

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

**Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 7:00pm, Vershire Town Center.**

**There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.**

**Video Link:** <https://youtu.be/v-qSMAD2ams>

**Attendance:** Nicole White-Fogarty, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Gretchen Harvey-Admin. Asst. Doug Stone-Road Supt., Gene Craft-Clerk/Treasurer, Steve Ward, Mark Fogarty, and Debra Kingsbury.

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

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** An executive session needs to be added at the end of the meeting.

**Public and Staff Comments:** Steve Ward appealed to the Selectboard to ask about placing clearer signage on some entrances to our class 4 roads. Existing signs are not working to warn motorists who are getting stuck regularly. He has towed a number of vehicles recently due to them driving too far down these roads and then being unable to turn around or back out. He recommends signage that clearly states 'not a through road' in these locations.

**Highway:** Road Report: D Stone reported on various tasks being done to maintain roadways: cutting brush, grading, repairing some spots, and performing maintenance on the grader and trucks. He has fulfilled the earlier request from the Mountain School as pre-arranged. He is managing some grant funds that need to be used this year and is finishing some work on Beaver Meadow Rd. He plans to meet with E. Hathaway from EPA/Ely mine project to discuss the road use schedule and make plans for the work being done at the mine. He is lining up the details concerning the replacement of Truck #1 - Freightliner and is gathering pricing data for review by the Selectboard. As for converting the old truck #1 to a trash truck by switching out bodies, he recommends that it makes more economic sense to look for a used trash truck instead. He also attended a meeting with C. Bump, AOT-4 at Eastman Cross Rd to take measurements and get other details in place for putting this work out to bid. Additional work plans include fixing two culverts on Rowell Road, which will be closed temporarily on August 6th for this work.

Garage Report: The SB discussed whether a subcontractor for Lajeunesse Construction, Inc. (LCI) should be allowed back onto the Garage site to repair the grade and other items still considered unsatisfactory. The Board decided that LCI needs to suggest a new path forward, one that acknowledges the recommendations of Greg Dixson, Krebs and Lansing Senior Project Engineer. Additionally, James Coe-architect will be asked to provide a plan to remedy the malfunctioning air-exchange/mechanical system. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to seek legal advice concerning

the Town's negotiations with various contractors and based on the expert opinion of Greg Dixson, engineer with Krebs and Lansing. Further, she requests Board permission to notify LCI that its subcontractor Cass need not return to the site on Tuesday. She will also notify Coe and Coe Architects that the mechanical system needs attention now. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Municipal Tax Rate:** Gene Craft explained to the SB the various appropriations and inputs that inform the setting of the municipal tax rate.

**Action:** V. Stone moved to accept the combined municipal tax rate of 0.7054. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 7/16/24. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Current Period Warrants Approval:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the current period warrants. A Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

Recreation Committee: No report.

Energy Committee: No report.

VTC Committee: No report

**Action Items/Assignments:**

**Administrative Assistant:** Correspondence & Report: G. Harvey reported that Jeremiah LaFlamme is working with the state to install signage on RTE 113 near the salvage yard and that another load of crushed vehicles has left the lot last week. She also reported on the need for a new conference speaker and microphone combination to facilitate remote meetings, and will provide more information next time on options for adding an Admin. Asst. phone line for the Town Office.

**Executive Session: Action:** V. Stone moved to enter into an Executive session per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) for the purpose of making a hiring decision. He invited G. Harvey to enter the session. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to exit the Executive Session with the finding that the Town of Vershire will offer the Administrative Assistant position to Jamie Blondin and with the inclusion of a strategic on-boarding process conducted by G. Harvey. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjourn:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.