

**Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 26, 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, Doug Stone, Debra Kingsbury, Justin Willeau, Amy Record, Earl Robinson, Mark Fogarty, George Osgood, and Reva Seybolt.

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

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** G. Harvey requested adding an executive session after the Garage Report to discuss Highway Department employees and move the Mero Bridge Design contract decision to an executive session after Committee Reports.

**Public and Staff comments:** Debra Kingsbury let the Board know that Vershire has been given a one-year extension for renewing the tax-exemption status of VF&R and noted that this article will need to get on the warrant for Town Meeting in 2025. She also reported that the Grand List is being compiled and will likely become available at the end of April. Grievance meetings will be scheduled during May. The tally/numbers needed to set the municipal tax rate won't be available until late April or early May. All 128 parcels will need to be recalculated.

**Highway: Road Report:** D. Stone reported on snow removal after the recent storm of 17 inches. They had one breakdown on truck #3, which is now fixed. The crew will need to wait until the roads dry more before any grading can be done. He met with Rita Seto existing grant project work that will need to be accomplished this year. He reported on tire pricing for the grader and setting up the work space in the new garage. Crushed stone is still hard to find as blasting has not yet begun this spring. Consolidated did remove some trees on Ayers road that were threatening its pole there. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the purchase of tires for the grader. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Garage Report:** There was a discussion about various mechanicals adjustments that are needed inside the new garage and who is responsible for making these adjustments. K. Bushey will call R. Lajeunesse and request a meeting with him and others involved in setting up these systems for the purpose of observing and addressing these issues. K. Bushey wanted to let everyone know that the request made one year ago for Congressionally Directed Spending assistance to help fund the Town Garage has been approved. The sum of \$750,000 has been earmarked for Vershire. Follow up with Senator Peter Welch's office is needed.

The Selectboard noted that both George Osgood and Amy Record were in attendance and invited them to come and share their vision for Vershire during the Informational Meeting at 1pm on Saturday, April 6, 2024.

**Executive Session:** To discuss human resource matters.

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter an executive session for the purpose of discussing HR matters within the Highway Department under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) and invited G. Harvey and Doug Stone to join the session. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** K. Bushey moved to exit the executive session with the finding that Doug Stone accepts the promotion to Road Superintendent effective immediately. N. White-Fogarty seconded. V. Stone abstained. The motion passed.

**Animal Control:** N. White-Fogarty reported on various dogs that needed to be picked up and that V. Stone helped reunite them with their owners. returned to their owners. She has purchased some additional supplies for the log cabin garage, which is used as a temporary pet shelter when needed. G. Harvey will post the upcoming registration deadline in the Listserv one more time.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 3/12/24. Vern seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

### **Committee Reports:**

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported on the Easter Egg hunt event that will take place at the Town Center on Saturday, March 30th at 10:00am. The committee is still working out planning details for other future events.

Energy Committee: No report.

VTC Committee: N. White-Fogarty noted the committee is continuing to work out the insurance option and on an updated rental agreement for the Town Center. Vershire would like to write a grant to build a timber frame storage

shed designed to replace the older existing shed. It would be no larger than 10'x18' and would be used to store tents and summer camp supplies. If a grant is received, a more thorough plan will need to be submitted to the Selectboard for approval. R. Seybolt noted that new LED bulbs have been installed in the lower level ceiling thanks to the Energy Committee.

**Executive Session:** To discuss human resource matters.

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter an executive session for the purpose of discussing a hiring decision regarding 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 the town will engage Brianna Turner to clean the Town Center Building and the Town Office for a 90-days trial basis. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session:** Mero Bridge Engineering Design contracts.

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter an executive session due to a finding that premature general public knowledge regarding contracts with the Town of Vershire would place the public body or person involved at a substantial disadvantage under 1 V.S.A. §§ 313(a)(1). K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action: Nicole** moved to enter an executive session to discuss 3 engineering contract submissions to design repair work for the Mero road culvert under 1 V.S.A. §§ 313(a)(1)(A) and invited G. Harvey into the session. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** K. Bushey moved to exit the executive session with the finding that the Town will accept the design proposal from New England Consulting Engineers. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Administrative Assistant: Correspondence Report:** G. Harvey shared a summary of on-going tasks she is working on, the weekly calls she is now having with a FEMA manager, and she let the Board know that the ANR has sent a letter to Allen's Salvage Yard about the process he will need to follow to come back into compliance with the State.

**Action Items/Assignments:**

- The Town of Vershire has been granted a one-year grace period to approve a 5-year tax exemption for VF&R.
- G. Harvey asked V. Stone- Road Commissioner to sign some Excess Weight permits.

**Adjourn:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40pm V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.