

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

Minutes of the Financial Meeting
July 7, 2020

Attending for the Board: Chris Groschner, Steve Long, Rick Cawley.
Others Attending: Dick Kelley, treasurer; Karen Galayda, assistant treasurer; Suzanne Hansen, financial clerk for selectboard; Susan Fortunati, collector of delinquent taxes.

The meeting was held as a Zoom call. It was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

The board agreed to change the agenda order to take care of two items.

Tax sale

Fortunati said she wanted to delay a tax sale of delinquent properties due to possible financial difficulties posed by Covid pandemic. Instead of March 2021, she wants to hold it in October or November 2021. The board agreed, and it authorized Fortunati to retain the services of attorney Jeff Taylor for the tax sale.

Library grant

The board agreed to sign the grant authorization resolution for funding through the Vermont Community Development Program for Blake Memorial Library renovations. Long and Groschner signed it. Cawley authorized Groschner to sign on his behalf, with his initials adjacent.

Orders for Payment

The Board reviewed outstanding bills and signed orders for payment. The board members authorized Galayda or Kelley to sign their names with his or her initials adjacent. The Board reviewed payroll and payments made in previous month, and authorized signatures under the same conditions.

As additions to the warrant, the board authorized payment to Hazen Hill Construction for invoice submitted July 7 upon confirmation from John Haney, clerk of the works, that everything is in order. It will be paid on July 13.

Galayda reported that Hansen has reconciled all the bank statements up to the present. The board thanked her for her perseverance.

Setting Tax Rate

Kelley reported that he expected information on the tax rate from the state on July 10. Long asked that Kelley forward the calculation spreadsheet to the board members, and volunteered to help Kelley through the process as he has done this with the prior two treasurers.

Journal entries

Galayda said there were no journal entries to approve at this time. She asked for authorization to hire Susan Fortunati to help her and Kelley with this problem. The board authorized her to do so, paying Fortunati at a rate of \$50 an hour.

IT concerns

The board had a general discussion about office technology. No action taken.

Property Tax collection protocols

Kelley raised the issue of procedures and protocols for collecting taxes in the midst of the Covid pandemic. In order to keep everyone safe, the board and the treasurer agreed that the treasurer should draft a notice that would be mailed along with the tax invoices. The protocols will include limiting the number of people in the office at one time, protective equipment, and how to handle cash payments. Kelley will explore how other towns are handling it, and he will draft the policy and have it ready for the board's next meeting.

Other business

The board discussed the size of the generator for the new fire station. A larger model would allow for more usage during a power outage, including the electric range. The range could prove useful if the station was pressed into service as an emergency shelter. The board decided that, given the financial constraints, it couldn't justify the added expense and would purchase the smaller 30kw generator. Long will follow up on making the purchase.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15.