

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

Unapproved Minutes Of Selectboard Meeting  
Meeting  
May 10, 2021

Meeting conducted on Zoom.

Present for the Board: Chris Groschner, Rick Cawley, Carl Demrow.

Anne Rosten, select board clerk.

Others present: Lee Porter, road commissioner; Joe Blodgett, road foreman; Dick Kelley, town treasurer; Gary Apfell, town moderator; Nick Kramer, Miranda Moody Miller. Attending after roll call: Raymond Moulton; Kevin Geiger, senior planner for Two Rivers Ottauquechee Commission.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

Groschner summarized the 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 regular Select Board meeting of April 12, 2021 and the Financial meeting of May 6, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Road Commissioner's Report: Porter relayed he met with a person representing East Corinth Store about clearing out the trailer with trash and she said she would clean it out. When Porter checked back a week later he found she was still working on it. He also reported that he's heard from different residents about vehicles seen about town without license plates and that he's noticed it too. The Select Board agreed to request additional surveillance and Porter offered to contact Sheriff Boyniak.

Blodgett disclosed he got quotes for paving from both Pike Industries and BlackTop for \$160,000 and \$159,000 respectively. He'd prefer to go with BlackTop. The paving will start near the location of the White Dairy Farm on Cookeville Road west to where it changes to dirt. The major "reclaiming" will be from Peberdy's to Davis' approximately. The project is expected to come within the budget.

Cawley made a motion to accept the bid from Blacktop and Groschner to sign for the Select Board. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Cawley inquired about the road crew staff shortage and Blodgett noted it is projected long term and is looking to hire a replacement.

Discussion ensued around the Waits River Bridge project which is in Topsham but Corinth requires access whether by temporary bridge or detour. Blodgett said the project will probably begin next year and will keep the Board updated on it. Porter addressed the CDL shortage which is widespread nationally. Blodgett has been gathering information from nearby towns as to their pay scales and benefits. Groschner suggested we possibly have a special Select Board Meeting to address the ongoing personnel road crew shortage. Blodgett reported that the Dearborn Hill project and the Cookeville Road tree cutting has been done and the F550 is back so chloride application will begin soon.

Two Rivers Ottauquechee Commission: Cawley motioned that Kevin Geiger from TROC was present and that we hear from him before moving on to the next item on the agenda. All agreed.

At issue is the old East Corinth Village store which is in dilapidated condition. It appears there are parts of the garage and barn that are falling apart and may be in the flood zone. Geiger stated that there are two phases to deal with this. Phase One is a walk thru and further investigation as to whether it could be a brownfield site which deals with contamination.

This phase takes approximately two months. Phase two requires testing which involves the state and the EPA. There is grant money available. Geiger noted that the Fire Chief and the Board of Health have the authority to condemn the site. Groschner added that there is a holding tank for the sewage. Ray Moulton said the foundation is new. Groschner stated that the old store and the village are in a historic district. Geiger will keep it on the agenda and talk to brownfield's.

Town Meeting: The Board decided not to publish the warning in the Journal Opinion but will have extras on hand at Town Meeting. Apfell asked if masking will be required. Kramer noted that the latest directive from the state is masking and social distancing from May 1st to June 1st. Apfell offered to put a reminder in the LRN. Discussion then turned to microphone equipment; whether floor mics and/or remote mics be provided. Apfel also offered to send an invitation to both our representatives and senator as they may not be aware of Corinth's date change for Town Meeting.

Public access to Town Hall; remote/in person board meetings; Covid 19 emergency number: .As to when the public access and in person meetings can resume inside the Town Hall. Kelley said all who work inside the building are fully vaccinated. Demrow suggested a discussion take place between the Board, Dick Kelley, and Nancy Ertle. Cawley inquired as to when we could discontinue the Covid emergency number and Groschner replied there hasn't been any activity for quite a long time. Cawley noted that the posters with the emergency number should be taken down. There were other suggestions and it was decided to discuss further and put on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting.

Covid Funds: Kramer reported that as of today, Monday May 21st., the state has 30 days to disperse the \$140,000 to the town and with the funds from the county it may bring it up to \$450,000. Cawley asked Kelley if we had a "set aside" account for it. Kelley affirmed that we do and asked if it could be used to modernize the highway dept pay scale. Kramer noted that there is a provision for "Premium Essential Services". The Board thanked Kramer for his work on this.

Unauthorized use of Town South Road property: There are questions regarding the town property on the corner of Goose Green Road and South Road which also borders the river. The abutting property owners have used it for fencing horses and mowing. Porter noted that the town needs access to the bridge. The Board decided that more information and documentation is needed. Porter stated that the issue had been on the agenda ten years ago when Frank Roderick was the town road commissioner and putting in a call to Frank would be helpful. The Board agreed to put it on the agenda for June.

Appointment to the vacancy on the Corinth Conservation Commission: Demrow moved to appoint Miranda Moody Miller to the Corinth Conservation Commission. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Miranda is now a member of the CCC.

Other business: Kelley has been cleaning up the town's accounts as new treasurer and is still relying on Susan Fortunati for help. She has worked approximately eight and a half hours so far and Kelley would like approval to keep her on for another ten hours of extra help at the same pay. Kelley is caught up on the day to day responsibilities and Susan is helping with locating all the auditing needs and organization of the office. Cawley made a motion to approve continuing the use of Fortunati. Demrow seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM