

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 25, 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/r_AcEtrAdTo

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Doug Stone-Road Supt., Gretchen Harvey-Sec., Andrea Cunha-Admin. Asst., Mark Fogarty, Jeff Corbett, Pat Barnes, Gene Craft-Clerk/Treasurer, and Reva Seybolt.

Call to Order: N. White-Fogarty called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: Add Jeff Corbett's request to speak about concerns on Vershire Riding School Road.

Public & Staff Comments: None at this time.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone reported that the normal maintenance and repair of town equipment is ongoing. He wants to alert those involved with the Park and Ride at the Town Center that some cars have been in the wrong area of the parking lot, causing the plows to try to plow around them on at least 3 three separate occasions. He expects upgrades to truck radios on Monday. A. Cunha was asked to schedule a water test for the Garage site and to make sure that the contract with *Consolidated Communications* has been cancelled. N. White-Fogarty is following up with Vermont Security. He also requested that a list of overweight permits be compiled as in the past. Gene Craft discussed options for financing of the new Town truck. His recommendation is that the Town apply for a loan from the Municipal Equipment Loan Fund [MELF] at 2% interest, however, those funds would not be available until May. In the interim he relayed that the Town could cover an initial payment with a temporary commercial loan from Mascoma Bank at 5.99%. When and if the MELF funding is approved, the Town would pay off the Mascoma loan in favor of the lower interest MELF loan. **Action:** V. Stone moved to finance the initial payments on the new Town Truck with a loan of up to \$218,000.00 from Mascoma Bank. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 2/11/25 and the Special Meeting Minutes of 2/18/24. N. White-Fogarty 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.

Jeff Corbett: introduced himself as new landowner in Vershire. His parcel is located on the Class 4 section of Riding School Road. He has procured a driveway permit and now needs a 911 address. He was encouraged to visit the Town Clerk during office hours to apply for this address. His intention is to improve the section of this road that provides access to his proposed house site and he asked about assistance from the Town for gravel already purchased and spread in this location. He was informed that the Town expects him to request this assistance prior to purchasing and spreading gravel or making other changes to the road. He was also reminded about the need to adhere to the Town's Codes and Standards regulating culvert size. Recently, there has been a disagreement between landowners in this area about road access; those issues have been resolved with the assistance of the Road Commissioner, Vern Stone. Mr. Corbett asked about the possibility of getting this section of the road thrown up. Before any discussion of this process proceeds, Vern Stone will investigate the land owner boundaries and review the rules and statutes relating to Class 4 roads. In the future, Mr. Corbett was urged to communicate with the Road Supt. and the Road Commissioner first and before making any additional changes or investments in this road.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: No Report.

VTC Committee: R. Seybolt wanted to be prepared for the informational meeting on March 2nd as related to the budget requests by the VTCC for the TC building and grounds. A. Cunha will attend the next VTCC meeting to discuss the TCB rental agreement and the research she has done on insurance requirements.

Energy Committee: P. Barnes shared two documents on the budget requests being made for energy savings in town buildings. He will be available at the informational meeting to answer questions, if needed, and he will make a handout available that explains the weatherization options under consideration.

Action Items/Assignments:

Executive Session: For the purpose of discussing the proposed engineering design bids for a replacement culvert on Reed Road TH-18. **Action:** N. White Fogarty moved to enter an executive session due to a finding that premature general public knowledge regarding contract negotiations for culvert repair work would place the public body or person involved at a substantial disadvantage under provisions: 1 V.S.A. §§ 313(a)(1). V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter

an executive session to discuss the bids submitted for Reed Road culvert replacement work under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. §§ 313(a)(1)(A) and invited D. Stone, A. Cunha, and G. Harvey 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 Selectboard wishes to select the bid from New England Consulting Engineers (NECE) to design the Reed Road culvert replacement for Reed Road. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report: A. Cunha requested that the Selectboard sign the already authorized MOU with the Vershire Emergency Management Team, and sign a brief message to TRORC to approve the step of submitting the latest draft of the Town Plan for review by the regional commission. G. Harvey gave the Selectboard draft copies of a revised COAL for Allen's Salvage Yard to review before possible approval at the next meeting. A. Cunha's continued to report on the various options the Town has for adopting a health insurance benefits policy for its full-time employees. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adopt a healthcare benefit package for full-time Town employees that includes a pre-tax, defined healthcare benefit credit for use with a Town-identified insurance provider and specific menu of plans; further the Town will offer FT employees an opt-out benefit of 50% of the benefit credit amount. A detailed description of the Town of Vershire healthcare benefit options for full-time employees will be included in the updated (2025) version of the Town Employee Handbook. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Garage: Given the fact that the new Town Garage was still being completed at the time of Town Meeting-2024, N. White-Fogarty has requested the preparation of a high-level financial summary of the overall project to bring residents up to date on the decisions made during its construction, and to show how those decisions now factor into the Town's budgetary planning for the future of this Town building.

Adjourn: V. Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. N. White-Fogarty. The motion passed unanimously.