

Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461
Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Monday, January 10, 2022

Attending for the Board: Rick Cawley, Carl Demrow, Nick Kramer. Anne Rosten, select board clerk.
Others attending: Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Mike Wolff. Others attending via Zoom; Gary Apfel, town moderator; Glynn Pellagrino from the conservation commission, Kerry DeWolfe from the Planning commission, and Linda Buermeyer from the Journal Opinion.

Meeting conducted in person and on Zoom. Rick Cawley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of December 13, 2021 and financial meeting of January 4, 2022.

Nick Kramer motioned to approve the minutes for the regular select board meeting of December 13, 2021 and financial meeting of January 4, 2022. Carl Demrow seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Public concerns

Forbes Morrell contacted chair Cawley with concerns about EPA action for the Corinth copper mine after reading about progress at the Vershire and Ely mines. Demrow will contact the select board in Vershire and the EPA about approximate dates for dealing with Corinth's copper mine.

Appointments; Administrative Officer; Regional Emergency Management Committee

Mike Wolff, a new resident to town from South Dakota and a member of the Corinth Fire Department, after a request by chair Cawley, agreed to be appointed to the Regional Emergency Management Committee. He comes with years of experience in fire fighting and official emergency management. Kramer made a motion to appoint Mike Wolff as the new Regional Emergency Management Committee member. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Kerry DeWolfe suggested Martha Brough be appointed the Administrative Officer at the town starting rate of \$15 an hour. The board agreed that she will need training and suggested Karen Galayda help with that. Kramer made a motion to appoint Martha Brough as Administrative Officer. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Contract for town forest parking lot

Glynn Pellegrino reported that the Conservation Commission has accepted the bid of Bill Ricker for the parking lot construction. Cawley asked that Pellegrino come up with a detailed description of the bid and send it first to the board to review and sign and then to Ricker to sign. Road commissioner Porter stated that the new approach to the parking lot should match the existing road which is 15 feet wide and the new culvert to be 30 inches diameter. Demrow then made a motion to authorize Cawley to approve and sign the bid after it's been reviewed. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ARPA proposals/committee

Steve Long has offered to head up the committee. He and the board suggested 3 other residents who would work with Long; John Haney, Mike Pittman, and Anne Margolis. All have varied experience in town and state positions. The board then discussed drawing up some guidelines to help the committee focus on the most long range and beneficial project recommendations for Corinth infrastructure to thrive as a community. The board decided to have the committee check back with them by the end of April with a preliminary report to present at town meeting for discussion. Kramer suggested putting a notice in the LRN and JO to apprise the town. Demrow made a motion to appoint Steve Long, Mike Pittman, John Haney, and Anne Margolis to a committee to make recommendations on possible use of ARPA funds. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Road Commissioner's reports / Hwy. Concerns

Commissioner Porter reported that the truck in the right of way over by Corinth Corner has been removed but a trailer is still in the town right of way. He is still trying to contact the owner. He also stated that one crew member tested positive for Covid, went into quarantine and is now back to work. The road crew are all being tested once a week

a. Approve highway mileage summary;

After perusing the state report of highway mileage the board and Porter noted the .02 loss of mileage in town. Porter indicated that the particular change took place many years ago but the state just acknowledged it on this year's report. Kramer made a motion to approve, sign, and certify this year's mileage report. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Proposed revisions to highway ordinance (30 minutes allotted); Planning Commission chair DeWolfe stated that the commission decided to revise the ordinance after what the planning commission perceived to be an incident of abuse occurred. After reading the existing ordinance it was the opinion of the planning commission that the language was somewhat confusing and unclear. She said the goal is to update and clarify the language so that new residents have a clear understanding of what is and isn't allowed. She also stated the planning commission's opinion that there needs to be a change in procedure to require a final inspection. Porter, the board, and DeWolfe went over each change together. It was decided to have the "select board or their approved designee" have the final decision rather than the recommended change that it be the road commissioner. The approved designee would be commissioner Porter and for tree removal, the tree warden. Discussion ended after 30 minutes, to continue at next month's selectboard meeting.

Town meeting 2022/virtual selectboard meetings

Demrow stated that a bill allowing date changes for town meeting has passed in both the VT House and Senate and is waiting for the governor's signature. Assuming he will sign, the board decided to change the date of town meeting to Tuesday, May 17th contingent on that; to convene outside under a tent. Kramer made a motion to move the date of town meeting to May 17th, 2022 contingent on the governor signing the bill. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Cawley will rent the tent from Undercover Tents once the governor signs the bill.

Then discussion turned to whether to hold virtual, in person, or to continue with hybrid meetings. Gary Apfel weighed in with his concerns about not appearing biased one way or another as he represents many opinions as town moderator. He is happy with the hybrid format that he quietly attends via Zoom. Cawley stated that the next financial meeting will convene with a small group so the board will review this matter at the February financial meeting.

Redistricting

As redistricting happens every ten years, each town has the opportunity to let the state legislature know what their preference is for new boundaries for the representative district. The board consensus is for a single member district. Cawley made a motion to pass a resolution in favor of a single member district. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Review/approve budget, FY 2023

The board has spent many hours going over all the proposed budget numbers and decided to leave it as the budget committee presented it. Kramer made a motion to accept the budget as it came out of the budget committee. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence; other business that comes before the board

Cawley read a report from the VT Dept of Taxes about the equalization study results. The board received a bill from TRORC for local match for town wide REI and culverts. Cawley also noted an email from lister Galayda about a campground in town not properly permitted.

Demrow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

