

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

Unapproved Minutes of the Select Board Meeting  
August 10, 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; Lee Porter, road commissioner; Joe Blodgett, road foreman; Geoffrey Hoots and Norm Collette, cemetery commission; Kenya Lazuli; Tom Mathews

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 July 13, 2020 and the financial meeting of August 4, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Public Concerns

Geoffrey Hoots was seeking approval from the select board to revise the management plan of the Shea Town Forest to allow for green burials within the forest. He noted that the Upper Valley Land Trust holds an easement on the forest property and asked the select board to submit the revised plan to the UVLT. As holder of the easement, UVLT needs to approve uses of the forest.

Hoots also brought up a prohibition against the use of flat markers on graves within the forest in the management plan. He said that many opting for green burial might want a commemorative marker.

Cawley recommended removing the prohibition against flat markers from the management plan.

Hoots and Cawley agreed it would be best to keep the language broad to avoid going back to UVLT for every change.

Cawley pointed out that the conservation commission, rather than the Town Forest committee, now has oversight over the town forest and that the language of any revised management plan should reflect that.

Long said the cemetery commission should update the management plan in collaboration with the conservation commission and submit the revised documents to the select board in time for action at the September meeting.

Kenya Lazuli had emailed the select board asking them to consider approval of the town making a statement in support of Black Lives Matter. Her email suggested a statement on the town web site, as well as a sign at Town Hall and included possible wording.

Cawley said he was totally supportive of the idea and recommended getting the request on the agenda in time for the next select board meeting.

Groschner suggested getting in touch with other area towns to see what they are doing in support of Black Lives Matter.

Long agreed that it would be good to see what other towns are doing and said he was in favor of having a statement on the web site.

Cawley noted that Lazuli's request had not come in time to get on the agenda for the August meeting, and in order to comply with the open meeting law, subjects for discussion had to be warned on the agenda.

### IT proposal by Tom Mathews of TechGroup

A representative of an IT service company in South Burlington, Mathews said they reach out to all towns in Vermont twice a year to present information. He said the company offers a variety of service and support options to municipal organizations, such as remote monitoring of electronic devices. If there is a problem with any device in the network, TechGroup will notify the organization and take care of it.

Mathews recommended an on-site tech visit by a company representative to assess the need. This "mini assessment" would result in a detailed report regarding the town's computer network and suggest needed upgrades.

Long said the town works with an IT service that we are happy with. He asked what TechGroup would charge for a mini assessment.

Mathews replied that they would charge \$1,250 for the assessment and report.

The board thanked him for attending the meeting.

### Road Report

In response to the select board's request that the public notice board be moved from the old transfer station to the new site, Porter said the board needs to be repaired before it is moved.

Groschner said there are two notice boards to be moved. The board outside the gate, used for posting official town notices, would have to be relocated outside the gates of the new transfer station in order to provide 24-hour access to notices.

Collette noted that the locks on the official notice board are no longer working and need to be replaced.

Groschner said he would contact a locksmith to replace the locks.

Blodgett reported that the town is receiving a planning grant for erosion control and culvert installation. He arranged to meet with Groschner to get his signature on the required paperwork.

Blodgett said the road crew is currently working on a big project on Maplewood Road that involves installation of a new culvert.

Groschner asked about trees on Cookeville Road to the west of Magoon Hill Road that had been marked for cutting but are still standing.

Blodgett replied that the wood market is not good right now and advised waiting until wood prices increase.

Collette said he would add four or five trees from the West Corinth cemetery when the Cookeville Road trees are cut.

Porter said there have been two recent complaints from residents involving roadway interference. One concerns a person on Young Road with debris in the roadway; the other concerns a person digging ditches on South America Road and claiming they are speed bumps. Porter said he and Blodgett have not yet been able to speak directly with either person, but will continue to work on resolving both situations.

### Set tax rate for FY 21

Kelley reported that the new tax rate would be 2.1553 for residential properties, an increase of .15 over the previous year. The rate for non-residential properties will be 2.2502, an increase of .10.

Long said the increases are due to the education rates set by the state.

Long moved to accept the new rate; Cawley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Long moved that Kelley could sign the required paperwork with board members' names and initial the signatures. Cawley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Kelley said he would get the tax bills out this week.

### Fire Station update

Long reported that the builders are making good progress, noting that a crew worked over the weekend insulating walls and ceilings.

Long said he has purchased a generator for the fire station, which will arrive in about six weeks. Long noted that members of the fire department had attended a meeting at the site and recommended a few small changes in the electrical plan, such as installing ceiling fans. The changes required a change order in the amount of about \$1,000, Long said. Long confirmed that the next site meeting for the select board would be Friday, August 14, at 1PM.

#### Fire Department update

Cawley said he had received an email from Fire Chief Ed Pospisil, declining to attend the meeting and raising some concerns, which Cawley did not specify. Groschner said he would reply to Pospisil's concerns.

#### Town Agent appointment

Cawley moved to appoint Gary Apfel as town agent; Long seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### Other business

Collette asked if the cemetery commission had to send notice of all meetings to the town email list to comply with the open meeting law.

Cawley replied that meetings need to be posted if they will involve discussion of matters affecting the town.

Regarding green burials, Collette said he wants to look ahead, to spare future taxpayers the expense of creating another cemetery. He added that shroud burials would be the most cost-effective in terms of cemetery maintenance.

#### Correspondence

Long reminded board members that the contract with the Orange County Sheriff for FY 21 still needs to be signed. He pointed out that the board wanted to have the sheriff come to a meeting before signing a new contract, noting that the sheriff had not attended the July meeting.

Groschner said he would work on having the sheriff at the September meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.