

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

Unapproved Minutes of the Select Board Meeting  
July 13, 2020

Meeting conducted on Zoom.

Present for the Select Board: Chris Groschner, Steve Long, Rick Cawley  
Catherine Tudish, select board clerk  
Others present: Dick Kelley, treasurer; Norm Collette and Raymond Moulton, cemetery commission;  
Levar Cole, Kate Maclean, Samantha Lefebvre

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 June 8, 2020 and the financial meeting of July 7, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Public Concerns

Three candidates for State Representative from Orange-1—Kate Maclean and Levar Cole of Chelsea and Samantha Lefebvre of Orange—introduced themselves and thanked the select board for welcoming them to sit in on the meeting.

Sheriff/ATVs

Orange County Sheriff Bill Bohnyak had indicated to Groschner that he would attend the meeting to discuss enforcement of the town's ATV ordinance. He was not present at the meeting's start, and the select board unanimously voted to move this agenda item to the end, hoping Bohnyak would come in later. He did not join the meeting, however, and Groschner said he would contact the sheriff again and invite him to the next meeting.

Road Report

Long reported that a few residents have pointed out the misspelling of the name on the sign at one end of Abe Jacobs Road, with the name spelled "Abes Jacob" Road.  
Groschner said he would speak with road foreman Joe Blodgett about correcting the sign when Blodgett returns from vacation.

Fire Station Update

Long said he had visited the site recently and reported that "they're making pretty amazing progress" on construction.  
Long noted that a check had gone out to the contractor on July 13 to cover current billing.  
Kelley asked how long it takes to get reimbursement from the bond bank, and Long said usually just a few days. Long will sign the reimbursement form for the town on July 14.  
Groschner confirmed that there would be a meeting at the fire station site on Wednesday, July 15, for select board members to get an update on progress.

### Cemetery Commission Concerns

Kelley noted that there is \$6,800 in the town budget for the cemetery commission. He recommended that the funds be transferred to the commission by the select board so that the commission can pay outstanding warrants.

Long asked how the warrants are normally paid.

Moulton said they usually get the full budgeted amount transferred to their account and that they need to get the end of fiscal year payments.

Collette and Moulton explained that \$6,000 is budgeted for cemetery upkeep, \$300 for flags, and \$500 for the annual audit.

Long made a motion to transfer \$6,300 to the cemetery commission account, as \$500 will go directly to the auditor and will be paid by the town.

Cawley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Collette asked about liability in case a person was injured in a cemetery.

Cawley said there were no special exceptions for graveyards; all are covered by the town's liability insurance.

Groschner asked if there has ever been a claim for injury in a cemetery.

Moulton said not that he knows of.

Collette and Moulton raised concerns related to green burials, in which cases the grave would not be reinforced with a cement vault and might be more prone to subsidence.

Cawley reiterated that the town has liability coverage for all town property, noting that if there is a danger, such as an opening in the ground, it should be posted with a warning.

Collette said they are studying policies and fees in different towns regarding alternate forms of burial.

Collette said he would contact Joe Blodgett about providing topsoil for holes in the Corinth Corners cemetery.

### Town Agent Appointment

Cawley noted that the town has two open positions, town agent and town moderator.

Groschner asked if Cawley would ask Gary Apfel to accept the positions.

Cawley agreed.

### Other business

Cawley made a motion to authorize funds for the postage meter in the town offices in the amount of \$1,000. Groschner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Cawley brought up a situation at the transfer station involving an unknown person who insisted on sorting through the trash looking for redeemable items after the station was closed. The person claimed that Joe Blodgett had given him permission. Cawley agreed to speak to Blodgett to verify whether he had given permission and then to discuss the policy of entering the transfer station after hours.

Long reported that he had talked to a Casella administrator about COVID precautions, noting that the biggest problem was people congregating at the truck and not social distancing.

Long said the Casella representative said they would provide signage against gathering at the truck, but they have not done so.

Groschner asked if Long had raised the question of Casella employees wearing masks.

Long said no, because he thought it was unnecessary, given that they are outdoors, which mitigates risk, and also working in the heat.

Groschner asked Long to contact Casella again to request signage against congregating at the truck.

Cawley asked Cole and Maclean—both members of the Chelsea select board—how they are addressing safety measures at their transfer station. They said they are promoting social distancing and encouraging the use of correct change. Board members agreed that it would be useful to post similar safety precautions on the list serve and the town web site. Long agreed to draft a statement for posting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.