

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

Unapproved Minutes of the Select Board Meeting  
April 13, 2020

Meeting conducted on Zoom.

Present for the Select Board: Chris Groschner, Steve Long, Rick Cawley  
Catherine Tudish, select board clerk  
Others present: Lee Porter, road commissioner; Joe Blodgett, road foreman; Joe Truss, John Haney

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.  
Groschner read a notice authorizing this public meeting to be conducted by remote access, in accordance with a special provision of Vermont's Open Meeting Law.

Minutes of the Select Board meeting of March 9, 2020 and the financial meeting of April 2, 2020 were approved.

Review of Emergency Communications System and Radio Placement

Joe Truss explained that he had been trying to get four radios back from the fire department. Truss intended that the radios would be put on the fire department rescue truck, to be used by the rapid response team, but said they were never used for that purpose. The rescue truck had no regular parking place, Truss said, and he was concerned that the radios might be stolen. Truss said he asked the fire department repeatedly to return the radios, but he still doesn't have them. Groschner said the Fire Department had returned the radios to him and they are now stored at the Town Hall. He added that there is only one charger for the four units.

Cawley asked who should have the radios going forward and how they could be made operative again.

Truss said that chargers are replaceable and that he can re-program the radios to be compatible with State Police radios.

Joe Blodgett suggested that when the radios go back out for use there should be receipts that note the serial number of the radio and the name of the person taking it.

Long asked if the town garage should have a radio.

Blodgett said it would be good to have one fire department band radio.

Cawley suggested that Groschner, as select board chair, should have one radio at home.

Truss recommended a system that would keep radio traffic to a minimum, with one person manning the command center during an emergency.

Groschner noted that there would not be space to have a specific room designated as a command center at the new fire station.

Blodgett offered to pick up the radios and take them to the town garage, where Truss could pick them up and assess them.

Cawley asked about the radio tower on Truss's property.

Truss explained that it works like an old-fashioned telephone party line that provides access for a few different radio frequencies.

Truss recommended that the town consider purchasing Knox boxes, secure lock boxes that contain keys to exterior and interior doors, for the Town Hall and the new fire station. In case of a fire, responders would not have to break down doors or windows to get inside. He estimated a purchase price of \$500 per box.

Truss asked who is currently the town's emergency management coordinator.

Groschner said he [Groschner] was appointed emergency management director by the select board, adding that deputy coordinators might be appointed as needed.

#### EC Fiber

Cawley made a motion for Groschner to sign a letter to EC Fiber on behalf of the town to proceed with consideration of admitting Corinth as a member town. Long seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Cawley noted that Washington Electric Co-Op recently got a \$60,000 planning grant to look into becoming a broadband service provider.

#### Road Commissioner's Report/Highway Concerns

Blodgett said mud season has not been a serious problem so far.

Regarding the purchase of a new grader, Blodgett said he was leaning toward a Caterpillar, which would be \$26,000 less than the John Deere, and Caterpillar would have the best trade-in value. The town could go with an 8-year lease that would require \$28,000 down, with payments of \$31,840 per year. The other option would be a 9-year lease, with no down payment and \$34,697 per year.

Groschner said he is now more concerned about the town making large-scale purchases, given the present financial uncertainties. He asked if the road crew could make the current grader last another year.

Blodgett said yes, but it would require repairs, as well a new set of tires for the winter.

Groschner asked Blodgett to have an estimate of how much would be needed to spend on the current grader by the May select board meeting.

Long said he agreed that the town should avoid big expenditures now.

Cawley then asked Blodgett to talk about the right of way clearing plan for the summer.

Blodgett said Ginny Barlow, town tree warden, has sent out letters to the affected property owners to advise them of the planned cutting along Cookeville Road. He has reviewed the plan with Barlow, and she has approved cutting of trees leaning over the roadway. There will also be cutting of ash trees. More right of way clearing may happen as time allows, potentially on Rollie Day Road.

Long asked who would do the work.

Blodgett said he would probably use Limlaw again, and he confirmed that land owners would have the option of keeping the wood.

Cawley asked how extensive the right of way clearing would be.

Blodgett said they would be cutting trees over the road and ash trees.

#### Fire Station Update

Long and Cawley reported that they were satisfied with the amended contract with Hazen Hill Construction, and the select board voted unanimously that Groschner could sign the contract on behalf of the board.

Haney reported that the next steps would be getting the subcontractor bids in, deciding who would be awarded the work and finalizing the budget.

Haney said Hazen Hill expects to begin work on May 5, as stated in the contract.

Groschner asked how the world of COVID-19 was affecting building practices.

Haney said he doesn't know if the fire station would be affected, but would ask Jason Yehle of Hazen Hill.

Long asked if the state fire marshal's office would need to get an update on the plans.

Haney said the few things to be revised were not significant enough to require an update.

#### Humane Society Contract and Invoice

The town has received a bill from the Central Vermont Humane Society for spaying and neutering and boarding of several feral cats captured and brought in by a Corinth resident.

Cawley asked if the town should enter into a contract with the Humane Society.

Groschner said he would discuss with Michelle Boyer, the animal control officer for Corinth.

#### Other Business

Long said the board should be thinking about how the town could be putting money into the local economy by going ahead with projects already budgeted for, such as renovations to the Town Hall. Other board members agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.