

Town of Corinth  
Board of Selectmen  
PO Box 461  
Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of the Select Board Meeting  
December 11, 2017

Attending for the Board: Chris Groschner, Steve Long, Hal Drury  
Catherine Tudish, selectboard clerk  
Others attending: Susan Fortunati, treasurer; Neysa Russo, assistant treasurer; Lee Porter, road commissioner; Joe Truss, emergency management officer; Clay Odell, representing Upper Valley Ambulance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.  
Minutes of select board meeting (Nov. 13) and financial meeting (Dec. 5) were approved.

Upper Valley Ambulance

The Select Board invited Clay Odell to discuss the 16% cost increase in the town budget for ambulance service. Odell explained that Upper Valley Ambulance is a not-for-profit corporation providing service for nine area towns with a total population of 12,000. Based in Fairlee, the service operates on an annual budget of \$1 million and responds to approximately 1100 calls for medical aid per year. The cost for maintaining the service is shared among participating towns, based on population. This year's increase for Corinth represents 5% for higher cost of services, plus 11% for replacing ambulances, for a total of 16%. This increase includes a \$4 per capita temporary surcharge for a period of two years to augment the cost of replacing ambulances. A front-line ambulance is kept on the road for an average of four years, Odell explained, and while the service has begun using a less expensive, van-style ambulance, the replacement cost is \$100,000 per vehicle. The strategy is to replace one ambulance every two years.

Truss added that fuel costs are rising, but the new ambulances are more efficient.

Odell said the service has nine full-time employees, with a pay range of \$10-\$23/hour, adding that an all-volunteer ambulance service has gone by the way.

Truss said competitive wages are necessary to keep good personnel.

Porter offered several cost-saving suggestions and was invited to attend the next Upper Valley Ambulance board meeting.

Public Concerns

None.

Road Commissioner's Report

Porter reported that the town has purchased a new bulldozer for \$500.

He requested an increase in wi-fi speed for the computer Joe Blodgett uses to upload necessary documents, an upgrade that will cost an extra \$32 per month. The Board approved the expense.

Porter confirmed with the Board that a vote on moving the transfer station to Brook Road would be on the warning for Town Meeting.

### Dog Ordinance

Long has spoken to the state Judicial Bureau about authorizing the Corinth dog officer to issue warnings and tickets for violations of the dog ordinance. The officer will need official tickets, and the matter is now in the town clerk's hands.

### Fire Station

Drury reported that John Haney will have the site plan ready in January and that Pete Bania of Morton Builders will be able to show some construction numbers in mid-January. The Board hopes to have all the numbers ready for a bond vote at Town Meeting.

### Committee Reports

None.

### Correspondence

The Board received a contract for municipal planning grant services from Two Rivers Regional Commission, which was signed by Groschner. The town is contracting with them for guidance in town planning, using a state grant of \$9,000 to cover the cost.

### Other Business

Long reviewed notes for the Board's town meeting report and asked for suggestions. Fortunati reported that the CD for the cemetery commission at Northfield Savings Bank had just been renewed. She requested new signature cards for the assistant treasurer. New cards will be required for all banks the town does business with. Drury noted the tattered state of the flag in front of the town offices and offered to donate a replacement.

Groschner moved to adjourn after the testing of emergency lighting and fire extinguishers. Long and Drury seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.