

Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461
Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes Of Selectboard Meeting
Monday November 8, 2021

Attending for the Board: Rick Cawley, Carl Demrow, Nick Kramer. Anne Rosten, select board clerk.
Others attending: Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; Mike Pittman, Fire dept. representative, John Haney, and Steve Long. Dick Kelley, treasurer; Gary Apfel, Brian Marteeny (Topsham Telephone manager), and Linda Duxbury attended via Zoom.

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

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of October 11, 2021 and financial meeting of November 2, 2021.

Nick Kramer motioned to approve the minutes for the regular select board meeting of October 11, 2021 and financial meeting of November 2, 2021. Rick Cawley seconded the motion and one abstention. The motion passed.

Public concerns

Brian Marteeny reported on the current fiber situation in Topsham and Corinth. He said there are currently 175 to 200 households hooked up so far; mostly Powder Spring Rd, East Topsham, and East Corinth village. He hopes the coverage will be 700 to 800 by Spring 2022. Kramer asked if there was a map of the served area. Marteeny replied that he hadn't constructed one yet but would work on it.

Road Commissioner's reports / Hwy. Concerns

Porter informed the board that one of the new hires was exposed to Covid 19, took a week off, was tested negative and is now back to work.

Both Porter and Blodgett discussed a matter of two complaints from a property owner on Birch Lane off of Backway Road about an obstruction and ditch activity blocking the road. Both visited the site twice and found no blockage but some evidence of a newly built water bar. Porter decided to let the matter go for now but will continue to keep an eye on it.

Cawley, Porter, and Blodgett have each visited the former East Corinth Village Store to check on the progress of the derelict vehicle(s) that are in the town right of way. Each has noticed activity at the site and hopes are that recent movement is due to impending removal of the inoperative vehicles. Cawley stated that he sent a second email to the residents informing them that the town will move to have the vehicle removed if no action is taken on the part of the resident. The board in collaboration with the road commissioner and foreman agreed to give it two more weeks before removing. The selectboard agreed to call Sable and Sons Towing of Hartford, VT to schedule towing offending vehicles to the transfer station.

Hwy concerns: Blodgett reported that most all the summer projects are completed; Taplin Hill, paving, etc. Just finishing up with road shoulder work. Blodgett is pleased the new sandscreen has arrived and explained how rugged and well made it is. The Waits River bridge project is complete in Topsham.

Cawley informed Demrow, who has been away for a month, that the Planning Commission is proposing changes to the town highway ordinance. Demrow asked a few questions and the board agreed to take up the matter at the next regular selectboard meeting in December.

Fire station update

Cawley brought the board and guests up to date about the heat pump units that are not sufficient for the size of the new fire station. John Haney informed them that the heat consultant underestimated the BTUs needed and the estimated heat loss used was more compatible with very tight residential buildings, not commercial ones. Hazen Hill Construction and Chuck's Heating and Plumbing also both didn't catch that the incorrect units were being installed. The problem was further investigated during a pressure test done in October. Hazen Hill and Chuck's have agreed to cover some of the costs to the town for changing out the smaller units for bigger, more efficient ones. Cawley has been in conversations along with John Haney and Hazen Hill to remedy this matter by installing a new 18,000 BTU head, a 200,000 BTU propane modine heater, and a 48,000 BTU hyper heat heat pump. Demrow made a motion to go ahead with the plan to exchange units and to approve the breakout of cost outlays. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Pittman noted the morale with the fire dept is good and they currently have 27 members.

E.C. Fiber resolution:

Dick Kelley received an email from the secretary of the EC Fiber board which stated that the form with changes to the town delegation to the EC Fiber board needed to be filled out and adopted by the selectboard. Kramer made a motion to adopt the resolution to fill out the form to appoint Ed Childs as town representative, Tim ODell as 1st alternate, and Dick Kelley as 2nd delegate. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ARPA proposals

Steve Long asked about the process of receiving and allocating the ARPA funds and if there have been any proposals. Kramer replied that the general consensus was to move slowly in the interim until the final rule is issued in January as to how the funds can be allocated. He also explained that the towns have until 2024 to allocate and 2026 to spend it. Cawley provided a list of a few proposals: a study of the current sewer and water situation in East Corinth village as well as storm water drainage, one or more charging stations for electric vehicles, energy efficiency audit and updates for the town hall, and an addition to the town garage. Kelley noted that the first check from the county has been received for approximately \$100,000 to add to the \$70,000 already received from the federal govt. The town will receive approximately \$400,000 in total.

Conservation Commission appointment

Carl Demrow made a motion to appoint Luke Campbell to the Conservation Commission. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Roadside trash

Cawley received a call from a resident about a mattress that was left on the side of Chelsea Road and if it could be picked up and taken to the transfer station without cost to him. The board discussed paying the fee for residents who come across large trash items such as a couch or mattress and dispose of it at the transfer station. Demrow suggested putting the request in as a line item in the budget and to email or phone Joan Hayward to let her know when someone will be bringing something to the transfer station for disposal. Demrow made a motion for the selectboard to approve paying for large roadside trash items to be disposed of. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Backup for website

Cawley got a request from Anne McKinsey about a possible backup to post agendas and minutes to the town website when needed. Demrow said he would ask Brian Carroll if he would agree to be the website backup.

South Road property/Formal village store property

Cawley spoke with the owner of the South Road property who abuts the town property about his use of it. He signed the letter giving him permission to use it. He has expressed an interest in purchasing it. The property consists of 2 acres which fronts both sides of the river. The board will explore that possibility.

The former East Corinth Village Store property discussion was deferred to the road commissioner report agenda item #3.

Discussion: OWL virtual meeting system

Kramer asked the Zoom attendees how the new microphone worked for them during this meeting. Both Kelley and Apfel were pleased with how much clearer the voices were than in past meetings. Kelley relayed how other towns that use the OWL system are very happy with it and Corinth could benefit from purchasing one which is expensive. There will be ongoing discussion about improving Zoom meetings and making them more available to those who want to use it. Apfel also stated that maybe a better system would encourage more people to participate. Cawley thanked the Zoom attendees for their input; good points were made.

Correspondence

The board went over bills from the sheriff's dept and noted that their rates will increase to \$52 an hour starting July 1st, 2022 when the contract is renewed. The increase is due to rising costs.

Other business that comes before the board

None

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