

Town of Corinth Selectboard  
PO Box 461  
Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes Of Selectboard Meeting  
December 13, 2021

Attending for the Board: Rick Cawley, Carl Demrow, and Nick Kramer. Anne Rosten, selectboard clerk. Others attending: Lee Porter, road commissioner; Joe Blodgett, road foreman, Jeff Spiegel, visitor. Via Zoom; Gary Apfel, Cathi Haley, and representative from the Journal Opinion Meg Trogolo.

Meeting conducted in person and on Zoom. Chair Rick Cawley called the meeting to order at 7:01.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of November 8, 2021, and financial meeting of December 7, 2021

Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 8, 2021, and financial meeting of December 7, 2021. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Also noted from the minutes of the December 7 financial meeting was the wrong date of former treasurer Susan Fortunati's retirement. She retired at the end of 2017.

Public concerns

None

Service officer

Cathi Haley is a new resident of Corinth who is interested in serving as the Service Officer. She comes with a resume full of numerous jobs with the state of Vermont as an advocate for emergency housing, community action, home health, etc. She stated that she has a passion for helping people through crises and expressed a desire to connect with the community. She and the board discussed the need for public places to meet with those in need and in privacy. The meeting room in the town hall and the East Corinth church were suggested. Kramer made a motion to appoint Cathi Haley as the Service officer. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Demrow also suggested checking in with Cathi in 3 months for review.

Road Commissioner's report / Hwy. Concerns

Porter announced that the Unimog is now gone from in front of the former East Corinth Village Store and is parked at the transfer station. Cawley stated that the town has paid Sable and Sons Towing and sent a bill to the owner to reimburse the town. Porter asserted that the owners see to it that the vehicle be reclaimed or removed and that there needs to be a time limit to do so. The board agreed to allow 60 days to see if there is a plan for removal and, if not, to consider charging storage fees. Porter mentioned that this has been an issue for ten years.

Porter then brought up the problem on Chelsea Rd. where there is a truck and trailer in the town right of way. He said he's visited the site 3 times and nobody was home. Cawley asked him to try again and if the vehicles are not moved by the next selectboard meeting the board will send a letter to the resident. Blodgett explained that the town of Bradford's right of way policy is to tow vehicles left in the town's right of way.

Porter reported that he's gotten phone calls from Kevin Jones of Hemlock Lane requesting to park his vehicles on a part of the old untravelled town road as he has limited space on his property which lies between the old unused road and the new, travelled road. After some discussion the board felt that unless the old road is "thrown up" it would set a precedent which would be a problem going forward. The board agreed to decline the request.

Blodgett asked the selectboard to sign three grant applications for the Better Back Roads program which include projects on Taplin Hill, East Orange Rd., and Ryder Rd. Demrow made a motion to sign the Taplin Hill grant. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Demrow then made a motion to sign the East Orange Rd. grant. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Kramer made a motion to sign the Ryder Rd. grant. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Blodgett then stated how well the two new road crew members are working out.

Proposed revisions to highway ordinance; The board, road commissioner, and foreman discussed the draft which Kerry DeWolfe, chair of the Planning Commission, presented to the board at the selectboard meeting on October 11, 2021. Porter informed the board that the commission has had two meetings since October 11th and made some changes. Cawley will get copies of the October 11th draft to Porter and Blodgett so they can all review each proposed change before the January selectboard meeting.

#### Regional Emergency Management Committee appointment

Cawley reported that he was contacted by TRORC requesting appointment of a member of our local emergency management community to be a voting member of the Regional Emergency Management Committee. Blodgett, who is also the local emergency director, is the other voting representative from Corinth. He proposed a few names he thought would be good candidates for the appointment as did Demrow. Cawley agreed to contact Fire Chief Ed Pospisil and Fire Department officer Mike Pitman to ask for their input on appropriate and interested candidates.

#### Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant application

Cawley reported that he was contacted by the state hazard mitigation planner requesting the town apply for a grant to update the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan. It is necessary that the plan remain current so financial assistance awards can be applied for. Kramer made a motion to authorize the chair to apply for a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan grant. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Wage structure

The board continued a discussion from the financial meeting of December 7th that the entry level pay for town employees be set at \$15 an hour. They all agreed the amount is modest enough not to burden the town and only affected a few positions. Kramer made a motion to establish the starting wage for town employees at \$15 an hour. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### ARPA proposals/committee

Demrow opened discussion about appointing a committee that would conduct public hearings for suggested ARPA fund projects. The committee would be responsible for recommending to the board projects for funding. Cawley stated that the difference between long term investment vs. one time appropriations is important to consider. All agreed to try and form an ARPA committee.

#### Town meeting 2022

Cawley noted that there is limited time to make decisions about how to conduct town meeting since the town report must go to press in early February. Presently with the increasing numbers of Covid cases in the state, having large crowds in one room would be problematic. It was agreed that last year's May outdoor meeting was generally successful even though attendance was down. Gary Apfel, the town meeting moderator, asked a lot of questions and articulated his wish for as much participation as possible and gave some suggestions as to how to achieve that. The discussion moved to masking, contacting state legislators and the VLCT about moving the date which requires legislative authorization. Different options were suggested. Apfel agreed to contact the district's representatives. Cawley then mentioned that the selectboard report is due on December 21st for the town report.

#### Review/approve budget. FY 23

The board spent considerable time going over figures for the budget as prepared by the budget committee, crunching numbers, discussing and comparing different items. After going over it numerous times and making sure the numbers all match, Cawley indicated that they need to see treasurer Kelley's summary and make sure all is in line one more time. It was agreed to vote on the budget at the January meeting.

#### Administrative Officer vacancy

Kramer stated that he would put the vacancy for Administrative officer on the listserve. He will draft a job description stating that it is a part time and paid position.

#### Property tax bill adjustment

A taxpayer, after receiving his tax bill, approached head lister Galayda about errors and miscalculations she made about his property. Galayda provided an Errors and Omissions certificate for the selectboard to sign to adjust the landowner's

tax bill correctly. Demrow made a motion to sign the Errors and Omissions certificate. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Website/foster care promo

Town clerk Nancy Ertle received a request from the state foster care agency to post on the town's website. Ertle deferred the request to the selectboard. Demrow stated that the community coalition and the town newsletter are more appropriate sites for that. Demrow will contact Nancy about it.

Correspondence; Other business that comes before the board

The selectboard received a notice from the Planning Commission about the Tillotson subdivision for review. The board reviewed it. The Planning Commission issues permits for approved subdivisions. The selectboard was contacted by Guy Page of the Vermont Daily Chronicle and inquired if the town is mandating mask wearing and considering allowing retail for cannabis. Demrow replied "Not at this time".

The board stated that the Selectboard Report will be finished and sent to Anne McKinsey.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.