

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

Unapproved Minutes of the Select Board Meeting  
May 11, 2020

Meeting conducted on Zoom.

Present for the Select Board: Chris Groschner, Steve Long, Rick Cawley  
Catherine Tudish, select board clerk  
Others present: Joe Blodgett, road foreman; John Haney, Dina DuBois, Daniel Wing,  
Michael Bancroft

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 April 13, 2020 and the financial meeting of May 7, 2020 were approved.

Public Concerns

DuBois and Wing were seeking advice from the select board concerning their wish to build a garage near their house that would abut town property and might overlap slightly on town property.

Wing explained that they were considering two possible sites, one adjacent to Tenney Road and the other adjacent to the field behind Town Hall. If they chose the latter, they would at least need to do some grading to control water flow, and they did not want to go forward without input from the select board.

Groschner pointed out that they were not yet making a clear request.

DuBois replied: "Can we step over the boundary line, and can we grade?"

Blodgett said that, in his opinion, if the building were 15 feet from the center line of Tenney Road it would be fine since it is a Class 4 road.

Long said he agreed with Blodgett.

Cawley noted that each option was different and said the board would need more specificity.

Blodgett asked if the garage were built on the property adjacent to Town Hall where new septic tanks are located whether the runoff would affect them.

Wing said the runoff would go onto their property, not directly to the septic tanks.

Groschner concluded that it would help the board if DuBois and Wing came back with a more specific plan.

Blodgett agreed to take a look at the proposed sites and make an assessment.

DuBois then brought up the idea of the town buying a digital projector to use for town-related presentations.

Groschner said that would be something to bring up in November for the budget meeting.

DuBois said she appreciated the posting of signs prohibiting ATVs on Tenney Road and asked if more signs could be posted around town, such as on Magoon Hill Road. Blodgett said the select board needs to talk to whoever is patrolling the roads and request that tickets be given to violators. Every entrance road to Corinth is posted, he noted.

Groschner said the signs often disappear quickly after going up. Since the town constable can't issue a ticket, the best bet would be to talk to the Orange County sheriff. He suggested inviting the sheriff to come in and talk to the select board about the situation.

#### Road Report

Blodgett said he had received two paving quotes, from Blaktop and Pike, for paving a portion of Goose Green Road this summer. He recommended going with Blaktop, as their price was \$15,000 lower.

Cawley moved to authorize Blodgett to sign a contract with Blaktop. Long seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Blodgett presented an estimate for repairs and maintenance on the current Caterpillar grader. He said the tires would have to be replaced by winter, at a cost of \$9,600, and estimated another \$10,000 for repairs. Keeping it for another year would lower its eventual trade-in value, he added.

Long said he preferred holding off on the purchase of a new grader.

Blodgett said he agreed and that they could probably make the current grader work for another couple of years.

Blodgett said he had received an email from Ginny Barlow, the town tree warden, confirming that they had the required permissions from landowners along Cookeville Road for tree cutting.

Blodgett said he still had to speak with two of the landowners to determine whether they wanted to keep the wood, and then he would make arrangements with Limlaw.

Long asked when the affected trees would be painted.

Blodgett said later this week. He agreed to email the select board when he was finished so that they could look over the affected area.

The select board unanimously approved Blodgett's plan.

#### Fire Station Update

Haney reported that the grading work has begun at the site and that the cement work was on schedule to follow.

Cawley asked if the town's insurance covers a partially constructed building and construction site. He suggested checking with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

Groschner said he would make the call to inquire about insurance coverage.

Haney said he would arrange semi-weekly visits to the construction site for the select board.

### Fire Department Update

No members of the fire department attended the meeting.

Groschner said he would send the fire department another invitation to attend a select board meeting.

### Town Hall/public records access

Cawley reported that town clerk Nancy Ertle is providing requested information by phone and electronically.

Cawley said that Ertle is moving toward allowing public access by appointment. She has ordered protective equipment, such as masks, and expects to receive it soon.

Groschner asked if there were any immediate problems with access.

Cawley said there were not. People should call Ertle and make arrangement to access public records.

Groschner brought up the issue of mowing at Town Hall. He said it should be the responsibility of Dennis Tatro, the new facilities manager.

Groschner said other projects, such as repair of the gutters, should be moved along.

### Treasurer's Position

The select board has accepted Kerry Claffey's resignation, effective May 31, 2020.

Groschner said he had a conversation with Chad Hewitt, the town accountant, and that Hewitt wanted to get a sense of how many hours would be involved in the position.

Cawley said he spoke with Becky Buchanan, formerly assistant treasurer of Thetford, and asked her to explain the difference between fund accounting and regular bookkeeping.

Groschner said he was in favor of advertising the position.

Long said the board first needs to clarify what exactly they are looking for in a treasurer. He noted that Karen Galayda is now handling some of the work of a treasurer.

Groschner proposed a meeting with Hewitt and the entire select board.

The board unanimously agreed to such a meeting.

### Correspondence

Groschner said he received a report of a dog bite in East Corinth village. He checked with animal control officer Michelle Boyer, and the situation is under control.

Ertle notified the board that renewal of the maintenance contract for the generator was due, in the amount of \$400.

Long moved to have Groschner sign the contract renewal, Cawley second, and the motion passed unanimously.

### Other business

Cawley suggested having a back-up person for Anne McKinsey, in the event that she would not be available for updates to the web site, such as posting meeting agendas.

Long said he is familiar with the WordPress program and might be able to do it. He agreed to contact McKinsey to discuss.

Regarding a letter going out to Corinth's 300 second-home owners, reminding them of the 14-day quarantine period when they arrive and letting them know of services available to them, Long moved that the select board cover the cost of postage.

Groschner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Groschner volunteered to sign the letters, scheduled to be mailed on May 12, and suggested that a copy also be posted on the town web site.

At 8:21 PM, the board voted to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter..

The board came out of executive session at 8:45 PM, having taken no action.

#### Emergency Management Coordinator

The select board voted unanimously to appoint Wade Pierson as emergency management coordinator.

Chris Groschner will remain emergency management director.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.