

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm, Vershire Town Center.
There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.
Video: <https://youtu.be/MjimXUoEkzw>

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

Call to Order: V. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Board Reorganization & Rules of Procedure 2025

G. Craft delivered the oath of office to Vern Stone on 3/11/25.

Action: V. Stone nominated N. White Fogarty to serve as chair of the Selectboard. A. Record seconded. The motion passed.

Action: A. Record nominated V. Stone to serve as Road Commissioner. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed.

Action: V. Stone nominated Mark Fogarty to serve as Tree Warden. A. Record seconded. The motion passed.

Action: V. Stone moved to adopt the *Rules of Procedure-2025*. A. Record seconded. The motion passed.

Agenda Review & Modifications: None at this time.

Public & Staff Comments: None at this time.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone reported that the slow thawing of the roads has been helpful so far. The exhaust system of T-1 needed some attention and the backhoe had its seat replaced while still under warranty. He moved the new T-1 to the old garage and has brought the grader up to the garage. Chris Bump-AOT4 plans to visit and discuss grant opportunities and some culvert locations. The contractors hired to work on Mero Road are ready to get going but they have been notified about road postings for mud season.

Pema Osel: Paddy McCarthy not present.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 2/25/25. A. Record seconded. The motion passed.

Current Period Warrants Approval: V. Stone moved to approve the current period warrants. A. Record seconded. The motion passed.

Recycle Coordinator: C. Fogarty reported that all transfer station operations are going well. He had the bins swapped this past week but noted

that the cardboard bin had a large bow to it and the covers did not fit. He reached out to Doug Stone for assistance. He also contacted Casella to explain how the Town was going to fix this problem. He reported that someone dropped trash off when the transfer station was closed and that he intends to talk to them next time about it. He met with A. Cunha who brought him battery boxes. He plans to get them packed up and sent in. A. Cunha is also working on getting signage and some new cones to improve the traffic flow.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: No Report.

Energy Committee: P. Barnes summarized a contractor bid and EC recommendations sent earlier as they pertain to energy efficiency upgrades at the Log Cabin and the Town Center Building. The recently approved articles (March 4, 2025) mean full funding for these systems will not be available until July 1. Further, the townspeople made it clear during the Information Meeting on March 2nd that the Selectboard ought to do more research on these components prior to making a selection. P. Barnes explained that some funding appropriated for last fiscal year 2024-5 is available to make some commitments now in the form of deposits and before industry-expected price increases are in place. The idea would be to pay a deposit so that the components could be warehoused at current pricing and until purchase and installation can be arranged in July. G. Craft explained that this cost-savings strategy would only be possible for the TCB and not the Log Cabin, the funding of which will only be available beginning in July, 2025. Cost savings to the Town notwithstanding, the Selectboard feels strongly that they have heard the residents' concerns and will continue to explore all the options before making any decisions. Among other questions, V. Stone will discuss these components and the plan for venting the system with the contractor. N. White-Fogarty likewise feels strongly that due diligence first is what is required. This topic will be taken up again at the next Selectboard meeting on 3/25/25.

P. Barnes also wanted to share that the sourcing of solar panels for the Garage is complicated insofar as the requirement to source U.S.-made components as a precondition of eligibility for a 10% rebate. Because some of these components cost 10% more than imported ones, there is potentially no cost savings to the Town either way. The Selectboard instructed A. Cunha to discuss this topic directly with Catamount Solar to understand the need and to inform the Selectboard if there is a choice to be made.

VTC Committee: No report.

Action Items/Assignments:

Ethics Policy: This policy will be reviewed for adoption at the next meeting on 3/25/25.

Draft COAL-2025: G. Harvey explained the suggested edits to the new, one-year COAL and received permission from the Selectboard to make the changes and share a draft with Allen's Salvage. Allen LaFlamme is expected to attend the next Selectboard meeting on 3/25/25.

Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report: A. Cunha reported that she has finished the updates to the Employee Handbook, including inserting the agreed-upon health insurance information. The Handbook is currently being reviewed by the Town's attorney.

Adjourn: V. Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.