set prices at \$10/day with an additional \$10/day to rent skis. The ski "day" still needs to be determined. Promotion will occur on the Listserv, posters, etc. Conversations are still being had with respect to the purchase of a snowblower to maintain the ice rink, with a request to search for business sponsorship/support.

Energy Committee: D. Hooke--no report

VTC Committee: R. Seybolt reports finishing the last of the paperwork for the pavilion project. The rest of the funds will be sent to the town around the middle of November. She has provided a bill for the hay that was spread once the site work was completed. The committee is planning to install the window inserts this week.

### **Action Items/Assignments**

- Diversity statement: There were some final questions and discussion with Bob Harnish, one of the organizers of a state-wide initiative for governments and organizations to adopt a "declaration of inclusion." To date, it has been adopted by at least 126 towns, and by organizations such as the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. For more info/FAQs [DOI-FAQs.10\\_22\\_2023.pdf \(vtdeclarationofinclusion.org\)](https://vtdeclarationofinclusion.org/DOI-FAQs.10_22_2023.pdf)

**Action:** V. Stone moved to have the Selectboard sign the Declaration of Inclusion statement on behalf of the town of Vershire. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Admin. Asst. Report-G. Harvey reported on the findings of a free site survey conducted by Vermont Computing Coop (Randolph) at the Town Office and the Town Center. The Coop will send recommendations for technology fixes and/or upgrades for the Selectboard to consider; Allen's Salvage has been removing crushed cars from its lot but the numbers of cars still parked on VT RTE 113 are still a problem/hazard; MTAP (Municipal Technical Assistance Program) is still waiting for clearer project categories from AoA before it can find funding for proposed projects.

**Adjourn:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.