

## Corinth Town Meeting Minutes March 3, 2020

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

Jack and Adalene Nolin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ashlyn Osgood read an Invocation provided by Gary Apfel. Marian Cawley and Linda Tobin lead the meeting in the song America The Beautiful.

Gary reminded everyone of Green Up Day and told a little about the Corinth Coalition. Gary spoke about Roberts Rules of Order. Chris Groschner said this could very well be the 256<sup>th</sup> Corinth Town Meeting and spoke about volunteers in town government.

Article 1. To elect the following by Australian ballot. For the purpose of this article the poll will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Moderator for 1 year, Town Clerk for 3 years, Selectman for 3 years, Lister for 3 years, Collector of Delinquent Taxes for 1 year, Constable for 1 year, Grand Juror for 1 year, Town Agent to Deed Real Estate for year, Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits for 1 year, Cemetery Commissioner for 3 years, Cemetery Commissioner for 1 year and WRVS Director for 3 years. No action necessary on this article.

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

Joyce McKeeman moved the article, Jane Conner seconded.

Zack McNeal, member, said there were different numbers for the Corinth /Topsham Emergency Response team members. There was discussion about the fire department budget in the report and debate about the fire department being an Officers' report. There was also discussion about the Fire Dept. budget.

Dan Wing moved to amend the motion to not accept the Fire Department Report as presented, TR Jackson seconded.

Gary ruled this motion out of order, because one cannot move to amend an article so as to negate it entirely.

Dan moved to amend the motion to accept the reports except the Fire Dept. report. TR Jackson seconded.

Rick Cawley, Selectman, spoke and said that the article was to accept the reports of Officers in town and didn't believe this report is covered under that article. Gary Apfel believes it should include all reports in the town report. Gary ruled the amendment is in order. Gary called for a vote by a show of hands on the amended motion: 29 yes, 41 no, the nays have it. Gary called for a vote on the main motion as originally written, the ayes have it.

Article 3. To see if the voters will vote \$792,425, of which \$581,425 to be raised by taxes, to support the Highway Fund.

Joyce McKeeman moved the article, Marian Cawley seconded.

Lee Porter, Road Commissioner, thanked the road crew for all their work. He said it is the same amount to be raised by taxes as last year. They tried to level fund as much as they could. Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman, thanked the Town for being so supportive of the Highway Crew and budget. No more discussion.

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

Article 4. To see if the voters will vote \$136,400, of which \$136,400 to be raised by taxes, to support the Highway Capital Equipment Fund.

Joyce McKeeman moved the article, Jane Conner seconded.

Lee Porter said this is higher than some years but has to do with payment on equipment and that 2 payments will be dropping off. No other discussion. Gary called for a vote, the ayes have it.

Article 5. To see if the voters will vote \$15,000, of which \$15,000 to be raised by taxes, for the Bridge Reserve Fund.

Irene Mann moved the article, KellyAnn Donahue seconded.

Lee Porter spoke on this and said that we reinstated the \$15,000 for future bridge projects. Joe Blodgett spoke about the bridges. Gary called for the vote, the ayes have it.

Article 6. To see if the voters will authorize the town to use funds received from the Better Back Roads program.

Linda Weiss moved the article, Kerry DeWolf seconded.

Joe Blodgett spoke on this and said it was a really good program and has helped the town with their roads a lot. Gary called for a vote, the ayes have it.

Article 7. To see if the voters wish to have the Town Discontinue the listing of the names of delinquent tax payers in the Town Report.

Jeff Spiegel moved the article, Virginia Barlow seconded.

Jeff spoke in favor of this article, he thinks our town is more of a caring town and doesn't think we should publicly shame people who are late on their taxes. Susan Fortunati, Delinquent Tax Collector, stated the town voted to list these starting in 1965. It is all public information and she spoke about the reasons why it is helpful to have it in the town report. There was much discussion on this topic and when it was done Gary called for the vote, the ayes have it.

Article 8. To see if the voters will vote to establish a fund for dealing with the public safety threat posed by roadside trees infested by the Emerald Ash Borer, and to add \$5000 to the fund. Marian Cawley moved the article, Lee Porter seconded.

Steve Long spoke on the Ash Borer. He stated it was 10 miles away in Orange and it will eventually kill 99% of ash trees. If it spreads naturally it moves about a ½ mile a year. But it also gets moved in firewood and logs. The town started a roadside ash tree inventory and have about ½ the roads done in town. He said they were hoping to start this fund to help with the cost of dealing with the trees. Virginia said there are about 1330 trees in their inventory already which would produce about 600 cords of wood. Cutting in advance of the trees being killed is important because they are of no use once dead they get very brittle. There was more conversation about what happens to the wood, who would do the cutting etc.

When discussion ended Gary Apfel called for the vote, the ayes have it.

Article 9. To hear a report on the new fire station.

Jeff Spiegel moved the article, Jane Conner seconded.

Rick Cawley spoke on the history of the fire department building and spoke about the tests, land and building, property lines and permits. They believe building will start in the spring. There were many questions. Chris Groschner, Selectman, thanked John Haney for all his donated time/contributions on the Fire Dept. project.

No action needed on this article.

Article 10. To see if the voters will fix the compensation for the Selectmen for the coming year at \$1,000 each. Lee Porter moved the article Joyce McKeeman seconded.

Joyce McKeeman moved to amend the main article to read \$1,200 each instead of \$1,000. Susan Fortunati seconded.

Joyce McKeeman stated that it is such a tiny stipend and that the Selectboard puts in so many hours that they deserve more compensation. Gary asked if there was more discussion, there was none so he called for the vote on the amendment to the motion, the ayes have it. Gary called for the vote on the main article amended, the ayes have it.

Article 11. To see if the voters will vote \$424,333, of which \$239,403 to be raised by taxes, to support the General Fund.

Kerry DeWolf moved the article and Joyce McKeeman seconded.

Steve Long, Selectman, moved to amend the article to add \$600. To the total for and amount of \$424,933 of which \$231,323 to be raised by taxes to support the general fund. Raymond Moulton seconded.

Steve explained that when doing the budget we weren't clear on the amount of the surplus. After they saw the fund balance was \$208,000 they wanted to use more to lower the tax levy. No more discussion. Gary called for a vote on the amendment to the Article 11, the ayes have it.

Gary called for discussion on the main Article, there was none. Gary called for the vote, the ayes have it.

Article 12. To see if the voters will vote \$1,600, of which \$500 to be raised by taxes, to support the Planning Commission.

TR Jackson moved the article, Raymond Moulton seconded.

Dick Kelley spoke and stated that this would help the Planning Commission do a follow up survey. Kerry DeWolf said they would use some of it to follow up with the town plan. No more discussion Gary called for the vote, the ayes have it.

Article 13. To see if the voters will vote \$700, of which \$400 to be raised by taxes, to support the Conservation Commission.

KellyAnn Donahue moved the article, Jane Conner seconded.

Glynn Pellagrino thanked Dean Property Maintenance for volunteering to mow the apple orchard. He spoke about the wildlife corridors and the bottles for fundraising. He spoke about Green Up and that it is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Green Up. Ken Arkind spoke about Green Up and that 200 bags were picked up. May 2<sup>nd</sup> is Green Up this year and there will be a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party at the town hall after Green Up this year.

Chris Groschner called the question, Ed Childs seconded. Gary called for the vote on calling the question, the ayes have it. Gary called for the vote on the article, the ayes have it.

Chris Groschner moved to adjourn for lunch at 11:50 and to reconvene at 12:40. Zack McNeal seconded the ayes have it. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Gary re-convened the meeting at 12:40 pm.

Article 14. To see if the voters will vote \$10,000, of which \$10,000 to be raised by taxes, to support the Town Hall Capital Improvement Fund.

Irene Mann moved the article, Lee Porter seconded.

The building was spoken about and a new energy audit suggested. Chris spoke about some of the things that needed doing. When discussion ended Gary called for a vote on the article, the ayes have it.

Article 15. To see if the voters will vote \$5,000, of which \$5,000 to be raised by taxes, to support the computer equipment reserve fund.

Irene Mann moved the article, KellyAnn Donahue seconded. There was no discussion so Gary called for a vote, the ayes have it.

Article 16. 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.

Susan Fortunati moved the article and Raymond Moulton seconded.

Susan suggested we pick a time frame that sets the dates so we didn't have to have it on the warning every year to pick the dates.

Susan moved to have taxes collected by the Town Treasurer each year as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> payment due on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in Sept following Labor Day 9/15/20 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment due on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday the following February, 2/9/21 post marks not accepted.

Raymond Moulton seconded.

Discussion followed, Steve Long said he believes it has to be done every year anyway.

TR Jackson moved to amend the motion to article 16 to read post marks accepted, Twig Notman seconded. After much discussion about when and how many payments there should be Gary called for a vote on the amendment to the motion. The nays have it.

Gary called for a vote on the motion to "Have the taxes collected by the Town Treasurer 1st payment on September 15, 2020, 2<sup>nd</sup> payment on February 9, 2021 with post marks not accepted", the ayes have it.

Marian Cawley moved to let our Representatives speak. Kerry DeWolf seconded the ayes have it, meeting break at 1:14.

Carl Demrow and Rodney Graham spoke about what bills the house was working on, a climate change bill being one of them.

Town meeting resumed at 1:25 pm.

Article 17. To recommend four members-at-large for the Budget Committee for 1 year.

KellyAnn Donahue moved the article Chris Groschner seconded.

Chris Groschner nominated Irene Mann and Lee Porter, Robyn Vought nominated Amy Peberdy, Nancy Ertle nominated Raymond Moulton and Amy Peberdy nominated Mike Pittman. Nominations closed Gary called for the vote, the ayes have it.

Article 18. 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?

Kerry DeWolf moved the article Chris Groschner seconded. Kerry DeWolf moved to amend the article to read "the Town shall allow expenditure" Irene Mann seconded, the ayes have it. Gary called for a vote on the main article as amended, the ayes have it.

Article 19. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Irene Mann moved the article Jason Thurston seconded.

People spoke about the sound system, the Town Coalition and HS 122 among other things.

Gary thanked everyone for coming. Dan Wing moved to adjourn, Chris Groschner seconded, the ayes have it. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Nancy J. Ertle Corinth Town Clerk

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Office held: \_\_\_\_\_

Office held: \_\_\_\_\_