

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

Unapproved Minutes of the Select Board Meeting
February 11, 2019

Attending for the Board: Chris Groschner, Steve Long, John Haney
Catherine Tudish, select board clerk
Others attending: Lee Porter, road commissioner

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes of select board meeting of January 14, 2019 and financial meeting of February 5 were approved.

Public Concerns

The board discussed a proposal by Scott Elledge to establish a Little Free Library (LFL) in Cookeville. Many towns in our area have such little libraries, which are essentially a cabinet that holds about two dozen books, located in a public place. The idea is to make books available for free on a "take one, give one" basis. (People are also welcome to take a book without leaving one.) Elledge and others in the community suggested finding a woodworker in Corinth who would be willing to construct our LFL as a replica of the Corinth Academy, either as a volunteer or for a reasonable cost. Elledge volunteered to apply to the LFL national organization to register our library, to pay the \$40 fee, and to be the appointed caretaker. The LFL would be placed on the covered porch of the Town Hall, in order to protect it from the weather and make it accessible to the community. Long moved that the select board support the project, Groschner seconded, and the motion passed.

Road Commissioner's Report

Porter said they will be hauling sand later this week. The sand pile is going down, as the road crew is using more than usual for this time of year.

A resident who lives on a class 4 road asked that the road crew not wing his road, because he was concerned about damage to plants along the roadside. Porter agreed to his request, since his is the only residence on that road.

Groschner asked about the sand budget, and Porter said he thought the crew would stay within the budget.

Porter presented the Municipal Roads General Permit Planning Report from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Watershed Management Division, for Groschner's signature.

Groschner said he had a call concerning the amount of snow mounting up in certain areas that makes it hard to see oncoming traffic when pulling out on the roadway.

Porter said he understands the concern and that the road crew is taking measures to move snow as much as possible.

Fire Station Bond Process/Contract with Morton Builders

Groschner reported that he had invited the acting fire chief to attend the select board meeting by leaving a phone message, but had not heard back from him.

Long said he and Haney had a conversation with Morton to discuss the process going forward and came away with reservations that the fire station could be built with the money available.

Groschner said there was a problem with acquiring an updated set of plans from Morton and thus the town could not go ahead with a contract.

Long said he thought the town should not continue negotiations with Morton, given the various difficulties in negotiating a contract. Long made a motion to that effect, Groschner seconded, and the motion passed.

Groschner said that leaves the town with the problem of finding a new contractor. Haney pointed out that there are other companies in the area that manufacture steel buildings, or the town could go with a design/build company, or hire an architect to design a building and then put it out to bid.

For example, Haney said, a national company—Butler—works locally with Trumbull-Nelson of Hanover. The design would come from Butler, and the general contractor would be Trumbull-Nelson.

Haney said the manufactured steel building would probably be the most economical. Groschner emphasized the importance of moving ahead quickly in order not to lose more ground financially.

Long said ceasing the process with Morton gives the town more opportunity to be involved in the project.

Groschner said the town could use the plans we have already purchased, with modifications.

Long said we now have the option of getting some grant funding for energy efficiency measures.

Porter suggested looking into Efficiency Vermont as a source of funding.

Haney said this is an opportunity to get a better building than the one designed by Morton.

Long reported that he has spoken with the bond bank, and there is no problem with putting the application on hold. The town is also in a good position to get bridge funding if needed.

Long will send a letter to Morton stating that the Board is terminating its relationship with the company.

Groschner and Haney will contact the fire department to inform them of the decision.

Treasurer Position

Long said he is continuing to advertise the position.

No one has submitted a petition to run for town treasurer, and Long stressed the importance of getting authority at Town Meeting to make it a hired position.

Long has asked Neysa Russo to stay on as assistant treasurer after Town Meeting, for March and April, and she has agreed.

Correspondence

The Board has received a letter of resignation from Dina Dubois, effective at the end of April 2019, from the Conservation Commission. The Board moved to accept her resignation with thanks for several years of service and her many contributions to the Commission's work.

Other Business

NEMRC, the company that supplies the software used at the town offices, is no longer providing network security. The town will need to find someone to take on that role. Groschner suggested contacting an IT specialist from Bradford who has done work for Corinth's administrative officer.

Haney recommended using a business that will support the computer system when buying new equipment in the future.

The date of the March financial meeting has been moved to Friday, March 1, at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall, in order not to conflict with Town Meeting on March 5.

Long and Haney tested the emergency lighting and fire extinguishers in the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.