

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

Unapproved Minutes Of Selectboard Meeting
Meeting
Monday October 11, 2021

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

Others attending: Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman, Kerry DeWolfe, Chair, Planning Commission, Chris Groschner. Gary Apfel and Alex Nuti-de Biasi attended via Zoom.

Meeting conducted in person and on Zoom. Rick Cawley called the meeting to order at 7:03

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of September 13, 2021, and financial meeting of October 5, 2021

Nick Kramer motioned to approve the minutes for the regular select board meeting of September 13, 2021 and financial meeting of October 5, 2021. Rick Cawley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Public concerns

None

Road Commissioner's reports / Hwy. Concerns

Porter opened discussion with a report on the unimog in the town right of way in front of the former East Corinth Village Store. He has found that the vehicle has never been registered and no serial number has been found. Conversation as to the next course of action for the town takes place later in the meeting.

On another note, Porter expressed enthusiasm for the two new hires for the road crew and how well they are working out. Blodgett also stated how pleased he is with their initiative and work ethic. Blodgett also said the paving projects have been finished and the Taplin Hill drainage project will be finished soon. Then the crew can work on getting the equipment ready for the winter plowing season.

Planning commission request re: highway access permits

Kerry DeWolfe presented a draft of the updated town highway ordinance in regard to changes in the driveway access permitting process that the planning commission has been working on. She reviewed each page of the draft explaining the changes. The planning commission believes that the town ordinance is outdated and unclear as to guidelines and regulations with the procedure. The planning commission suggests the enlisting of the Administrative Officer for approval to ensure compliance with other town regulations after the process begins. The existing ordinance requires only an initial approval of the Road commissioner and foreman. It is the position of the planning commission that there have been abuses of the application process and that compliance calls for clear enforcement. New property owners need clear information to apply for permits pertaining to new driveways, subdividing, culverts, line of sight, tree cutting, etc. There was some disagreement about the addition of the Administrative Officer from the Road commissioner and road foreman. Chair Cawley will review the statutory process, read through the revisions, make notations, and will present the proposed changes at the next select board meeting. He stated his understanding that after adopting any new policy there is a 60 day period for voters to petition for a vote after notice of the change is posted.

Fiber meeting request:

Holly Groschner & the Corinth Fiber Initiative have requested that the select board approve scheduling a meeting at the town hall for a public forum to hear the concerns of citizens regarding the inadequate internet service in town. She will invite representatives from EC Fiber and Topsham Telephone to answer questions and inform the public about ongoing

plans for broadband buildout. Cawley and Kramer agreed to approve the request. Cawley will inform Holly that she can schedule a meeting.

ARPA proposals

Cawley reminded the board and the attendees that this item will continue to be on the agenda for the next few months. Kramer suggested gathering ideas from the public up until and through town meeting in March. Chris Groschner asked the board if they would prefer written proposals. Cawley answered that having written proposals on hand would be helpful for remembering details.

Parking area at the town forest

Cawley stated that he attended the conservation commission meeting. The commission received a revised offer which removed the controversial plowing section altogether and loosened the time frame for start of the project. It is still scheduled to take two weeks from start to finish. Porter said he went up to inspect the site and found an inadequate culvert that will have to be replaced. Kramer motioned to authorize Rick Cawley to accept the changes and accept the donation on the town's behalf on the revised terms. Cawley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Posting of open positions

Cawley noted that there are open positions in town; paid and volunteer that need to be filled and the town website is a good site to list each position with job descriptions. Kramer volunteered to draw up a list and send it to Anne McKinsey to post on the website. He will also put a notice on the LRN to inform residents where to find it.

Annual report printing contract

Town clerk Nancy Ertle shared with the board a letter she received from Repro, the business that has been printing our town reports, advising of an impending paper shortage and offering to lock into a contract with the town for two years to print the town reports for 2022 and 2023. The two year contract is less expensive per year than the one year contract. Kramer motioned to accept the offer presented by Repro that we pre-order for printing town reports for town meetings 2022 and 2023. Cawley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

South Road property / Former village store property

The South Road property abuttor has not replied to the letter that was sent to him by Cawley two months ago. Cawley stated he would phone to remind him.

Cawley informed Kramer and Porter that the former village store property owner had not picked up the certified letter that was served to her over two months ago. They discussed what steps to take now that the 60 days are up and a few suggestions were made: phone calls to the constable, sheriff and towing garage. It was decided that after gathering information decisive action will be taken at the next select board meeting.

Tax sale

Cawley explained that a select board member needs to be at the tax sale to bid on any properties that are not receiving any bids from third parties. Kramer motioned to have Cawley attend the tax sale representing the town to bid on any properties not bid on by third parties at his discretion. Cawley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Fire station update

Cawley stated that he had a meeting with the contractor and energy consultant about the installation of the wrong heat pumps at the fire station. The town was not part of that decision. It was also noted that the BTU output was likely not adequate for the size of the building. There was discussion about having the units replaced with bigger units that put out more BTUs.

Correspondence

None

Other business that comes before the board

Cawley mentioned he got an email from treasurer Kelley requesting to be the 2nd alternate to the EC Fiber board. Cawley motioned to approve Kelley's appointment to be 2nd alternate to the EC Fiber board. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Groschner suggested making a deal with Repro to hire Anne McKinsey to help put together the town report. Kramer motioned to ask Anne to do the town report. Cawley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Cawley made a motion to adjourn. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.