

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

Minutes of the Financial Meeting
December 1, 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.

The meeting was held as a Zoom call. 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. It was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

Orders for Payment

Galayda noted that the Hold harmless funds from the state arrived for \$101,653. The Highway supplement also came in for around \$44,000, and it will go toward gravel. The Board authorized payment of the final bill from Hazen Hill after it has been examined and approved by John Haney. The Board authorized payment to Lindsey Blake for additional hours for cleaning up after Election Day. The Board authorized a payment to East Corinth General Store for past due gas invoices totaling \$230.40. 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.

The board agreed to split 50-50 with the cemetery commission the charges from Susan Fortunati for reconciling the commission's last few years of investment transactions.

Solar net metering

The board discussed mounting solar panels on the fire station roof to offset electrical usage at the fire station, which uses heat pumps for its heat. Long said that he had received notice from Jason Yehle at Hazen Hill that the final invoice would be for \$44,442. He will go over all the numbers, but it appears that very little of the contingency allowance would need to be spent. It looks like there is approximately \$30,000 to go toward solar panels. The board noted that the building had come in on budget, and that this couldn't have happened without the fire department absorbing a number of the finishing costs itself. Among other things, the department covered the labor and materials for painting the interior, and the cost of paving the parking lot. They were able to do this by soliciting financial contributions from the community, and by doing the painting themselves.

The Board discussed the implications and procedures for redirecting the \$30,000 to reimburse the Town for the \$31,400 that had been paid to Morton Builders before the board decided not to use their services. Galayda explained that US Bank requires an invoice and a copy of a check written to a vendor before it can reimburse. It doesn't look as if the town could legally claim reimbursement for funds spent in advance of the town's bond approval vote.

The board agreed to discuss the solar installation at the final budget meeting, which would take place later that evening.

Other business

The Board agreed that the town should have Topsham Telephone discontinue the phone line for the fax machine since it is rarely used.

The Board addressed Nancy Ertle, the Town Clerk's, concerns about scheduling the staff use of the Town Hall with the recent increase in Covid cases in Orange County. Ertle, Kelley, Hansen, and Galayda, have worked out a schedule that limits the number of people in the office at any one time. Kelley said there was an ongoing need for him to be in the office at times during the days Ertle has blocked out for her own use.

Groschner said that he has a room divider that might work to enclose Kelley's work space. Ventilation was discussed, and the Board encourage the staff to crack the windows so there was ongoing air exchange. The ventilation in the ceilings will be checked to see that it is functioning properly.

The Board agreed to change the time of the recurring monthly financial meeting to the first Thursday (formerly the first Tuesday) of the month at 4:00 p.m.

Kelley said that he would approach Ertle and ask what circumstances would have to be in place for her to be comfortable with the two of them being in the office at the same time.

Groschner asked for a progress report on the divvying up the work load among Kelley, Galayda, and Hansen. It is an ongoing process as Kelley gets up to speed and Hansen reconciles the bank account. They are aiming toward the day when Galayda will be focused on bookkeeping, Hansen on producing the warrant, and Kelley all the accounting functions.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30.