

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

Unapproved Minutes of the Select Board Meeting
May 13, 2019

Attending for the Board: Chris Groschner, Steve Long, Rick Cawley
Catherine Tudish, Select Board clerk
Others attending: Lee Porter, road commissioner; Joe Blodgett, road foreman; John Haney, Rev. Kelly Ann Donahue, Nancy Kittridge, Gordon Kittridge, Norman Patenaude (Pike Industries)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
Minutes of the select board meeting of April 8, 2109 and the financial meeting of May 7, 2019 were approved.

Public Concerns

Rev. Donahue again raised concerns about the dilapidated building at 657 Village Road, adjacent to the Congregational Church in East Corinth. She stated that she has filed a formal complaint with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). She mentioned that Tyvek on the exterior is loose and the snow fencing is loose. Besides the advanced state of disrepair, she noted different cars and people in and out, including a car recently blocking the church's handicapped access. Donahue said she is concerned about participant safety at upcoming events, such as fundraisers and parades. Regarding the unsightliness of the building, she mentioned a Beetlejuice Thirtieth Anniversary tour coming in July, adding that Smithsonian Magazine came to East Corinth to take pictures of the Beetlejuice site. The pictures are now on the magazine's web site, illustrating the marked contrast between the look of the village thirty years ago, when the building was an attractive store, and its current degraded state.

Groschner said he has tried to reach Dan Mason at ANR to look into the status of the septic complaint, but his calls have not been returned.

Cawley said ANR has authority only to look into wastewater systems.

Groschner noted that the system at that building is not septic, but a holding tank. Donahue clarified that the current, open complaint was for a salvage yard, because of the disabled vehicles parked there. Mason told Donahue they get several calls about the building and recommended process serving to gain access for inspection of the building.

Groschner said the town would have to contact the Orange County Sheriff in order to get a process served.

Cawley said the Dilapidated Building Ordinance is mis-named. The town does not have the authority to intervene because the building is an eyesore.

Donahue asked if the Select Board could act if there was a health violation, such as an infestation of vermin.

Groschner said that would be handled by the health officer, if required.

Cawley said one approach is to take the long view, trusting that ownership will eventually change hands.

Gordon Kittridge asked if anyone knew the requirements for frequency of pumping a holding tank.

Cawley said the permit for such a system would specify how many times a year the tank would have to be pumped.

Groschner noted that the system was installed there before the permitting system was enacted.

Cawley said if effluent were leaching out, the state would force them to install a new system that would have to comply with new regulations.

Groschner recommended that any citizen who has a concern should contact ANR and see if they can get the state to take more interest in the site.

Cawley said another approach could be a citizen bringing a lawsuit suing the owner for causing a nuisance.

Long said that unless there is a public safety hazard, the Select Board cannot get involved.

Groschner added that if there were illegal activity in the building, then the Orange County Sheriff could get involved.

Blodgett pointed out that other unsightly buildings exist around town, and asked where the Select Board would draw the line.

Groschner said that when zoning came up for a vote, it did not pass.

Donahue asked if East Corinth would be given Village designation by the state.

Long replied that once the town plan is in place, both East Corinth and Cookeville would apply for Village designation, which might or might not bring more pressure to bear on owners of individual buildings.

Road Commissioner's Report

Porter presented three quotes for installing the electric at the new transfer station and recommended going with the lowest bidder, who was also the most readily available.

Porter and Blodgett agreed that income from the sale of metal to Bolduc Salvage should be applied to expenses involved with the new transfer station.

Blodgett presented two quotes for the summer's paving, from Blak Top and Pike Industries. He said he would like to give Black Top another chance, as the recent paving they did has held up better than that done by Pike.

Representing Pike Industries, Patenaude said the quote from Blak Top may not include a guarantee of no AC price adjustment.

Blodgett said he would try to confirm a no AC price adjustment from Blak Top. Otherwise, he would go with Pike.

Cawley made a motion to go with Blak Top on the condition that Blodgett secures the guarantee of no price adjustment. Long seconded, and the motion passed.

Porter brought up the problem of an individual on Richardson Road who keeps removing material from the road after the road crew grades it and trying to build a berm on his side of the road.

Blodgett said this individual creates a road hazard by digging holes as he tries to regrade the road with his tractor. Blodgett has asked him to stop, but has been met with hostility.

Cawley said a good first step might be getting a deputy sheriff to go with Porter to talk to the resident.

Groschner recommended that Porter take that action.

Blodgett recommended putting some of the surplus money from state highway grants into a fund for new equipment.

The Select Board agreed to this suggestion.

Groschner moved to discuss the fire station as item #4, Long seconded, and the motion passed.

Fire Station

Haney reported that the architect on the project recently discovered that Vermont requires a sprinkler system in buildings such as fire stations, at a cost of approximately \$100,000.

Haney said that there is a possibility of getting an exemption from the state fire marshall's office to not install a sprinkler system in the new building. Two other fire stations recently built in the state have gotten the exemption. Haney will follow up with the state to apply for an exemption.

Cawley asked where the ladder truck, the largest piece of equipment, is currently being kept.

Haney said it is in Monty's Garage and will probably stay there.

Cawley said the new station can be configured to accommodate the ladder truck, given that Monty's Garage is private property and may not always be available.

Treasurer Concerns

The auditor was concerned that there was no obvious verification of hours reported on time sheets for the road crew.

Porter said he meets with Blodgett every Monday and will begin to review time sheets with him weekly.

Long brought up the need to find a source of income for the new transfer station. He suggested using income from the metal fund, as Porter and Blodgett had recommended.

Long then made a motion that the Select Board direct the treasurer to create a revenue account for the transfer station, using the metal fund for this current and future fiscal years. Groschner seconded, and the motion passed.

Porter said he could purchase a motion detector light on line to install at the station.

Other Business

The Select Board received the annual certificate from the Listers to confirm that there are no appeals or suits pending. Groschner moved to sign, Long seconded, and the motion passed.

Correspondence

The Select Board has received the 2018 Corinth town audit from Sullivan and Powers.

Emergency lighting and fire extinguishers were tested.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.