

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

**Tuesday, February 11, 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/8wgxxF1BFPk>**

**Attendance:** Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Doug Stone-Road Supt., Gretchen Harvey-Sec., Andrea Cunha-Admin. Asst., Mark Fogarty, Eileen Murphy, Connor Fogarty, Reva Seybolt, Earl Robinson, Steve Atwood, Ken Bushey, and Gene Craft-Clerk/Treasurer.

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

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** Request by the Town Clerk to add an executive session.

**Public & Staff Comments:** None at this time.

**Highway:** Road Report: D. Stone reported that regular plowing and some minor repairs are ongoing. Inspections are being scheduled for the two 10-wheelers and work is being done to clear icing and ditches in some locations. N. White-Fogarty requested a discussion about mitigation options being considered for reducing the impacts of mud season. The discussion covered some of the usual trouble spots on town roads, especially those that experience heavy use and/or have sections with southern exposures. She requested input on whether or not magnesium chloride, which is used in a watered-down manner and for different purposes, might be contributing to mud-season problems. After much input and discussion, the conclusion reached is that in addition to southern exposures, natural conditions such as ledges, clay, and water flow, all contribute to problem areas during mud season; magnesium chloride is unlikely to contribute to these problems, which can be especially bad if a rapid thawing of the roads occurs. The Road Supt. indicated that the road crew is doing everything it can to be pro-active and utilize the tools it has to address these areas. N. White-Fogarty also reported on a recent query about water permitting requirements for the new garage and asked the Admin. Asst. to follow up.

**Animal Control:** N. White-Fogarty reported there has been a recurrence of a roaming dog on VT-113. She is waiting to hear if it has been captured and returned home. She also followed up on a complaint about some dogs being left outside when temperatures were very low. She made a home visit and learned there is an accessible structure with a roof with bedding available for the dogs and deemed adequate to the need. She has also followed up on a biting incident that involved a new dog in Vershire. At this time, the owner is cooperating fully with all requests for licensing, vaccination updating, and other restraint and signage measures requested in order to keep passersby and visitors to the house safe. The Admin. Asst will follow up to ensure compliance with these requests.

**Vershire Emergency Management Planning:** E. Murphy presented requests for approval by The Vershire Emergency Management Team (VEMT). She answered all questions during the discussions regarding these requests:

- 1) To establish an *Emergency Management Advisory Committee* and appoint its membership.
- 2) To approve the *Memorandum of Understanding* between the VEMT and the Selectboard covering the utilization of the Town Center Building during emergencies.
- 3) To review the *Guidelines for Usage* of the Town Center Building as a warming/cooling/powerWiFi daytime center.

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to establish an *Emergency Management Team as an Advisory Committee* and to appoint its membership as follows: Eric Gilbert-Emergency Management Director, Eileen Murphy-Emergency Management Coordinator, Vern Stone, and Laura Craft. Further, documents related to the committee's makeup and work will be posted on the Town's website when finalized. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to appoint Eileen Murphy-EMC as Vershire's 2nd voting member on TRORC's Regional Emergency Management Committee. Eric Gilbert-EMD was appointed earlier on 11/21/2023. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to sign the *Memorandum of Understanding and its Attachment A* between the Selectboard and the *Vershire Emergency Management Team* for the temporary use of the Town Center Building as a heating/cooling/power/WiFi daytime center and with the understanding that *Guidelines* and other usage documents will be posted on the Town's website once finalized. V. Stoned seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 1/28/25. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

### **Committee Reports:**

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that he is having the snow blower serviced due to an oil leak. A. Cunha will follow up with Kathy Hooke about the Recreational Trails grant submission. A snowshoe hike up to Flag Pole Hill has been postponed due to weather conditions.

Energy Committee: No report.

VTC Committee: R. Seybolt reported on TCB building maintenance and supply needs, as well as her discussions with A. Cunha regarding developing an efficient system for ordering supplies and arranging minor repairs. She also reported that the *Strafford Area Lions Club* had their annual food drive recently and donated 17 boxes of needed items to the Vershire food shelf.

**Action Items/Assignments: Administrative Assistant:** Correspondence & Report: A. Cunha will continue to work with the TC Committee regarding the ordering of supplies and repairs needed for the TCB and noted above. She also reported on her continued investigation into health insurance options for full-time employees and on her work to keep track of Vershire's compliance with Vermont's newest Ethics Law passed. She requested the Selectboard to appoint a point of contact, known as a liaison, between the Town and the State Ethics Commission. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to appoint the Administrative Assistant to serve as the liaison between the Town of Vershire and the State of VT. Ethics Commission. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session:** At the request of the Town Clerk, an executive session will be held to discuss a tax grievance. **Action:** N. White Fogarty moved to enter an executive session due to a finding that premature general public knowledge regarding a tax grievance would place the public body or person involved at a substantial disadvantage under provisions: 1 V.S.A. §§ 313(a)(1). A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter an executive session to discuss a tax grievance under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. §§ 313(a)(1)(D) and invited G. Craft, A. Cunha, and G. Harvey into the session. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to exit the executive session with no finding. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session:** To discuss hiring decisions, **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:** A. Record moved to exit the executive session with the finding that the Town instructed the Administrative Assistant to offer Connor Fogarty the position as Recycling Coordinator and John Welch the full-time position on the Road Crew. V. Stone seconded. N. White-Fogarty abstained. The motion passed.

**Adjourn:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

