

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 7:00pm, Vershire Town Center.

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

Video: <https://youtu.be/ynQOCesN3cc>

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Doug Stone-Road Supt., Gretchen Harvey-Sec. , Andrea Cunha-Admin. Asst., Mark Fogarty, Gene Craft-Clerk/Treasurer, David Hooke, Kathy Hooke, and Earl Robinson.

Call to Order: N. White-Fogarty called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: G. Craft requested time for SB approval of the 2026 Budget and a few minutes during the Road Report to discuss concerns about a culvert. The chair requested an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss a hiring decision.

Public & Staff Comments: None at this time.

2026 Budget Approval: Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to adopt the budget for the Highway and General funds for FY2026. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone reported that the paperwork on the new truck is on its way to Vershire. The truck should be ready for pickup by the end of February. He spent time recently with a radio technician going over the operations of the two-way radios in the town's trucks, as well as testing the repeater located at the Mountain School. A report with some suggestions for improved range is forthcoming. D. Stone reported routine equipment maintenance and the planned installation of ECFiber service at the Garage. The meter on the new fuel tank has been adjusted by the installer. G. Craft reported that a resident is concerned about a brush pile left behind by a power company, as it could block a culvert once spring arrives. The Selectboard will arrange to have this area cleared out. G. Harvey asked for information needed to plan residential access during the construction phase of upcoming culvert repair projects on Mero and Reed Roads.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 1/14/25. 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.

Lister Report: D. Kingsbury sent her regrets but wanted to let the Selectboard know that someone from NMRC will serve as required backup for new permit inspections and at a hearing scheduled in March.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: K. Hooke reported that the Town will receive a \$10,000 award from the Byrne Foundation to design an improved trail system at the Town Center. She is also working on a grant proposal to fund the actual construction of this trail from the 2025 Recreational Trails Program through VT Agency of Natural Resources. One segment of the trail will be fully accessible, and its extension will climb the hillside in the vicinity of the existing snowshoe-a-thon trail. Vershare has offered a \$500 donation for this effort, and K. Hooke will donate her time as project manager with an estimated cost of \$2,500. These two donations will satisfy the matching requirements by the granting agency. This is a reimbursement-type grant that will require submission of invoices on a quarterly basis until completed. She prepared a letter of support for the Selectboard to sign. **Action:** V. Stone moved to sign the letter of support for the Recreational Trails Program Grant through VT-ANR. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. K. Hooke also reported that the skating party held last weekend was very successful. There were lots of younger children, some of whom learned to skate for the first time that day. She estimates some 80 attendees over the course of the afternoon. The yoga and zumba classes likewise are continuing to be well attended.

Energy Committee: D. Hooke shared some committee suggestions for what the Town Meeting Warning might say in re: the need of a new heating system at the Log Cabin and the weatherization needs of other town buildings. The Selectboard thanked him for this presentation.

VTC Committee: No report.

Action Items/Assignments:

Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report: A. Cunha reported on some maintenance concerns she has addressed regarding the Town Center Building. She has re-posted the Recycling Coordinator position and will continue to do so. Her main presentation involved providing the Selectboard with various options and cost estimates for offering health insurance to full-time employees with the Town of Vershire. V. Stone requested some additional information before a decision can be made. She will follow up as requested.

Executive Session: Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to enter an executive session for the purpose of discussing a hiring decision as allowed by 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) and invited A. Cunha, G. Harvey, and D. Stone 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 continue to pursue additional applicants for its openings on the Road Crew and at the Transfer Station. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn to a date and time certain: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm to a date and time certain on Wednesday, 1/29/25 at 6:00pm for the purpose of approving the Warning for the annual Town Meeting. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting resumed: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 6:00pm

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Gretchen Harvey-Sec., Gene Craft-Clerk/Treasurer, and David Hooke.

Call to Order: N. White-Fogarty called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

The Warning is not yet ready to adopt or sign at this time.

Action: V. Stone moved to purchase a laptop for town office personnel. A Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** V. Stone moved to adopt the NRRA-MOU 2025 for recycle and transfer station services. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn to a date and time certain: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25pm to a date and time certain of Saturday, 2/1/2025 at 1:00pm in the Town Office and for the purpose of approving and signing the Town Meeting Warning 2025. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Call to Order: N. White-Fogarty called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Gretchen Harvey-Sec., and Gene Craft-Clerk/Treasurer.

Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the Town Meeting Warning 2025. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:10pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.