

**Town of Vershire Selectboard Emergency Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 4:30pm, Vershire Town Center.
There will not be a remote option for this meeting.**

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty, Vern Stone, Ken Bushey, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Debra Kingsbury, and Gene Craft-Clerk-Treasurer.

Call to Order: K. Bushey called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.

Purpose of the Special Meeting: To set the date for the Annual Town Meeting.

G. Craft requested an extension in order to better prepare for Town Meeting in 2024. He noted that there are a lot of state and federal deadlines looming and it's not viable to get everything done, or completed satisfactorily, in the time frame of having the Town Meeting on March 5th. Because the legislature allows towns to delay Town Meeting again this year, he doesn't see a rationale for rushing the process.

A wide-ranging discussion followed listing many pros and cons of changing the date or keeping it as is on March 5th. The SB's interest in having Town Meeting on March 5th in 2024 has been clear for some time. The SB prefers keeping to this schedule.

D. Kingsbury wanted to speak to the workload faced by staff in small towns, and in Vershire in particular, which has been under a lot of pressure this year due to extreme weather events among other things. G. Harvey noted that FEMA work is on-going and filling out financial paperwork with VT's Dept of Public Safety is another task she plans to ask the Treasurer to accomplish in the near future. She also noted that it really doesn't matter what size a town is (and how big a staff they have), the compliance paperwork is the same.

The SB will check on the moderator's flexibility and suggests moving the date of town meeting to March 24, 2024.

Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to change Town Meeting from March 5th to March 24, 2024, with the informational portion to be held on Saturday, March 23 at 10am. K. Bushey second. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn. N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.