

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

Unapproved Minutes Of Selectboard Meeting  
Meeting  
Monday June 14,, 2021

Attending for the Board: Rick Cawley, Carl Demrow, Nick Kramer. Anne Rosten, select board clerk.

Others attending: Dick Kelley, Treasurer; Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman, Jeff Spiegel, Glynn Pellegrino, Chris Groschner. Holly Groschner and Gary Apfel attended via Zoom.

Meeting conducted in person and on Zoom. Rick Cawley called the meeting to order at 7:04. It was noted that this meeting was the first in-person since March 2020.

Approval of minutes from regular select board meeting from May 10, 2021 and financial meeting from June 3, 2021.

Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes from both meetings, Cawley seconded and vote taken. Two ayes and one abstain. Motion passed.

Public concerns

Jeff Spiegel opened discussion with a few concerns about organizing the Corinth Community Coalition. He stated that he and other members have been researching for over 4 months the different needs of the town and also what other towns have been doing in similar situations. The 211 call system got over 40 calls in the past year for help; situations calling for assistance from different agencies; Little Rivers, VT dept of Health, Clara Martin, Safeline, Child and Family Services, etc. Help was needed for food, transportation, health, substance abuse, and a myriad of concerns. The Corinth Community Coalition sees the need for a "lead" person to identify and steer the needs to the proper agencies; preferably one who is or can be trained in these skills.

The subject then turned to the possible combining of the Health and Service Officer positions. Groschner had spoken to Jen Brooks-Wooding about continuing in the Service Officer position which she has expressed interest in. Spiegel asked the board for help putting together and approving a job description for these positions. Cawley stated his concern about the broad scope of this project. There were questions about volunteer vs pay, growing of town govt, the real possibility of combining both positions, etc. The board agreed to have a conversation with Brooks-Wooding.

Glynn Pellagrino brought up the matter of sharing the Corinth Conservation Commission funds 50/50 with the Corinth Community Coalition from the collection of bottle recycling at the Transfer Station. Glynn asked the board to approve a check for \$300 to be written to the Corinth Community Coalition from the Corinth Conservation Commission as an advance on bottle collection to be done by the Corinth Community Coalition. Since the Corinth Community Coalition will also be collecting bottles at the Transfer Station the board suggested signage at the entrance to inform the public. Holly Groschner expressed concern about sharing from one group to another and for the town to have authority over it as the Corinth Conservation Commission also provides money to the Town Forest. Pellegrino answered that the Corinth Conservation Committee fund balance of \$1200 is in a town account. Kramer made a motion to approve the sharing of the bottle money from the Corinth Conservation Committee to the Corinth Community Coalition. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Kelley will issue the check.

Road Commissioner's report / Highway Concerns

Lee Porter reported that the trailer that had been full of trash bags at the former East Corinth Village Store was empty but now there is a Casella dumpster in place.

The board asked about the right of way concerns around town. Porter stated that things are mostly cleaned up and will keep an eye out for other violations.

Blodgett brought up the temporary bypass for the construction of a new bridge in Waits River. He is concerned about Corinth's access to its residents on Richardson and Claflin Roads during construction in case of emergencies as well as mail, UPS, Fedex, fuel and other deliveries. Blodgett noted that once the bridge is closed the town has 21 days to open access according to state guidelines. Blodgett informed the board that the bridge contractor or Topsham would have to be responsible for any improvements to Corinth roads necessary to bring the bypass up to snuff. He will stay in close contact with Brad Calhoun of Topsham about the project.

Demrow heard from Jeff Martin about putting up signs on Hutchinson and Fairground Rds to caution motorists concerning horseback riders along the road. Blodgett noted that signs rarely work to slow motorists down but they would put up any signs the homeowner provides. A special sign made for the town roadways costs approximately \$250. Demrow will relay this information to Martin. Groschner inquired about having the movable speed sign set up in Cookeville again. Blodgett mentioned it has been in East Corinth too long and that the Constable should be appointed to move it now and then. Cawley asked about nonresidents using Corinth's transfer station. It's also been noticed by other townspeople. Groschner asked about the town issuing dump stickers as has been done in the past. Porter proposed updating the stickers. Cawley suggested having a 24 x 24 sign installed at the entrance stating "For Corinth Residents Only" except for the disposal of electronics for NEKWMD members.

Blodgett had all the information regarding the purchasing of the new grader. He had quotes from John Deere and Caterpillar. Cat comes in at \$9000 less than JD and with free filters. There was quite a bit of discussion between Blodgett and the board about whether to lease or buy outright. Cawley noted that the town could not purchase outright without holding a bond vote. It was decided that the town would go with the lease option with all agreed. Cawley made a motion to approve the lease for the grader. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next was a request for the board to approve the Pilot Grant and a Better Back Roads grant. Demrow made a motion to have select board sign approval for both grants. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Demrow made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a highway personnel matter. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Afterward, Demrow motioned to authorize Joe Blodgett to offer the third driver position full time to an interested candidate and a part time position for roadside mowing. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Additions to June warrant

Kelley reported that more charges have come in for approval since the Financial meeting of June 3rd. He listed \$5279.84 from Martin's Quarry, \$100 from Claremont Ford for insurance deductible, \$19,255 for surplus fire truck (which will be reimbursed by the fire dept), \$160 for newsletter postage. Demrow made a motion to approve bills to be paid. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Kelley noted that there is less than \$100 postage on the meter but suggested not to put much on it before the end of the fiscal year which is coming right up. Kramer made a motion not to exceed \$100 on the postage meter. Demrow seconded and motion passed unanimously.

#### Public access to town hall; remote/in person board meetings; Covid 19 emergency number; Town website; Request from Corinth Coffeehouse; selectboard meeting schedule

On June 14th, 2021, the State of Emergency in VT was declared over by Governor Scott. Covid 19 restrictions have been discontinued. Kramer asked Kelley how the past week has been in the office with masking, visitors, etc. He replied that only one employee is wearing a mask and the traffic in and out of the office has been getting busier and everyone is comfortable with re-opening. Cawley had a request from Dave Richards to hold outdoor Coffeehouses on the town hall porch with the audience in the parking area for July and August. Demrow suggested roping off the parking area to vehicles. Kramer made a motion to authorize the Coffeehouse to use the town hall porch. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Cawley asked board members if having the Selectboard financial meetings moved to the first Wed of the month at 7:00 PM would work for all members of the board. All agreed and Kramer made a motion to reschedule the financial meetings to above stated times. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### ARPA update

Kramer was supplied the latest information on the ARPA funds. The town has 30 days from June 8, 2021 to request the funds through a state portal hosted by the Department of Finance and Regulation. The town also must review impending governmental guidance on the eligible use of funds. Kramer also got the actual updated amounts for town allocation: \$74590 for 2021 and the same for 2022. The board's advice is to proceed slowly as to how to spend this money. Demrow offered to fill out the application and the town will put the funds in a separate account. Kramer made a motion for the town to pursue the ARPA funds and have Demrow fill out the portal. Cawley seconded and motion passed unanimously.

#### Unauthorized use of town South Road property

The board discovered that the property was acquired by a tax sale years ago. Groschner asked what the agreement with the abutting landowner was at the time. Cawley suggested getting in touch with the abutter to find out and possibly give permission for continued use. He noticed that the existing fence is not permanent. Kramer proposed having an agreement in writing. Demrow offered to talk with the landowner.

#### Appointment of town officers and commission members

The officers and commission members to be appointed are:

Administrative assistant; Karen Galayda; E911, Karen Galayda; Planning Commission, Kerry DeWolfe, Kenya Lazuli, Anne Margolis; Revolving Loan Fund, Virginia Barlow, Ray Moulton; Road Commissioner, Lee Porter; Energy Coordinator, Tim O'Dell; Board of Abatement, Tim O'Dell; Budget Committee, Ray Moulton, Amy Peberdy, Lee Porter, Mike Pittman; Conservation Commission, Brad Wheeler, Lindle Lawton-Sutton, John Sutton, Glynn Pellegrino, Jon Spanier; Fence Viewers, Gary Bicknell, Catherine Tudish, Robert Fortunati; Surveyor of Wood and Timber, Virginia Barlow; Tree Warden, Virginia Barlow; TROC regional commissioner, Tim O'Dell; UV Ambulance representative, Joe Truss; NEKWMD board member, Bob Sandberg, Marian Cawley alternate.

Cawley made a motion to approve appointments of town officers and commission members. Demrow seconded and motion passed unanimously.

#### Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)

Cawley has reviewed the plan for the board to accept. It was due May 1st and now needs to go to TRORC. Demrow made a motion to accept the plan and have Cawley sign and send it to TRORC. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Other business

Groschner opened discussion about how this meeting went for the Zoom attendees as he started attending from his home before coming in person later. He observed that hearing all the voices was quite difficult. Gary Apfel, who attended via Zoom, reported similar difficulties hearing but suggested continuing with Zoom as it is beneficial for those who find it hard to attend in person. The board agreed to work on improving the sound quality.

Kramer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.