

Town of Corinth Selectboard Unapproved Minutes
December 12, 2016
Town Hall, Cookeville 7:00 p.m.

Attending for the Board: Chris Groschner, Chairman; Steve Long; Hal Drury
Others attending: Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Christopher Diaz, First Constable; Carolina Diaz, Board Clerk
Also attending; Sheriff Bill Bohnyak; Officer Kenneth Schaffer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Approvals of the Minutes

Long moved to approve the minutes of the Selectboard Meeting on November 14, 2016. Drury seconds. Motion passed. Drury moved to approve the SB Financial Meeting minutes on December 6, 2016. Long seconds. Motion passed.

Public Concerns: None

Orange County Sheriff

The SB asked to receive a general report from the Orange County Sheriff and discuss the relationship with the Constable. Sheriff Bohnyak explained throughout Orange County, including Corinth, there is a drug problem. The state is looking to close the St Johnsbury work camp, but he recommends to the Governor Elect to keep it open and keep the offenders there and help them with the drug addiction. Bohnyak has also requested funds to fight the drug problems in the entire county from Senator Leahy.

Locally, the number of traffic tickets issued has been up including East Corinth on Village Road. Officer Ken Schaffer will be the Orange County Sheriff Department liaison with the Town of Corinth. Long asked about the ATV issues. Bohnyak informed there was a ticket issued for trying to elude an officer. Bohnyak asked to be contact if there are issues with ATV. The town will be able to call on Officer Schaffer for any needs the people of the town will need.

Lee Porter spoke in support of Sheriff Bohnyak and feels the budget for the OCSD should be raised, with the service they do for the town.

Bohnyak discussed the changes in the statutes regarding the role of the town constable. As of July 1st 2015, there are 7 items that a constable is allowed to do. In order for a constable to stop cars, write tickets (even municipal), and run blue lights on his vehicle, he must be a level 2 officer in Vermont. That requires extensive training at the Police Academy. Bohnyak is concerned with the town's liability with the constable running blue lights if he has not completed level 2 certification. The town and the constable could be sued. Diaz stated he had attended training at the academy but didn't complete the course. Bohnyak acknowledged the difficulty of the process of completing the requirements, and said that the consequences will be that fewer towns have constables.

Long reported on his conversations with other town constables and selectboard members in other towns. This confirmed that some long-serving constables do not wish to attend the academy to receive a Level 2 Officer designation. They are content with directing traffic, serving summonses, and serving as the "eyes and ears" for the sheriff and the state police. Bohnyak confirmed that the constable cannot write any tickets that will be sent to the Judicial Courts.

Diaz mentioned former Constable Joe Hill, who has since moved away, got him interested in becoming a constable and told him that he could run blue lights, stop and ticket drivers, discourage ATV traffic on town roads. Diaz suggested Hill might not have been aware of the new regulations, but Bohnyak disagrees because Hill was a part-time Deputy and was aware of the regulations.

After hearing Bohnyak's description of the changes to the constable position, Diaz said he wished to re-submit his resignation, previously submitted in November but put on hold by request of the selectboard. Groschner, with sadness, accepts Diaz resignation as Constable. Long thanked Diaz for his service.

Road Commissioner's Report/Hwy. Concerns

Porter brought an Aubuchon Hardware commercial credit application for the Board to sign. This will allow the road crew to purchase necessary equipment. Groschner will have to discuss with the Town Treasurer before signing.

Porter and Blodgett proposed that the transfer station with the recycling bins and trash truck be moved to the old dump on Brook Road. Porter and Blodgett are trying to eliminate a possible accident at the current location. Groschner's concern is not disturb any toxic material that might still be in the old dump area. Porter said it's in a different location on the site.

Long asked about the lines of sight along Brook Rd. Groschner suggested that the town could use highway cones to alert people to slow down. Groschner suggested that the selectboard members should go to the area and look at the location. The board will review the proposal and will make a decision. Porter said there was no rush, but that they wanted to ensure the people's safety when the road crew was active during the hours the transfer station is open.

Porter received a complained from a School Bus driver on South America Road. The person complained the road was not plowed and her bus can't drive on the snow. Porter visited the location.. Blodgett has plowed and sanded her road on a regular basis, but she still not happy.

Drury is concerned with a unregistered vehicle in front of the property of 657 Village Road, East Corinth Village. Porter and Blodgett will contact the owners and see what can be done.

Town Charter

Groschner spoke in favor of changing the Treasurer position from an elected position to a hired position. The Board will contact attorney Paul Gillies for guidance on the procedure to change the Treasurers position. The Board will need a position description and a Search Committee.

Fire Station

Drury asked the board to sign the Proposal to Develop a Project Delivery System. This is to authorize the Project Delivery Systems for the Architectural drawings for the Corinth Fire Department, only "Step 2 Deliverables."

Dilapidated Building

The board has not seen any movements to cover the bottom section at the 657 Village Road, East Corinth Village.

Committees: None

Correspondence

Vermont arts organization looking for a \$250 donation from the town. Groschner will look into it.

Vt Association Chief of Police invites for luncheon.

Orange County Courts propose budget for fiscal year. Held on 12/12/16 at 5:30 pm.

Other Business: None

Test emergency lighting and fire extinguishers:

The board checked and found all to be working properly.

Groschner moved to adjourn. Long second.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm