

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January, 2, 2024 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, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Mark Fogarty, Mike Gunn, Debra Kingsbury, and Reva Seybolt.

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

Agenda Review & Modifications: Begin with an executive session to discuss an HR question and add Employee Handbook Revisions to the AA

Public and Staff comments: None at this time.

Action: K. Bushey moved to enter an executive session to discuss employee benefits included in the Employee Handbook (2020) under the provision 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). He invited Alan Lyford, Mark Fogarty, and Gretchen Harvey into the session. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: K. Bushey moved to exit the executive session with the finding that more information about employee health benefits needs to be gathered from the Clerk/Treasurer. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Highway: Road Report: A. Lyford reported on the crew's efforts to repair road damage caused by recent warm temperatures and rain. The conditions are extremely challenging because the ground is so saturated. He is concerned that these conditions will not be so rare in the future. The crew will do the best they can to maintain the roads during these events, but it's also very important for residents to understand that too much driving on soft roads means the worse they become. Staying off the roads as much as possible if residents are able to do so is best for the roads.

Procurement Policy: Final edits were discussed with respect to the Procurement Policy the town needs to adopt in order to be able to receive financial assistance from FEMA. G. Harvey will make the changes and have the policy ready for signing at the next meeting.

Transfer Station: M. Gunn reported that the equipment at the transfer station is running well. He summarized the price increases for containers and disposal that are part of the annual NRRRA-MOU. Total increases are estimated to be between 4-5,000 annually. These appear to be few alternatives to mitigate against these cost increases. M. Gunn will explore options with NRRRA and report back if there is any way to reduce these costs.

Action: V. Stone moved that the Selectboard sign the 2024 MOU. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: K. Bushey moved to approve the meeting minutes of 12/19/23. V. Stone 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: K. Bushey reported that the Town has received the final payment application, which will be the last bill until the final site work is completed in the spring. Funds have been held back to pay for this work. A decision still needs to be made about which internet/phone provider will be used at 815 Vershire Center Rd. Internet/phone needs to be in place before VT. Security can install a system at the garage.

Vershire Listers: D. Kingsbury tried to join via Zoom but audio difficulties prevented her from sharing her Listers report. She left the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey will check with Tractor Supply or FarmTek for 4 mil plastic as an alternative to a rink liner. The committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday and discuss its budget for the next year.

Energy Committee: D. Hooke—no report.

VTC Committee: N. White-Fogarty reported that R. Seybolt has sent a budget to the selectboard for its consideration and that the lights on the flagpole and monument do not seem to be working. R. Seybolt was asked to call Tilden electric as he has taken care of this in the past.

Action Items/Assignments:

Bradford Veterinary Clinic Agreement: N. White-Fogarty asked if BVC offers emergency service outside of regular hours. G. Harvey will follow up and find out. **Action:** K. Bushey moved to have N. White-Fogarty sign the agreement with Bradford Veterinary Clinic. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Admin. Asst. Report: G. Harvey presented 2 letters and a Bond Insurance Memo to the Selectboard for signing. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved that K. Bushey sign the Bond Insurance memo stating the final price of the garage project as \$1,506,202.00. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Fogarty wanted to recognize the time, effort, and expertise that V. Stone devoted to the garage project by going to the site daily and keeping a watch over the work being done.

Action: V. Stone moved to have K. Bushey sign the Certificate of Substantial Completion once it has been printed on 1/3/202. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Harvey was asked to continue editing the Highway Employee Handbook as per requests from the Selectboard and as more information is gathered. There is agreement that once it is complete, having a legal review would be advisable prior to adoption.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:4pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.