

Town of Corinth Selectboard PO Box 461 Corinth, VT 05039  
Unapproved Minutes Of Financial Meeting June 13, 2022

Attending for the Board: Rick Cawley, Nick Kramer, and Carl Demrow. Anne Rosten, select board clerk. Others attending: Dick Kelley, treasurer. Norm Collette via Zoom.

The meeting was conducted in person and on Zoom. Chair Cawley called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Warrants and Bills

The board and Treasurer Kelley discussed the \$36,000 from the ARPA funds that was approved for the fire dept rescue equipment at last week's reg selectboard meeting of June 4, 2022 and where to place it on the warrant. After reviewing the items in each column and asking questions the board and treasurer resolved to revise the methodology of the accounting. Chair Cawley urged the treasurer to issue a check to the fire dept without delay. Carl Demrow made a motion to approve the warrant as corrected with the addition of the \$36,000 from the ARPA fund to the fire department. Nick Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Payroll; Norm Collette, town hall facilities manager, relayed that the town hall cleaning employee, Olivia Sayers, will be leaving for college in the Fall, so the position will need to be filled. Kramer asked Norm if he would be the point person to coordinate the process of finding a new individual for the job. Cawley requested that he work with the town clerk to see who may be available. Demrow then made a motion to approve the payroll. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable; No questions or discussion. Kramer made a motion to approve the accounts payable. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rick Cawley prompted continued discussion about the accounting errors in certain funds i.e. the Emerald Ash Borer, Blake Memorial Library, Conservation Commission, ARPA funds, and other accounts. Also discussed were the two library accounts and an outstanding certificate of deposit. Kelley stated he would work with Chad Hewitt to combine the library accounts. Kelley also informed the board of his goal to work with Susan Fortunati to bring accounts up to date.

Audit status, communications with CPA

Kelley reported that he has not heard from Sullivan and Powers, still with no progress. FY 2020 is still not complete and FY 2021 is only 50% done. Demrow stated that he sent the letter approved at the last financial meeting to the firm a month ago pressing them for progress. Kramer questioned whether the town should continue with Sullivan and Powers. Cawley asked Demrow to contact the VLCT and ask them how widespread this problem is. Collette mentioned that Sullivan and Powers has been doing the Corinth town audit for quite a few years. Before that the town did it's own audit. Cawley asked Kelley to contact the surrounding towns as to their progress with town audits and report back to the selectboard.

Other business that comes before the board

Cawley reported that Geoffrey Hoots from the cemetery commission expressed frustration that he still does not have access to cemetery account information. Treasurer Kelley responded that he sends him the quarterly reports as agreed to but Mr. Hoots expects more than what the reports show. Collette, who is also one of the cemetery commissioners, relayed that Hoots would like to go over the numbers and close the books by the end of June. After some back and forth Cawley requested Kelley to get the needed information to Mr. Hoots in a timely manner.

Chair Cawley read the Certificate of Completion on the fire station which he then signed to send to the bond bank. He also signed the paving contract for Pike Industries and the Grants in Aid program for Better Back Roads.

Kelley and Collette discussed the need to add Collette to the Purchasing Program policy for purchasing supplies for the upkeep of the town hall.

Demrow made a motion to add the facilities manager to the purchasing program policy. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Kelley then brought up an issue about town employees who want to forego the health insurance benefit and put the difference towards salary. After some discussion it was decided that health insurance is a benefit and not a salary issue.

It was noted that listers Karen Galayda and Linda Weiss, and town clerk Nancy Ertle have all retired from the town's employ. Also noted that Kelly Ann Donahue has started as lister and will receive the \$15 an hour starting pay for town employees.

Kelley then requested to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Demrow made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Kramer seconded and motion passed unanimously. The board and Kelley came out of executive session; no action taken.

Kelley was asked by the town clerk about payment for training for the town. The board agreed that training should be compensated. Kelley then reported that foreman Blodgett talked with him about the rising fuel prices and if some of the ARPA funds could be used to make up the difference as fuel is already budgeted for. Cawley did not think that using ARPA funds for fuel was the appropriate way to go. He suggested tightening the belt in other areas for the time being. Demrow stated he got another proposal from Bob Fortunati for using ARPA funds to improve Claflin Rd.

As for the reply to Jeremy Goodrich about his grievances, it was decided that because of the unfortunate location of his property in relation to the road, there is not much that can be done. It is at the base of a steep downhill and silt has collected there for years even before the house was built. The board did not see that the town road foreman washing his truck at the town garage was a violation as Blodgett uses his truck for town business. Carl Demrow said he would draft a letter to Mr. Goodrich and have the board approve it before mailing.

Cawley then read a letter of resignation from Nancy Ertle who resigned as town clerk with appreciation for her time working for the town. Demrow made a motion to accept her letter of resignation with regrets. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The board wishes her well. The board then signed the certificate of appointment of town clerk, Christianne Carroll. The board then signed the appointment of Mike Wolff as the Forest Fire Warden.

Demrow informed the board he would be out of the country for the July selectboard meetings.

Norm brought up the upcoming town hall projects that need attention; the side entrance, roof over the walkway, tightening up of the building, and more. It was suggested to warn this item on the agenda for the regular meeting as more time is needed for discussion and it hadn't been warned for this meeting.

Kramer made a motion to adjourn. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.