

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 7:00pm, Vershire Town Center

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

Video link: <https://youtu.be/g5T5d7BIRbY>

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Doug Stone-Road Supt., Gretchen Harvey-Admin/Sec, Eileen Murphy, Sheriff George Contois-OCSD, Capt. Ryan-OCSD, Earl Robinson, Mark Fogarty, and Debra Kingsbury.

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

Agenda Review & Modifications: Omit recycling-report item as it was provided on 12/2.

Public & Staff Comments: Board chair N. White-Fogarty wishes to recognize the assistance provided by the Vermont State Police and thank them for the quick recovery of several stolen Vershire road signs. She also wants to thank town employees, committees, affiliated non-profits, and members of the public for attending informational meetings and providing helpful feedback on the goals of the administrative retreats held in July. One recent accomplishment is the creation of a town organizational chart designed to facilitate communications and public access to town services. This chart is now posted on of the Town website: [Vershire Selectboard](#)

Orange County Sheriff Contois and Capt. Ryan: N. White-Fogarty thanked Sheriff Contois and Capt. Ryan for coming and presenting contract options for policing in Vershire. Sheriff Contois noted that although the VSP remains the primary law enforcement body for Vershire that responds to 911 calls, OCSD officers do pass through Vershire regularly and would be available for both patrols or to respond to singular events. He noted that the department has invested in satellite cellular, which allows for improved communications. The OCSD is very interested in negotiating a contract with Vershire and explained that the best price they can offer is \$75.00/hour. The time clock begins only when they arrive in Vershire. Like other law enforcement agencies state-wide, the OCSD continues to look for qualified candidates to hire. Depending on the time of year, OCSD has between 4-5 officers available most of the time.

Sheriff Contois asked what type of services are of interest to Vershire. N. White-Fogarty explained that the Town needs officers who go beyond patrolling Rte 113 and doing speed checks; that there are more pressing concerns in Vershire. Some of the problems that need addressing are drug use and abuse, theft, vandalism, the safety of children in proximity to dangerous trash (needles) left on roadways, and reports of breaking and

entering. Most if not all of this activity, she noted, happens on back roads and often after dark, rather than on Rte 113. The Town would like to have officers patrol the back roads and show a presence there so that when residents witness illegal activities happening, they know they can report these behaviors to the OCSD for follow up. Additionally, speeding and paper or illegal temp plates can be addressed if presented. Sheriff Contois agreed that information provided by residents is crucial to addressing these needs.

A few years back when Vershire had a contract there was much discontent because the OCSD was not responsive to calls. Sheriff Contois indicated that his officers will respond if someone is available. They currently have a contract with Williamstown and, once there, they also have a place to do the associated paperwork, which makes the process of addressing problems helpful and more efficient. There was some discussion about how the catch and release practice affects recidivism and Sheriff Contois noted that this is a problem bigger than what a town or one law enforcement agency can solve. Letting state legislators know this is a concern is the best way to push for changes in the legal system. N. White-Fogarty also asked about the flexibility of contracted hours. She was assured that a certain number of hours per week could be set initially for patrolling or to address a particular problem. Also, if a call demands more time, then that situation can 'borrow' hours from a future week to bring the situation under control. They are willing to be flexible with scheduling in order to meet the town's needs.

N. White-Fogarty thanked both officers for attending the meeting, hearing the Town's concerns, and answering numerous questions. The next step is to consider how such a contract will fit with the budget priorities presented to the townspeople in March.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone reported on various maintenance work being done on town trucks. The Jimmy Packer (as the replacement packer has been dubbed) is almost ready to be put into service once a landfill sticker arrives and winter tires are put on. He will call GMP about a street light that needs attention. G. Harvey was asked to post that plowing or blowing snow across roadways is both dangerous and illegal. This practice can cause accidents and the person who created the problem could be held liable. **23 V.S.A. § 1126a: Depositing snow onto or across certain highways prohibited** (a) No person, other than an employee in the performance of his or her official duties or other person authorized by the Agency of Transportation (in the case of State highways) or selectboard (in the case of town highways), shall plow or otherwise deposit snow onto the traveled way, shoulder, or sidewalk of a State highway or a class 1, 2, or 3 town highway. Another hazard currently exists in the vicinity of Brown Road due to deer carcasses being dumped where they attract birds and animals

that can collide with automobiles. Residents can bring carcasses to the Sandberg Farm in Corinth for disposal and composting.

Doug Stone asked if there was any plan in the works to update the Green Book/Town of Vershire phone book. D. Kingsbury offered the Listers assistance to volunteers who would need updated contact information.

Animal Control: N. White-Fogarty reported that two cats have been picked up. One has been re-homed, the other one is scheduled to go to the shelter if a local adopter cannot be found. She would like to start notifying residents about annual dog registration requirements beginning in January.

Vershire Emergency Management Team (VEMT): E. Murphy reported on a new town kiosk that has been erected in South Vershire at the east end of Eastman Cross Road. It was donated and installed by the Westshire ATV Club. Its purpose is to provide a messaging board for Town emergency postings for those who live in or commute through the South Vershire area. In the future, the Town may consider adding it to the list of approved locations for all official Town communications. The Selectboard agreed that E. Murphy should work with the Admin. Asst. to choose the appropriate signage for the kiosk using a local vendor. A photo of the new kiosk with Westshire volunteers will be posted on the Town's website. The Selectboard wishes to thank the Westshire ATV Club for its donation to the Town of Vershire.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 12/2/25. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: No report. N. White-Fogarty urged residents to heed the Rec Committee posts on the Listerv about when the ice rink is open or closed. If the open sign is visible, it is ok to skate but, if not open, please stay off the ice as skating when it's too warm will wreck the ice and possibly damage the liner.

Energy Committee: No report.

VTC Committee: No report.

Action Items/Assignments:

Executive Session: Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to enter an executive session to discuss an employment decision as allowed by 1 V.S.A. §

313(a)(3) and invited Doug Stone and Gretchen 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 Town will continue to advertise the open position at the transfer station. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Asst. Report: **Tech Snafu:** G. Harvey wishes to apologize to any residents who could not connect to the meeting via Zoom this evening. There was an on-going snafu discovered right before 7pm that some of us tried to address in real time but were unsuccessful fixing it to the satisfaction of all users. The problem has since been addressed.

Action Items: G. Harvey presented the annual MOU from NH Recycles for approval. **Action:** V. Stone moved to sign the MOU from NH Recycles. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. G. Harvey presented two CRT Trail reroute requests for approval that were presented at the SB meeting on 11/18/25. **Action:** V. Stone moved to sign two landowner agreement requests from the Rivendell Trails Association. One request is to construct a foot-traffic only trail to the summit of Patterson Mountain Town Forest via a different access point; and a second request is to mark the rerouted section of the trail that will traverse some of the Town's class 4 roads. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Newsletter: One item that residents request on a regular basis is the return of a quarterly newsletter. Not everyone uses technology or social media and having another method of communicating official notices and upcoming event dates would be helpful. G. Harvey requested permission to work with the Clerk-Treasurer to put together a newsletter early in the New Year. Volunteers can be recruited to help with the various tasks, but oversight of content and the final draft shall be maintained similar to any other official communication issued by the Town.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.