

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 29, 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/mZJ9u7V-UWY>

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Doug Stone-Road Supt., Gene Craft-Clerk/Treasurer, Gretchen Harvey-Admin. Asst/Sec; Chelsea Parker, Earl Robinson, Lucas Daniels, and Mark Fogarty.

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

Agenda Review & Modifications: G. Craft requested a brief discussion of radon test results to follow the road report.

Public & Staff Comments: Earl Robinson asked if there were any updates regarding a noise ordinance proposal. The SB chair explained that the updated Town Plan draft needs to be voted on and approved before any updating of ordinances (or adopting of new ones) are considered. The Planning Commission is currently working on updating the Town's existing ordinances to conform to state law and the revised Town Plan. A date for adopting any changes has not yet been established.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone reported on some recent misc. truck repairs. He received one price for calcium chloride and is waiting for a 2nd estimate. The grader has a new cutting edge and thermostat. He worked with C. Fogarty at the transfer station on Monday and put some fresh gravel underneath where the packer sits. The metal bins have too much plastic and other non-metal material in them and residents need to be cautious about disposing disallowed items in the bin because the Town will be charged for this contamination. When in doubt, ask C. Fogarty if an item should be placed in the metals bin. Grading has been ongoing on various roads and the Road Crew wishes to urge homeowners to call the Garage and leave a message if trees are down or there are other problems with any of the roads. A simple message of: will you look at my/name road will be sufficient to get a crew member out to take a look. It's important to realize that fixing small problems before they become bigger problems saves the Town money. Catamount Solar provided a walk-through for the fire dept. so that everyone understands how to shut down the system. Any extra electricity generated by this solar installation will help offset electrical use costs at the other town buildings. School bus traffic will commence the week of August 25th.

Set tax rate FY 2025-26: G. Craft explained the two tax rates (homestead and non-homestead) for this next year: Mark Fogarty asked how the rates compare and the answer is that non-residents have a slightly higher tax rate

than residents this year. **Action:** V. Stone moved to set the municipal tax rate at .8701. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Radon readout in Town Office: G. Craft noted that a recent, 3-month long radon test has reported a radon rate at almost double the actionable level. There was some discussion of entry points for radon. A well test will be ordered and a mitigation plan for the building will be sought.

Town Plan adoption: G. Craft and G. Harvey will plan for the preparations needed to warn a Town Vote on September 27, 2025 and for the purpose of adopting the newly revised Town Plan.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 7/15/25. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed.

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

There was some discussion about the invoicing from CCS, the construction company installing a bridge on Mero Rd. G. Harvey will contact the engineering firm involved with the project and request a meeting to answer some specific questions about the progress timeline and work at the site.

Committee Reports:

Vershire Artisan and Farmers Market: L. Daniels noted that the market has only 6 weeks left and that it is agreeable to him to arrange for the delivery of a handicapped porta potty to the TCB for next season 2026. In the interim, he will be available to allow building access to those who might need it during market hours. He also asked for input on what the VAFM might be able to donate to the TC as a thank you gift for allowing the market to use the space these past two summers free of charge. A number of suggestions were made and market organizers will solicit public feedback to help determine the top choice. More to come.

Recreation Committee: No report.

Energy Committee: No report.

VTC Committee: No report.

Action Items/Assignments:

Executive Session: Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to enter an executive session for the purpose of discussing employee reviews and hiring decisions

as per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). She invited D. Stone 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 John Welch will qualify for one week vacation in late October, Kellie Merritt will be paid for one holiday (July 4th) during the summer when working FT, Doug Stone - Road Supt. will receive a pay rate increase, Chelsea Parker will be offered the cleaning position, and Patrick Ash (VF&R) will be compensated for assisting with cleaning a beaver dam out of a culvert. A. Record seconded. V. Stone abstained. The motion passed.

Annual employee reviews will switch to the month of December, rather than being tied to the date of hire. This new timing will assist the Selectboard and the Road Supt. when preparing annual budgets.

Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report: G. Harvey reported that all her questions have been answered during the above proceedings.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.