

## Corinth Town Meeting Minutes March 5, 2019

Moderator Gary Apfel called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Susan Parmenter led the pledge of allegiance for the opening of town meeting. Susan Parmenter, Bill Parmenter, Marian Cawley and Linda Tobin led the song America the Beautiful.

Gary Apfel gave the floor to Rodney Graham one of our state Representatives. Rodney said it's been a slow start to the session this year. There are over 800 bills and they have only dealt with 5 or 6. Lee Porter asked about the state maple inspector and asked Rodney to check into when there will be another. Dan Wing asked if the state is doing anything about the Ash Borer. Rodney said no.

Chris Groschner chair of the Selectboard welcomed everyone. He spoke about the partnership with Waits River Valley School 6<sup>th</sup> grade art class. They made the prints that were used on the town report. Dina Dubois hung all their pictures in the hall for town meeting.

Gary Apfel moderator, spoke about procedure and Roberts Rules of Order. Explaining how the meeting would run.

**Article 1.** To elect the following by Australian ballot. For the purpose of this article the polls will be open from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm: Moderator for 1 year, Selectman for 3 years, Lister for 3 years, Collector of Delinquent Taxes for 1 year, Treasurer for 1 year, Constable for 1 year, Grand Juror for 1 year, Town Agent to Deed real Estate for 1 year, Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits for 1 year, Cemetery Commissioner for 3 years, School Director for 3 years.

T.R. Jackson asked about conflict of positions. Susan Fortunati stated that there is a list in the Statues. No action on this article.

**Article 2.** To see if the voters will accept the various Officers' Reports as presented in the Town Report.

Linda Weiss moved the article, Lee Porter seconded.

Chris Groschner spoke about a few things of interest since the Selectboard submitted their report. The Selectboard is checking into "Green Burial" for Corinth. The Conservation Commission will have a public forum on the topic on March 30<sup>th</sup>. He spoke briefly about the date of Town Meeting, the Constable position and contracting law enforcement. He thanked all the volunteers and board members. He thanked John Haney for his time as a Selectman.

Steve spoke about the Emerald Ash borer and asked people to keep their ash where it was cut rather than transporting it to other locations.

Gary Apfel called for the vote. The ayes have it.

**Article 3.** To vote to renew the exemptions granted to certain properties from property tax for a period of five years. To be voted individually: Northeast Slopes; Minerva Lodge Masonic Hall in East Corinth; ball field in East Corinth; Historical Society Museum in East Corinth; Corinth Volunteer Fire Dept. land and building in East Corinth; Corinth Volunteer Fire Dept. building in Cookeville.

Linda Weiss moved the article, Gabriel Gaetz seconded.

Rick Cawley moved to amend the article to read "To be voted as a block" Linda Weiss seconded.

There was quite a bit of discussion on this topic such as: why to do it as a block and questions on who owned some of the properties and if they could be used by the public. Numerous people spoke on this subject.

Margret Loftus called the question, Glynn Pellagrino seconded. Gary Apfel called the question, the ayes have it.

Gary Apfel called for the vote on the amendment for the article to read "to be voted as a block" A hand count was needed. There were 45 ayes and 32 nays.

Gary Apfel read the article as amended and called for the vote. The ayes have it.

**Article 4.** Will the Town vote to change the position of Town Treasurer from elected to appointed by the board of selectmen?

Susan Fortunati moved the article, Linda Weiss seconded.

People spoke in favor of it. There were a few questions, no more comment. Gary Apfel called for a vote, the ayes have it.

**Article 5.** To hear a report on the new fire station.

Sue Parmenter moved the article, Marian Cawley seconded. Steve Long updated everyone on the fire station building and the problems with Morton builders and the contract. All other permits are in place, now we are looking for a new contractor. The facility itself and it's make up were discussed. There were questions about future cost and what was spent already. The Selectboard didn't think the building would be going up this year.

There is no action needed for this article.

**Article 6.** To see if the voters will vote \$760,530.00 of which \$581,422.00 to be raised by taxes, to support the Highway Fund.

Linda Weiss moved the article Raymond Moulton seconded.

There was brief discussion, Lee Porter said the budget is level funded. Grants were discussed. Gary Apfel called for the vote, the ayes have it.

**Article 7.** To see if the voters will vote \$116,400.00, which \$116,400.00 to be raised by taxes, to support the Highway Capital Equipment Fund.

Jeff Spiegel moved the article, Linda Weiss seconded.

Lee Porter spoke briefly about what this fund is used for and why we need it.

No more questions, Gary Apfel called for the vote, the ayes have it.

**Article 8.** To see if the voters will vote \$7,500.00, of which \$7,500.00 to be raised by taxes, for the Bridge Reserve Fund.

Raymond Moulton moved the article, Linda Weiss seconded.

Lee Porter said this year this figure was reduced by half to help keep the budget under control, but it would need to go back up next year.

No more discussion, Gary Apfel called for the vote, the ayes have it.

**Article 9.** To see if the voters will authorize the town to use funds received from the Better Back Roads grant program.

Chris Groschner moved the article, Linda Weiss seconded, and Joe Blodgett explained what this was for.

There was no discussion, Gary Apfel called for the vote, and the ayes have it.

**Article 10.** To see if the voters will vote \$136.00 to support the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley.

Tim O'Dell moved the article, Linda Weiss seconded.

Hava Walther asked to speak to the meeting on this subject.

Susan Fortunati moved to amend the article to read "to support for 1 year only" Tim O'Dell seconded.

There was more discussion, people didn't understand what this Council does for people. There were questions asked of Hava Walther. She spoke more on the subject and explained.

Gary Apfel called for a vote on the amendment. The nays have it. He then called for a vote on the original article, the ayes have it.

Greg Thurston moved we break for lunch at 12:00 pm for 45 minutes, Lee Porter seconded, and the ayes have it.

Gary Apfel called the meeting back to order at 12:47 pm. He introduced Carl Demrow our State Representative.

Carl spoke a bit about what was going on at the state house. He had a printed town meeting report for anybody that wanted one. It spoke about a lot of the issues in front of the legislature. There was talk about law enforcement, ranked voting and roads.

**Article 11.** To see if the voters will vote \$1,350.00, of which \$200.00 to be raised by taxes, to support the Planning Commission.

Holly Groschner moved the article, Steve Long seconded.

Dick Kelley spoke for the Planning Commission telling about updating the town plan and the enhanced energy plan.

Gary Apfel called for the vote, the ayes have it.

**Article 12.** To see if the voters will vote \$400.00, of which \$100.00 to be raised by taxes, to support the Conservation Commission.

Glynn Pellagrino moved the article, TR Jackson seconded.

Glynn moved to amend the article to say "of which \$400.00 to be raised by taxes" Dutton Vought seconded.

The CCC large surplus was spoken of and that the budget committee is trying to keep the budget down. Glynn Pellagrino said he didn't think it was fair the Conservation Commission had to use their money to get rid of the town's road side trash from Green Up Day. He thinks it is the town responsibility.

Gary Apfel called for a vote, on the amendment the ayes have it.

Gary Apfel called for a vote on Article 12 as amended, the ayes have it.

**Article 13.** To see if the voters will vote \$10,000.00, of which \$10,000.00 to be raised by taxes, to support the Town Hall Capital Improvement Fund.

Chris Groschner moved the article, Kelly Ann Donahue seconded.

Greg Thurston spoke about the building and the plans to fix things. There were questions about painting, energy audits and insulation.

Gary Apfel called for a vote, the ayes have it.

**Article 14.** To see if the voters will vote \$7,500.00, of which \$7,500.00 to be raised by taxes, to support the computer equipment reserve fund.

Susan Fortunati moved the article, Lee Porter seconded.

There were questions about the NEMRC breeches and why this amount. Susan spoke about our IT and updating our computers. No more discussion.

Gary Apfel called for the vote, the ayes have it.

**Article 15.** To see if the voters will fix the compensation for the Selectmen for the coming year at \$1,000.00 each.

Raymond Moulton moved the article, Chris Groschner seconded. Chris said it was a good deal.

Gary Apfel called for the vote, the ayes have it.

**Article 16.** To see if the voters will vote \$402,304.00 of which \$231,187.00 to be raised by taxes, to support the General Fund.

Steve Long moved the article, Chris Groschner seconded.

Raymond Moulton moved to amend the article to include the \$136.00 voted on for the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley. Steve Long seconded. Gary called for the vote on the amendment, the ayes have it.

Gary Apfel called for the vote on the amended Article; To see if the voters will vote \$402,440.00 of which \$231,323.00 to be raised by taxes, to support the General Fund. The ayes have it.

**Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to have the taxes collected by the Treasurer and to fix the dates for payment of the same.

Neysa Russo moved to set the dates for collecting the taxes as September 10, 2019 and February 11, 2020, Glynn Pellagrino seconded.

No discussion, Gary Apfel called for the vote, the ayes have it.

**Article 18.** To recommend four members-at-large for the Budget Committee for 1 year.

Chris Groschner moved the article. Kelly Ann Donahue seconded. Lisa Locke nominated Linda Weiss, Chris Groschner nominated Raymond Moulton, and Steve Long nominated Lee Porter and Amy Peberdy.

Susan Fortunati moved to close the nominations, Beth Gaetz seconded, and the ayes have it.

**Article 19.** In case of unanticipated State Aid Funds (funds not included in the budget) for specific highway and bridge projects applied for and received during the fiscal year, shall the Town allow expenditure of such funds for those projects?

TR Jackson moved the article Greg Thurston seconded,

No discussion, Gary Apfel called for the vote, the ayes have it.

**Article 20.** To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Jeff Spiegel mentioned the delinquent tax report in the town report and doesn't think it is necessary to list everyone's names. There were others in support of this.

Tim O'Dell thanked Joe Blodgett and Lee Porter for thinking about the future and the need to fill their jobs when they retire.


Zachary McNeal from the Fire Dept. thanked everyone that took the survey.

Dan Wing moved to adjourn. Gabriel Gaetz seconded, Gary Apfel called for the vote, and the ayes have it.

Town Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Nancy J Ertle Corinth Town Clerk



Approved by:



Office held:

Chair, Select Board

Approved by:



Office held:

Select Board Member