

## **Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 12, 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, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Mark Fogarty, Doug Stone, Justin Willeau, Lucas Daniels, Debra Kingsbury, Gene Craft, Mike Gunn, and Reva Seybolt.

**Call to Order:** K. Bushey called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** G. Harvey asked the Selectboard to include a new, regular agenda heading titled: Correspondence, under Administrative Assistant report.

**Public and Staff comments:** Justin Willeau, President of the Board of Vershare, said he is researching how best to collaborate with the Town for the purpose of offering insurance to cover activities held at the Town Center. He also wanted to ask if the town had decided how it will use its ARPA funds. This ARPA funds topic was discussed in a community discussion on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 6:30pm at the Vershire Town Center. The minutes are on the Town website for more detail. The Selectboard's opinion then as now is that the most prudent use of ARPA funds is to reduce the price of the bond for the new Town Garage, thereby helping to mitigate the tax burden. D. Kingbury wanted to point out that the town vault is at capacity and creating more space needs to be considered.

**Highway:** Road Report: V. Stone reported that the roads are pretty good in the morning but do get soft later in the day. The crew has been out daily trying to put material down to mitigate the worst of the ruts and mud. He also has urged delivery vehicles to try to make their runs in the morning when the roads are still firm. School buses continue to avoid interior roads but have not been doing the best job of communicating with the town. K. Bushey asked D. Stone and M. Fogarty if they had been hauling gravel. M. Fogarty reported that thankfully they have some gravel stockpiled but when he has tried to get more at the Chelsea pit, there were many trucks waiting as lots of towns are in the same situation of needing appropriate sized gravel. It is very hard to get it right now.

Truck Maintenance: This discussion was initiated by a resident's inquiry about the effectiveness of Vershire's truck maintenance practices. The crew reported that the pressure washer is used as often as possible. It is working well again because it was fixed in house. The town used to employ a local service to undercoat the trucks, but the business was sold and no one in the area could be found to do this work. And although the crew members agree

there are some benefits to undercoating, it is also true that this coating can also cause problems by putting stress on truck bodies by causing more shucking. They feel that regular power washing of trucks and keeping them in good repair goes very far to insure their longevity. They do a lot of truck maintenance in house and keep meticulous records for each vehicle. They are proud of their record and of the money they have saved the town by not having to out-source all repairs. The town is lucky to have a crew with diverse mechanical and welding skills.

**Garage Report:** V. Stone reported that the fan is still not working properly and that condensation is still very high at the new garage. He will call Russell Lajeunesse and let him know that more needs to be done to address these problems.

**Transfer Station:** M. Gunn reported that it has been slow this past month likely due to residents wanting to stay off the muddy roads. He intends to make battery recycling and disposal a priority in coming weeks. He received a query about electronic recycling so he reached out to Ham Gillette and found out that the next scheduled opportunities for e-recycling in area towns are scheduled for the month of September. If residents need to recycle before then, see <https://www.guvswmd.org/> for disposal options.

M. Gunn indicated that he is resigning as Recycling Coordinator with his last day being May 4th (Green up Day). The Selectboard wanted to thank him for his 5 years of service to the Town in all types of weather and on Saturdays year round. M. Fogarty offered to serve as a temporary substitute if needed until a new coordinator is hired. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to accept Mike Gunn's resignation as Recycling Coordinator noting his last day of work as May 4, 2024. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 2/27/24. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Executive Session:** Human Resource matters.

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter an executive session for the purpose of discussing hiring for the Highway Department and and to discuss other human resource matters under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) and invited D.

Stone, M. Fogarty and G Harvey to join the session. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to exit the executive session with the finding that G. Harvey will speak to legal counsel about our hiring process and also will write a letter to address and close out the matter of a complaint. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported on an event being organized called Paint & Snack, tentatively scheduled for early April. This event is being planned in coordination with the Westshire Elem art teacher who has led a number of these events. The committee decided to pay for the facilitator's time but seek donations for supplies as well as suggested donations by participants. The Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 30th at 10:00am.

Energy Committee: No report.

VTC Committee: R. Seybolt reported that the Mountain School is trying to keep parents off the road when they come to pick up their students this Thursday. The school would like to use the TCB and its parking lot between 7am and 2pm on Thursday, March 14th. The pick up of students will be staggered and the use of the building is to provide bathroom facilities if needed while the parents are waiting. Mountain School cars are already in the parking lot and some might need to move to make room for the parents' cars. R. Seybolt also reported on her discussions with Vershare and G. Craft about her work to revise the TCB rental agreement. In particular, the question of insurance covering events needs to be clarified and settled. On March 10th, the TCB hosted a Play every Town Piano event accompanied by a slide show of historic Vershire photos compiled by A. Wasserman. About 25 attended and it was a successful event.

**Executive Session:** Human Resource matters.

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter an executive session for the purpose of discussing an interview and the possible hiring of a cleaning service for Vershire Town buildings under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) and invited G. Harvey into the session. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to exit the executive session with the finding that references will need to be received and checked before any

further action is taken. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Administrative Assistant:** Correspondence Report: G. Harvey shared a summary of recent correspondence with town attorney Sarah Buxton who is advising the town on complaint and employee handbook policies.

**Action Items/Assignments:** G. Harvey asked V. Stone (Road Commissioner) to sign some Excess Weight permits.

**Adjourn:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.