

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 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, Amy Record, Gretchen Harvey-Admin. Asst. Doug Stone-Road Supt., Earl Robinson, Billy Anderson, Craig Kinney, Gene Craft, Carl Demrow, Mark Fogarty, and Reva Seybolt.

Call to Order: N. White-Fogarty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: N. White-Fogarty requested the following additions to the agenda: add a discussion with Craig Kinney about the Transfer Station/Packer truck after the Garage Report; add an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss an employee evaluation; and add a signing of VT Bond Bank documents right after approval of last meeting's minutes.

Public and Staff Comments: Carl Demrow wanted to stop by and check in. He noted he is running for re-election and reminded everyone to contact him if he can be of help to the Town. Earl Robinson is present and reiterated his frustration with noise on Taylor Valley Rd. He noted there are other residents interested in discussing a noise ordinance. N. White-Fogarty directed him to the Planning Commission whose task it is to research and propose ordinances.

Highway: Road Report: D Stone reported that the tractor has been repaired and is ready to be picked up. He will go on Thursday to make sure it's ready to bring back to Vershire. New gravel was spread on Vershire Center Rd today with the help of two contractors who hauled for the Town. A. Lyford also helped with road work today. Keeping up with equipment and road work is the top priority, and this includes mitigating road dust whenever possible. The printer at the Garage works well but the computer is now outdated and cannot handle the programs and needs of the highway dept. He would like to explore replacing Consolidated with EC Fiber at the garage. There are some low phone lines on Chamberlain Hill and Vershire Ctr Roads that need to be addressed. Green Mt Power has also been notified that some trees need to come down for safety reasons. Garage Report: D. Stone reported that a Lajeunesse employee came and repositioned/sealed doors and windows properly. N. White-Fogarty received a message from Greg Dixson who said he will come and re-survey the parking lot to verify the correct grade. There are still some concerns with the site work and the ventilation system before the final payment is made.

Transfer Station: The Town was notified on 7/13 of a minor accident involving the Packer Truck. Craig Kinney, driver, was asked several questions to hear his perspective on what happened. He reported that he performed the pre-check as required and that the brakes were working fine on the trip to Lebanon until they appeared to malfunction at a traffic stop. D. Stone has since tested the brakes and adjusted all 4 of them. The findings of the Selectboard are: to request that if Craig Kinney ever detects issues with the truck in the future, that it should be brought to the garage and not taken to Lebanon until it can be thoroughly checked out. Additionally, the Board will schedule a meeting between C. Kinney, the Road Supt. and a Selectboard member to discuss truck maintenance and upkeep.

Road Signage: RTE 113 & Salvage Yard: The Board asked G. Harvey to remind Allen LaFlamme that more than one orange cone needs to be put in the roadway when tractor trailers are entering or leaving his lot. Additionally, the SB would like him to contact the state about permanent signage similar to the type logging companies use for its logging trucks to warn of potential hazards on the roadway. Signage on Class 4 Roads: G. Craft received a call from a resident who reported that on at least 3 different occasions, drivers have gotten stuck on the section of Class 4 Road beyond their residence. These drivers are typically persons not familiar with Class 4 designation and/or are too trusting of GPS navigation technology. This is not uncommon on other roads in Vershire and elsewhere. The bigger issue here does not seem to be adequate signage, but people more willing to trust their phones rather than the signs.

Recycle Report: Billy Anderson attended and the SB asked him how it was going at the transfer station. He reported that the traffic flow seems to be fine, he talks to people and helps them if needed, and tries to keep things sorted properly. D. Stone wanted to remind him that if he needs help crushing down the cardboard, or help with anything else, he needs to contact him and let him know. B. Anderson noted that only one compost bin came back this past Saturday, but this is most likely because of the heavy demands of July 4th and Vershire Day weekend. The SB instructed him to contact the provider if two bins do not arrive this week. He also pledged to do the on-line battery training and to be more watchful about the items that get tossed into the metals bin: all or mostly plastic items need to be kept out. Other items not allowed are any kind of appliance with refrigerant or ACs etc, many of which can be taken to Corinth.

Animal Control Report: N. White-Fogarty has little to report. There was a mailing/reminder to license dogs sent at the end of May and that a follow up could be sent. G. Craft noted that the Town now has about 180 registered dogs but there likely are closer to 200 that need to be licensed.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 7/2/24. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Bond Bank documents: G. Craft shared documents that require signing to transfer the Garage construction debt to the VT Bond Bank as planned. M. Fogarty was assured that this action will not interfere with any on-going negotiations with Lajeunesse construction. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adopt the Resolution by the Town of Vershire to bond with the Vermont Bond Bank. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: No report.

Energy Committee: No report.

VTC Committee: R. Seybolt-reported that Uriah Wallace has done some small repairs at the TCB and will work with G. Craft to get the appropriate paperwork in place. She will meet with Tad Boardman to get an estimate on fixing the drainage ditch, the last big project of the year. The VTCC will approach the Energy Committee with this request:It would like to paint the kiosk roof silver (currently red) to better blend in with the other TC structures. She reported that the horseshoe pit will be installed soon.

Action Items/Assignments:

The Selectboard needs to adjust two future meeting dates to accommodate elections. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to change the August 13 meeting date to August 12 to accommodate the VT primary, and to change the November 5 meeting to November 4 to accommodate the federal election. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report: G. Harvey shared some invoices received from Allen LaFlamme, shared some preliminary research on augmenting town office phone system; and she reported that she is expecting to hear from District 4 on the bid package for Eastman Cross Road repair, and that the Road Crew advertisement continues to be reposted on various job boards and listservs. She will start editing the Employee Handbook and requested that the SB approve the latest version of the AA job description. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adopt the

Administrative Assistant job description as amended and to start posting it.
A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Action: V. Stone moved to enter an executive session to discuss the evaluation of an employee and invited D. Stone and G. Harvey to join the session as per 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(3). N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to exit the Executive Session with the finding that Craig Kinney's performance will be monitored for a probation period of 3 months and with the expectation that good communication be established between him and the Road Supt. who will work with him on truck maintenance protocols. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.