

**Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at 7:00pm at the 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, Peet Pearson, James Coe, Gene Craft, Reva Seybolt, Gregory Wilson and Mark Fogarty.

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

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** Add Municipal Technical Assistance Program Participation to Action Items.

**Public and Staff comments:** None at this time.

**Highway: Road Report:** A. Lyford reported on the condition of Eastman Cross Road after a recent rain storm that dropped 5 inches of rain in a few hours. He met with a representative of the state today and learned the event was too localized for FEMA activation but that the state of Vermont has emergency grant funds it can use to help repair road damage. He also spoke to R. Seto at TRORC about grant assistance for upsizing culverts in this area. Although ECR can be fixed now, another storm could cause similar damage in the future because of where the road is located. Currently, the road is passable for residents and emergency vehicles. Some of the repair work will be put out to bid as soon as possible, as it requires equipment larger than what the town owns. A. Lyford will meet with the 'stream bank specialist' from DNR and others tomorrow and ask follow-up questions. There are 4 locations impacted by this storm: one on ECR, two on SVR, and one on VCR. The state will offer funding for ECR and VCR damage. In order to apply for the grant funds (approximately 90% of total costs), the SB needs to send a letter requesting assistance from the Agency of Transportation (AOT). G. Craft will put together a letter with the necessary supporting documents. **Action:** K. Bushey moved to authorize sending a request for assistance to the AOT for road damage caused by the recent rain storm. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion followed about proper notification protocols for emergencies: when to call 911, who receives notifications via pagers, the role played by VERT: Vermont Emergency Response Team, who notifies the Selectboard, and the speed at which information gets posted to Facebook by private citizens. It would be up to the Selectboard to review best practices for emergency responses and to formalize a process for Vershire.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** V. Stone moved to approve the meeting minutes of 6/20/23. K. Bushey 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.

**Administrative Assistant Position - Gene Craft:** K. Bushey asked some questions related to hiring an AA to the Selectboard: how many (approximate) number of hours would an AA work per pay period, the need for additional tech, phone other office equipment, and providing the AA access to the office outside of

regular hours. TheSB also discussed the timing of creating a workstation in the Town Office.

**Town Garage Update:** N. White-Fogarty asked James Coe when the phone line to 815 VCR would be repaired and why service was not restored either on Friday or Monday. Also, the culvert LCI installed needs to be removed and fixed. It is too shallow as is. James Coe will request these fixes and request photos of the repair work once it is completed. The SB selected colors for exterior walls, louvers, roof, trim and interiors/countertop. Exterior wall color: Evergreen; louvers: Dove Gray; interior walls: white eggshell, with semi-gloss in bathroom; standard laminate #4882-38 Wilsonart for cabinet and dark/speckled for minimal countertop. K. Bushey reported that an electrician from WEC will be at the next garage meeting and paperwork will need to be completed at that time. He asked G. Harvey to contact Irving Energy and request that a technician attend a garage meeting on July 13th at 11am.

The SB verified change order #3; discussed a process for how to submit bills and receive payment for work done by the road crew; discussed the need to prepare for electrical and EC fiber installation, and reviewed the recent bill from LCI. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the signing of payment #2 to Lajeunesse Construction Inc. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to sign and approve change order #3 from Lajeunesse Construction Inc. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**K. Paronto's well:** K. Bushey has spoken to K. Paronto who was unhappy with the letter he received from the town. K. Bushey reiterated that the town cannot act or make any decision without evidence (a well water sample or other documentation) that indicates the town sand and salt shed is the cause of his water problem.

**Town Center Fence** - Peet Pearson is present to discuss the fence that borders her property and the TC. N. White-Fogarty received an estimate for materials, which is just under \$300. The SB requests being able to prune back the rose bushes on the TC side of the line to assist with installation of a new fence. P. Pearson has no objection with them doing so. The TCB committee will try to round up some volunteers to help with fence installation and painting. A final decision to purchase materials and move forward is tabled pending more information.

**Recycle Report** - Mike Gunn sent his report via email. There is a new Metals Bin at the site and they will send both containers to Casella later this week. The trash truck went down on Monday due to all the chicken scraps from Vershire day. There has been no bear damage lately and residents are still becoming familiar with the punch-card system. The SB agreed that if M. Gunn wants to use his own string trimmer to clean up around the shed and kiosk, he is welcome to do so.

**Town Center Building Usage Policy:** Gregory Wilson is here to inquire about the TCB usage policy and the practice of notifying the resident who reserves the space that they could be bumped from the calendar if a paid rental request is made for

the same date. He and others have held two support group meetings at the TCB so far with plans to continue 2x/month meetings if the demand is there to do so. He also would like to arrange to bring in outside speakers 2-4 times per year to talk about mental health topics. Support groups need consistency in order to be effective and he believes that if the meetings can be canceled at the last minute, this will create anxiety about the value of them in the minds of attendees. He perceives a real need in the community for support groups but he acknowledges that time will tell. He suggests that this type of activity creates a third category of usage—not for profit but for the health of the larger community. And there is a potential economic benefit to reducing the demands on emergency services. V. Stone knows of no other time when a double booking has led to this result, but the SB is willing to review the policy and consider the value to the community as a variable for reserving space in the TCB. The topic is tabled for now to give the SB and the TCB committee time to review the existing policy.

### **Committee Reports:**

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that Vershire day was successful and that Friday is the next organized event with a pizza fundraiser and live music. The proceeds will go towards the purchase of a snow blower for maintaining the ice rink. L. Craft will provide all 3 committees with a recap of Vershire day events with a list of +/- for planning next year.

Energy Committee: No report. The Park and Ride discussion will be on the July 18th SB agenda.

TCB Committee: R. Seybolt has been told by the Chelsea post office that the bulletin board in Vershire will be taken down. This leaves only the Town Office bulletin board and the recycle center kiosk (both boards having some limitations) as places to post announcements. V. Stone will inquire about the possibility of moving the bulletin boards to a different location on the same building.

The dead trees along the river have been cut down and some chips created for use at the TC. The committee will need a plan for removing some large logs left behind before winter. N. White-Fogarty has looked into using RAZR lights in the lower level of the TCB, ones that might work with the existing can fixtures. The value of switching out the old bulbs is aesthetic as the canisters do not diffuse light and the lower level often seems dark. More research is needed to see if they will work and what the cost will be to replace the old bulbs.

R. Seybolt presented a list of needs for the TC that she introduced prior and now has estimates for purchasing: a replacement vacuum at \$170, four picnic tables at \$275 each for a total of \$1100, and two indoor folding tables for \$420. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to authorize the TCB committee to purchase the above listed tables and vacuum at a total cost of \$1,690. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Items/Assignments:** Municipal Technical Assistance Program Participation

**Action:** K. Bushey moved to have Vershire participate in the Municipal Technical Assistance Program. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjourn:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 10pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.