Corinth Town Meeting Minutes for May 25, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am by Gary Apfel the Moderator. Gary Apfel asked Chris Groschner to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gary Apfel recessed the meeting at 10:05 am for our representatives to speak. Rodney Graham and Samantha Lefebvre. They spoke on things the State House has been working on and things to come. There were questions from the public and discussion on topics of interest.

Gary Apfel reconvened the meeting at 10:40 am.

Chris Groschner spoke and acknowledged Steve Long for his tenure at a Selectman for 6 years. Chris presented him with a plague to commemorate his service. Rick Cawley then thanked Chris for his 9 years of service as a Selectman and also presented him with a plaque.

Gary Apfel went over Roberts Rules of Order and the way the meeting would be conducted.

Article 1. To elect the following by Australian ballot. For the purpose of this article the polls will be open from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm.

Moderator for 1 year, Selectboard member for 2 years, Selectboard member for 3 years, Lister for 3 years, Lister for 2 years, Collector of Delinquent Taxes for 1 year, Constable for 1 year, Cemetery commissioner for 3 years, WRVS Director for 3 years.

No action necessary.

Article 2. To see if the voters will accept the various Offices' Reports as presented in the Town Report.

Raymond Moulton moved the article Jeff Spiegel seconded. No discussion. The ayes have it.

Article 3. To see if the voters will vote $791,755, of which $573,055 to be raised by taxes, to support the Highway Fund.

Holly Groschner moved the article Sue Parmenter seconded. Lee Porter spoke on this and said this budget is down $8,000. Susan Fortunati asked about a $1,000 discrepancy between amounts on different pages. Rick Cawley said it was a missed income line from a past year that was carried forward. No more discussion, Gary Apfel called for a vote, the ayes have it.

Article 4. To see if the voters will vote $123,125, of which $103,125 to be raised by taxes, to support the Highway Capital Equipment Fund.

Kerry DeWolf moved the article Marian Cawley seconded. Lee Porter said this was down $33,000 because one of the vehicles has been paid off. No more discussion, Gary Apfel called for a vote, the ayes have it.

Article 5. To hear a report on future highway staffing needs.

Raymond Moulton moved the article and Chris Groschner seconded, the ayes have it. Joe Blodgett spoke on the highway crew needs, payroll and insurance for the future.

Article 6. To see if the voters will vote $15,000, of which $15,000 to be raised by taxes, for the Bridge Reserve Fund.

TR Jackson moved the article Jeff Spiegel seconded. Susan asked what the fund balance was. No one had the answer. Patty Duffy moved to recess to gather the information. Kelly Ann Donahue seconded. The nays have it. There was more discussion and Susan Parmenter called the question, Jeff Spiegel seconded. The motion to end discussion was approved by a vote of 36 yes and 1 no. Gary Apfel called for a vote on the main motion, the ayes have it.

Article 7. To see if the voters will authorize the town to use funds received from the Better Back Roads Grant program.

TR Jackson moved the article, Chris Groschner seconded. No discussion, the ayes have it.

Article 8. To hear a report on the new fire station.

Jeff Spiegel moved the article Luise Graf seconded, the ayes have it. Rick Cawley spoke on the Fire Dept. and that we came in on budget. He read a report in the Town Report out loud so people would know what has been done. There was a bit of discussion.

Article 9. To see if the voters will fix the compensation for the Selectboard members for the coming year at $1,200 each.

Susan Fortunati moved the article, Marian Cawley seconded. Susan said she thought it was a good deal for what they do. No more discussion, Gary Apfel called for a vote, the ayes have it.

Article 10. To see if the voters will vote $5,000, of which $5,000 to be raised by taxes, for the Emerald Ash Borer Fund.

TR Jackson moved the article, Raymond Moulton seconded. TR asked what it was to be used for. Rick Cawley said a fund to remove Ash tress in the roads right of way. Steve Long said this will make $15,000 in the fund. There was discussion about what happened to the wood. No more comments. The ayes have it.

Article 11. To see if the voters will vote $500, of which $500 to be raised by taxes, to support the Planning Commission.

Kerry DeWolfe moved the article Sue Parmenter seconded. The ayes have it.

Article 12. To see if the voters will vote $2,100, of which $600 to be raised by taxes, to support the Conservation Commission.

Ken Arkind moved the article Chris Groschner seconded. There was clarification on what the money was for. No more discussion, Gary Apfel called for the vote, the ayes have it.

Article 13. To see if the voters will vote $5,000, of which $5,000 to be raised by taxes, to support the Town Hall Capital Improvement Fund. Susan Fortunati moved the article, Luise Graf seconded. No discussion, the ayes have it.

Article 14. To see if the voters will vote $3,000, of which $3,000 to be raised by taxes, to support the computer equipment reserve fund.

Susan Fortunati moved the article, Chris Groschner seconded. TR wanted to request that a report of funds be included in the Town Report from now on. Susan Fortunati moved to add fund balances for each fund in future town reports. Chris Groschner seconded, no discussion, the ayes have it.

There was some discussion on the computers in the office. Gary Apfel called for the vote on the main article. The ayes have it.

Article 15. To see if the voters will vote $250 to support the Vermont Family Network.

Holly Groschner moved the article, Chris Groschner seconded. Chris spoke as to why this was an article. Dick spoke about a letter received form the organization. Gary called for a vote. The voice vote was close, so he called for a hand count. 15 yes, 13 no, the ayes have it.

Article 16. To see if the voters will vote $410,781, of which $223,111 to be raised by taxes, to support the General Fund.

Holly Groschner moved the article, Lee Porter seconded. Raymond Moulton moved we add the $250 we voted to support the Vermont Family Network to the amount making it $411,031 of which $223,361 to be raised by taxes, Jeff Spiegel seconded. The ayes have it.

Gary Apfel called for a vote on the main Article with the new wording, the ayes have it.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to have the taxes collected by the Treasurer and to fix the dates for payment of the same.

Chris Groschner moved the article Trudy Rumbaugh seconded. Dick Kelley asked to have the collection dates on September 14, 2021 and February 8, 2022. Susan Fortunati amended the article to include postmarks not accepted. Raymond Moulton seconded. The ayes have it.

Gary Apfel called a vote on the article as it now reads: To see if the Town will vote to have the taxes collected by the Treasurer on or before September 14, 2021 and February 8, 2022 with post marks not accepted. The ayes have it.

Article 18. To recommend four members-at-large for the Budget Committee for 1 year.

Chris Groschner moved the article Trudy Rumbaugh seconded. Chris Groschner recommended Raymond Moulton, Rick Cawley recommended Lee Porter, Nancy Ertle recommended Mike Pittman, Carl Demrow recommended Amy Peberdy and Chris Groschner recommended Irene Mann. By unanimous consent, the article was amended to read as follows: "To recommend Raymond Moulton, Lee Porter, Mike Pittman, Amy Peberdy, and Irene Mann for the Budget Committee for 1 year." The ayes have it.

Article 19. In case of unanticipated State Aid Funds (funds not included in the budget) for specific highway and bridge projects applied for ran received during the fiscal year, shall the Town allow expenditure of such funds for those projects?

Carl Demrow moved the article, Tim O'Dell seconded. No discussion. The ayes have it.

Article 20. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

There being none, Chris Groschner moved to adjourn, Jeff Spiegel seconded. The ayes have it. Meeting Adjourned at 12:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Nancy J Ertle Corinth Town Clerk

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Approved by: _____

Office held: _____

Approved by: _____

Office held: _____