

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:00pm, Vershire Town Center.
There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty, Vern Stone, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Alan Lyford, Reva Seybolt, Debra Kingsbury, Justin Willeau, Lucas Daniels, Meghan Carroll, Mark Fogarty, and Rosie Wawrzyniak.

Call to Order: Nicole called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: None.

Public and Staff comments: D. Kingsbury wanted to suggest that with all the new use of the Town Center that it is more important than ever to hire someone to both clean and check on the building on a regular basis. M. Carroll wanted to say that as a taxpayer she is unhappy that she was unable to drive home via Reed Rd. at 6:00pm tonight due to the snowstorm. She wants to know why Reed road was not plowed. The Highway Superintendent responded that they have been plowing today as late as 4pm but that the snow is falling very fast right now. He also noted that it doesn't make sense to spread sand now and have it be covered up quickly and then plowed off the road in a few hours once the storm has ended.

Highway: Road Report: A. Lyford reported that the roads are not in good shape due to the storm and because it was preceded by two mini 'mud seasons' and then a hard freeze. He also reported on some of the truck repairs that have been needed and how prices for parts remain high. He noted that a meeting with our FEMA manager has been set up for Thursday and we are hoping to push this process forward so reimbursements for July flood damage can follow without further delay.

Purchasing Policy: G. Harvey shared the final version of the policy that includes the edits as per SB suggestions at the last meeting. **Action:** V. Stone moved to adopt the Purchasing Policy. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Meeting Schedule: Reasons for moving Town Meeting from March to later this spring were discussed. Moving it from March 5th is still allowable under Vermont law. There are a lot of deadlines to meet in a short amount of time. Selectboard members would like to return to a March meeting date but because one member is absent the two members present are uncomfortable making a decision tonight. The SB will schedule an emergency meeting to discuss and make a decision as soon as feasible.

Animal Control: The ACO pager is not receiving any traffic even though notices about missing & lost dogs do get posted on a local Facebook Group

page. The Town has arranged for a rabies and vaccination clinic to be held at the Town Center Building on Sunday, March 10th from 10:00 am until noon. Dog owners who are out of compliance with registration will receive mailed notices to encourage them to get their pets vaccinated and registered by the state mandated deadline of April 1, 2024.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the meeting minutes of 1/2/24 as amended. N. White-Fogarty 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: N. White-Fogarty has done some research on Starlink but there are obstacles to contracting for this service. Because ECFiber cannot install until the ground thaws in the spring, the decision was made to contract with Consolidated Communications for phone and internet service for the time being. G. Harvey will follow up and request that the old town garage phone # be transferred to the new garage.

Salvage Yard: A. LaFlamme decided not to attend due to the snow storm.

Vershire Listers: D. Kingsbury and the SB agreed it would be good to have her discuss the Lister position during the next budget meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 1/23/24 at 6pm.

Farmers Market: L. Daniels shared a proposal to host a farmers market on the front green of the Town Center. He has done some research to find out best practices from other markets, how best to compliment rather than compete with nearby markets, what support NOFA might offer, and has begun to gauge vendor interest. Before doing any more he wanted to ask if Sunday afternoons would be acceptable and proposed scheduling a meeting with SB members to assess the location. There is a leach field in this area that needs to be protected and any trash produced would also need to be the responsibility of the organizers.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: V. Stone reported that the timing of filling the rink is being worked out. D. Kingsbury noted that Feb 17th is the date of the snowshoe-a thon and a tentative date in late April is being considered for the annual Cabaret.

Energy Committee: No report.

VTC Committee: R. Seybolt followed up on two items from the last meeting. She is still trying to contact Tilden and requests more clarity on the process she should follow for minor repair work at the TC. The process now that the Purchasing Agreement has been approved is for R. Seybolt can make calls and get estimates whenever there is an immediate repair that requires attention (i.e. lights, plumbing, electrical, etc). If the estimate for the work is under \$500.00 she needs to run it by the Admin. Asst. before having the work done. If the repair costs are over \$500.00, she needs to bring the estimate before the Selectboard for its approval. The Selectboard also asks that Gregory Wilson be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss his programming plans that require the use of the TCB and to discuss the question of purchasing padded chairs.

VEMT Report: E. Murphy joined the meeting at 8:30 pm and summarized the organizational work to date of the Vershire Emergency Management Team. She met with V. Stone and E. Gilbert recently to discuss goals and priorities based upon past experience. They intend to update written plans and develop appropriate protocols to be followed in the event of an emergency. They will model best practices by considering what other towns do and comply with state requirements. There is much work ahead but the goal is to begin building a solid foundation for emergency responses.

Action Items/Assignments:

Admin. Asst. Report: G. Harvey reported that a rabies clinic has been scheduled for Sunday, March 10th from 10:00 am until noon in the TCB. Interviews for the TCB cleaning position will be scheduled and the job announcement will be posted at least one more time. The RFP for Mero bridge work was discussed and it's possible that engineering work dates might need to be adjusted due to stream bed regulations. The project will be placed on the 1/30/24 agenda.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.