

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

Unapproved Minutes of the Select Board Meeting
March 9, 2020

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;
Zach McNeal, Corinth-Topsham Emergency Response Team; Raymond Moulton

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.
The minutes of the regular meeting of February 10, 2020 and the financial meeting of March 4, 2020 were approved.

Fire Station Update

Cawley reiterated the plan for heating presented at Town Meeting on March 3: a combination of heat pumps, Modine overhead heaters, and electric resistance units. Cawley noted that the plan needs to be finalized with Washington Electric. Long added that the building would be very well insulated.

Road Report

Porter said he received a notice from the new drug testing company, DISA Global Solutions Inc., requesting the serial numbers of the trucks driven by CDL certified drivers. Blodgett confirmed that this was standard practice. Groschner asked if there had been discussion of what might happen if any of the road crew contracts corona virus. Blodgett said he was providing hand sanitizer for drivers of the trucks. Blodgett said one of the town graders should be replaced soon, as it will be needing expensive repairs in the near future. He presented numbers for a new grader. On a 10-year lease, the cost would be \$32,000 a year for a John Deere grader that he and others on the road crew had test-driven. Blodgett added that he is leaning toward a John Deere because their service is superior. One of the current two graders would be traded in. Porter explained that it would be a municipal lease, meaning that the town would be committed for the full ten years. Cawley wondered how many years out the town could be committed before a town-wide vote is needed to approve a lease. Long said he wanted to know when the first payment would be due. Blodgett suggested using part of the highway fund's surplus to make the first payment. Long pointed out that the surplus is in the general highway fund rather than the capital fund.

Porter suggested investigating municipal leasing sources other than the manufacturers' leases.

The Board agreed to take up the purchase of a new grader at the April meeting, when they will have more information about lease options and funding.

Cawley asked Blodgett to send the roadside cutting plan so that the Select Board could publish a warning as an agenda item for the April meeting.

Appointments of Volunteer Positions

Long nominated Groschner as chair of the select board; Cawley seconded; the motion passed.

The Select Board also made the following appointments.

Administrative Officer: Karen Galayda

Budget Committee: Irene Mann, Raymond Moulton, Amy Peberdy, Mike Pittman, Lee Porter

Conservation Commission: Ken Arkind, Kevin Eaton

E911 Coordinator: Karen Galayda

Emergency Management Coordinator: Tabled to next meeting.

Energy Coordinator: Tim O'Dell

Fence Viewers: Gary Bicknell, Robert Fortunati, Catherine Tudish

Health Officer: Chris Groschner (1 year)

Planning Commission (3 years) & Zoning Board of Adjustment (1 year): Dick Kelley, Patricia Rizzo

Surveyor of Wood & Timber: Virginia Barlow

Tree Warden: Virginia Barlow

TRORC Commissioner: Tim O'Dell

Upper Valley Ambulance Service Rep. : Joe Truss

NEKWMD Board of Supervisors: Bob Sandberg, Marian Cawley (alternate)

Long moved to approve the list of appointments; Groschner seconded; the motion passed.

Following the tabling of appointment of the Emergency Management Coordinator, the Board entered a discussion of the town's emergency management systems.

Groschner reported that when he called 911 for an emergency at his house a few weeks ago, it took 25 minutes for a fire truck to show up and that truck was from West Fairlee. He expressed concern that the town is spending a great deal of money to build a new fire station, and yet it appears that Corinth's firefighters are not able to answer a call in a timely way.

Raymond Moulton acknowledged that this was a problem. He pointed out that members of the volunteer fire department have full-time jobs at a distance from the town. If a fire emergency arises during the day on a weekday, it is unlikely that the town's fire crew will be able to respond. Moulton noted that it used to be the case that members of the fire department were farmers and others who worked in Corinth, but that is no longer the case.

Select Board members speculated that it could become necessary to have some paid firefighters who would be available on a regular basis.

Town Response to Corona Virus

Zach McNeal will provide a fact sheet about the virus and what to do if an infection is suspected. The Board will distribute by mail to households, and it will also be posted on the web site and boards at the East Corinth post office and general store.

Establish Corinth Resilience Committee as an Advisory Committee

Cawley moved to so establish, with the provision that they are not authorized to act on behalf of the town. Long seconded, and the motion passed.

Correspondence

The Board received a letter from Karen Galayda notifying the Board that she has sent letters to three property owners informing them that they have accessory buildings in the river corridor. The warning letters advise them that they have until May 1 to cure the violation.

In response to a query by Nancy Ertle, Long moved to amend the purchasing policy adopted on August 18, 2018 to add the following positions as purchasing agents: chair of the conservation commission, chair of the cemetery commission, and the town hall manager. Groschner seconded, and the motion passed.

The Board reviewed a letter from Joe Truss, concerning a number of two-way radios currently in the possession of the fire department that Truss wants returned to him. Cawley will reply to Truss in writing on behalf of the Select Board.

Other Business

Cawley reviewed provisions of Vermont's Open Meeting Law:

Regular meeting agendas must be posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting; agendas for special meetings must be posted 24 hours in advance. In addition to posting on the Corinth town web site, agendas are posted at the Town Hall, East Corinth General Store, and the East Corinth post office.

Meeting minutes must be available within 5 days of the meeting. Select Board minutes are posted on the town web site and are available in the Town Clerk's office.

At 9:15 PM, the Select Board went into executive session with Zach McNeal to discuss a personnel matter. The Board came out of executive session at 9:45 PM. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.