Town of Corinth  
Board of Selectmen  
P.O. Box 461  
Corinth, VT 05039  

Minutes of the Financial Meeting  
September 3, 2019

Attending for the Board: Steve Long, Rick Cawley, Chris Groschner  
Others Attending: Kerry Claffey, treasurer; Suzanne Hansen, financial assistant; Karen Galayda, listers chair; Nancy Ertle, Town Clerk. Also John Haney, Todd Mower.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Structural Engineer for Fire Station  
The board reviewed proposals from structural engineers and the architect’s memo regarding their competencies. The board approved authorizing Chris Groschner to sign the proposal from Artisan Engineers to do the structural engineering on the fire station.

John Haney briefed the board on his meeting with the fire department. Haney said the department was willing and equipped to undertake the painting of the building’s interior as a means to reducing the cost of the building. He also verified their wish to keep the doors at 14 feet and not reduce them to 12 feet.

Purchase of vehicle  
Karen Galayda presented a proposal to purchase a used Ford 250 pickup for use by the listers and the highway crew. The purchase price is $5,000 and the cost would be split evenly between the two, and the highway department would do the required maintenance on the truck. This would mean not having to use personal vehicles to do town business. The board approved the expenditure.

Establish reserve fund  
Nancy Ertle presented information about the new legislation requiring towns to establish a Reserve Fund for restoring and preserving town records. Ertle showed the board the work that has been done to date, and showed that there was not a huge amount left to do. She recommended that instead of the suggested $4.00 per page received for recording documents, the town allocate only $3.00 per page, because we didn’t need to overfund it. Ertle will certify to the state that those funds are sufficient to do the work. The legislation allows the selectboard to establish the fund. The board voted unanimously to establish the fund.

Orders for Payment  
The Board reviewed outstanding bills and signed orders for payment. The Board reviewed payments made in previous month.

Treasurer assistance and training
The board talked with Kerry Claffey about his ability to keep up with the workload, given the steep learning curve and the little training he has received. The board suggested he contact former treasurer Susan Fortunati to ask for assistance in closing out the 2018-2019 fiscal year. He said he would do so. The board also encouraged him to employ the assistant treasurers as much as he needed to keep from getting behind in his work.

Other business
Todd Mower presented questions and complaints about the roadside clearing and ditching that was recently done on Hutchinson Road and Taplin Hill Road. He thought it was unnecessary to pave that section of Taplin Hill Road, and unnecessary to remove so many trees along Hutchinson Road. He suggested the town could simply close the road in the spring. He questioned the arrangement the town had with Limlaw Chipping and Land Clearing. He wondered who would have been liable in case of an accident or injury. He complained that the trees cut during the operation constituted an unauthorized taking.

Long responded that he had seen the work while it was in progress, that he was impressed by the skill of the operator, and pleased by the outcome. He said that the tree warden had been asked to inspect the work by private citizens who complained about it, and that she, too, was impressed by the work. He said that the board would take Mower’s complaints, which echoed Allegra Shumway’s, as an indication that the town needed to do a better job communicating with landowners beforehand. Groschner said the board would check into the nature of the agreement between the Town and Limlaw.

Executive Session
Groschner moved that the board go into executive session at 6:00 to discuss a personnel matter. Cawley seconded and the board unanimously approved. At 6:20, the board voted to come out of executive session. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20.