

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 7:00pm, Vershire Town Center.
There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.
Video <https://youtu.be/WPI-P4X7eDs>

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Gretchen Harvey-Admin. Asst., Pat Barnes, Mark Fogarty, Earl Robinson, Lucas Daniels, and Reva Seybolt.

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

Agenda Review & Modifications: None at this time.

Public and Staff Comments: N. White-Fogarty received a message from a resident who indicated their tax payment had not yet been cashed. She asked G. Harvey to follow up.

Earl Robinson reported that he and the Mjudges went to the Planning Commission meeting on 9/11/24 to share their discontent with the noise and trash problem on Taylor Valley Rd. Mr. Robinson believes that a tax lien can be used to force compliance with a noise ordinance if fines are levied but go unpaid. He also referenced legal advice that attributes authority to act to the Selectboard. E. Robinson was asked to share the legal advice he has received if the information might be helpful. Currently, the Selectboard is following the accepted process of asking the Planning Commission to take up the task of researching and possibly proposing a noise ordinance for Town adoption.

Highway: Road Report: No report. G. Harvey asked if there were possible mitigation work that could be attached to the Eastman Cross Road repair project and that FEMA might support. Increasing the size of some culverts, raising the road in a low section was suggested. She will ask D. Stone about what might be done to mitigate future storm damage.

Garage Report: N. White-Fogarty reported on a Garage meeting held last week with James Coe and Jeremiah Trombly. They discussed the moisture and condensation problems in the garage and are scheduled to get back in touch after they discuss these issues with the company that built/installed the system. Further, they will ask a representative to visit and verify proper installation of all mechanical components. Once the weather gets colder, Jeremiah Trombly also will return to assess that the system is working as planned. M. Fogarty asked if the Town would be charged for any of these adjustments. There are no charges anticipated at this point as checking over the system's operation is included in the system's warranty. Likewise, the

Town will not be charged for any adjustments to the site work and grading that needed to be re-done to finish that work. That work has been completed and Greg Dixson (Krebs and Lansing) has signed off on it.

Rowell Road: The question of doing road work to further protect a resident's water pipe in this location raised additional questions that need answers before a final decision is reached, including: the Town's policy for work done on Class 4 roads, a cost-sharing assessment, and the scheduling of such work.

Animal Control: An unclaimed adult cat was picked up near Ayers Road and brought to the Central VT Humane Society, with which the Town has a working relationship. There also was a discussion about the process for reimbursing the ACO for the mileage/time to transport animals. Additionally, the discussion considered the general duties and compensation policy for an Animal Control Officer generally and will need to be considered again when budget season begins.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 9/10/24. A. Record 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.

Vershire Artisan & Farmers Market: Lucas Daniels reported that the Market concluded on Sept. 15th. This first-year market succeeded in keeping somewhere between \$8,000 and \$10,000 circulating in the local economy and has been considered an overall success by the organizers. He asked the Selectboard three questions. Were there any concerns that arose during the 18 Sundays the Market operated? Does the town wish to assess the market for its electrical and/or porta potty use? And, if the Market expands significantly (4-6 vendors), would the Selectboard consider allowing it to move to the lower field? Suggestions and responses to these questions included: the need to improve communications between the Market organizers and those who schedule TCB rentals, research on costs, etc. to upgrade the porta potty so that it is ADA compliant, and researching all ramifications of moving the Market to the lower field, including the potential need to pass through the TCB.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: No Report.

Energy Committee: Pat Barnes described a late-breaking opportunity to apply for MERP funding (Municipal Energy Resilience Program), which would allow for adding solar panels to the Town Garage. This new request is related to his earlier one to apply for a Group Net Metering option for non-contiguous buildings. He also briefly summarized the assessment findings from the energy/blower tests done on the new Garage and at the Town Office earlier today. The full results of which will be shared with the Selectboard when they arrive. The MERP grant application is due Friday, 9/27/24 and the Energy Committee is only requesting that the Town apply for the funding with the understanding that if awarded it need not be accepted. There is no cost-share with this grant, which means all the costs would be covered, however, the town would need to budget the up-front costs until reimbursements could be submitted and received. The SB questioned why the Town had not heard about this sooner and reminded the Energy Committee that any correspondence between the EC and TRORC needs to include the Admin Asst. **Action:** A. Record moved to authorize the EC to work with the Admin. Asst. to complete the MERP application, and to increase the soft costs listed to 20%, and with the understanding that this is an application for funding only and does not commit the Town to accepting the funds or implementing the system proposed. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VTC Committee: Reva Seybolt noted only that the committee has started thinking about their budget proposals for next year.

Action Items/Assignments:

Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report: G. Harvey reported on her work with FEMA manager, submitting permit applications for work on Mero Road, and finalizing the start date for work to be done to repair Eastman Cross Road. V. Stone noted that the Town should put up a construction tape barrier once work is scheduled to begin.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.