

Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461, Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday August 2, 2022

Attending for the board ;Rick Cawley, Carl Demrow, and Nick Kramer. Anne Rosten selectboard clerk. Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; Norm Collette, town hall maintenance. Others attending, Jeremy Goodrich, Cayleigh O'Connell and Darcy O'Connell. Attending via Zoom: Dan Wing, Dina DuBois, Dawn Celeste Loftus, and Gary Apfel, town moderator

Board chair Rick Cawley called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of July 5, 2022, and financial meeting of July 11, 2022

Jeremy Goodrich asked about July 5th's minutes not reflecting the addition of town election poll workers receiving the set wage of \$15 per hour starting pay. Rick Cawley pointed out that last month's discussion was revisiting a decision made last year raising all town starting pay to \$15 per hour. Adding the temporary poll workers was duly noted for the minutes.

Nick Kramer made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 5, 2022 and the financial meeting of July 11, 2022. Carl Demrow noted that while he was not in attendance at the July 5, 2022 meeting he would abstain from voting. Cawley seconded and the motion passed with 2 "Ayes" and 1 abstention.

Public concerns

Cayleigh O'Connell had concerns about the sharp rocks in Cookeville Rd from grading as she has experienced at least two flat tires. Road Foreman Blodgett explained that the staypak they use comes from the Bradford quarry and after this Spring's rough mud season it was necessary to grade more than usual. He suggested when buying tires that adding the "Road Hazard Warranty" for a modest amount would be beneficial. The O'Connell girls thanked the selectboard and road foreman Blodgett for their response.

Jeremy Goodrich brought up the letter he received from the selectboard dated June 22nd which informed him that the issues concerning plowing and chloride application by his property have to do with road maintenance. He asked how plowing the snowbank into his driveway and not applying calcium chloride by his property is considered road maintenance. Foreman Blodgett informed him that the town could not acquire the calcium chloride needed last year so used water instead and saved the calcium chloride to control potholes. As for the snowbanks, the town crew must wing back the banks now and then to make room for coming storms.

Road Commissioner's report / Hwy. Concerns

Commissioner Porter reported that the "No ATVs" sign has been stolen from Wilson Rd. and the one on Tenney Road has been smashed. Dan Wing said he tried fixing the one from Tenney Rd. Blodgett met with Dutton Voight about the concerns he brought up at last month's meeting about the chemical spill that was seeping onto his property. It has been taken care of except for needing some new staypak in his driveway which Blodgett will provide and spread.

Dan Wing reported that Tenney Rd. by his house to the town hall has been washed out. Blodgett said he would bring a bucket of staypak to stabilize the area. Lee Porter has heard from residents along Richardson Rd about the plans to either pave or widen the roadway for the upcoming EPA coppermine capping project. As there is an EPA meeting on August 23rd Cawley recommended urging the residents to attend to air their concerns. As they did for past meetings the EPA sends out notices beforehand to residents.

Blodgett requested to raise the hourly pay for Andy Martin one dollar as he is doing necessary part time work for the town. It would not affect the budget as the project he is working on is funded by grant money. Demrow made a motion to approve Blodgett's request to raise Andy Martin's pay rate another dollar. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Blodgett asked the selectboard to sign off on a grant for culvert work on Taplin Hill.

He informed the board that he talked with Terry Murphy about drawing up a sketch for the addition to the town garage which he agreed to do. He also talked with a builder from Corinth about the project. He will provide a quote for the next selectboard meeting. Blodgett asked the board to consider approving a purchase of an enclosed trailer for \$100. He also got an offer of \$500 for the old one. Kramer asked if the town had a policy for selling equipment. Porter stated that large items go to auction. Kramer made a motion to give Blodgett permission to sell the old trailer. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Blodgett made a proposal for the town to use ARPA funds to buy a head cutter which attaches to an excavator and will cut low lying limbs and other trees up to 12" in diameter for \$11,000. He believes it will pay for itself in 3 years and be much safer to use for the crew. More to be discussed under ARPA.

Blodgett met with state stream engineer Pat Ross about widening the bridge near the hammock shop in East Corinth. His plan would cost under \$200,000 and shut down the Village Rd for 3 weeks. It would be paid for by grant money and the town would be responsible for 10%. The bridge deck would be expanded from underneath. The alternative is a complete new bridge which would shut down Village Rd. for months and be more costly. Blodgett will continue to get more details.

Set tax rate

Cawley relayed that Treasurer Kelley needs to go over more numbers and will be ready to set the tax rate at Monday night's meeting.

ARPA proposals/town hall renovations

The board reviewed that so far the ARPA funds have been allocated for the fire dept.'s Jaws of Life and the East Corinth sewer mapping. They have decided to focus first on projects that will take a long time to implement and input is still welcome from residents. Demrow stated that the town has up until December 2024 to commit funds and December 2026 to spend it.

Next was discussion about the town hall back entry project which could include handicap access, new upstairs windows, weatherization update, foundation work, roofing, and various related details. There are other funds available other than ARPA that need to be explored. Rick Cawley spoke with Efficiency Vermont and conducted an energy walkthrough of the building to come up with ideas. He also had a meeting with the Preservation Trust. Rick will contact three architects: Terry Murphy, Mark Neilsen, and Tim Utt and ask their thoughts on the possibilities of sketches and numbers to have by the next selectboard meeting or before.

The board discussed Joe Blodgett's proposal for the head cutter which was discussed earlier. It was decided to inquire as to whether the cutter could be purchased within the existing highway budget given that the ARPA funds are limited and the board's preference is to use them for long term investments.

Revisions to solid waste ordinance

Carl Demrow's revisions to the solid waste ordinance have been reviewed by the board. Demrow made a motion to adopt the proposed revisions to the original solid waste ordinance with increased penalties for violations and to amend the word "Selectmen" to read "Selectboard" on the ordinance. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Notice of the revised ordinance will be posted around town in 5 places and sent to the Journal Opinion by Anne Rosten. Nick Kramer will send it to Anne McKinsey to post on the town website and to Gary Apfel to post on the LRN.

Cawley presented a piece of trash that was dumped illegally after hours at the transfer station. The name and address of the violator is known and Demrow will send him a letter informing him of the penalties.

Correspondence

The board received a letter from TRORC thanking the town for its support. A signed copy of the agreement with the Orange County Sheriff's Dept was read and filed and VLTC sent the new municipal calendar. As expected two new credit cards for the town were received.

Other business that comes before the board

TRORC let the board know that they received the LEMP form and requested more information on spending authorizations and all municipal contracts. Cawley requested clarification from TRORC and is waiting for a response.. The contact information and the equipment list was updated.

Norm informed the board that he replaced the batteries in the emergency lighting around the town hall. Treasurer Kelley had requested approval from the board to write a check to People's United for payment on the John Deere tractor for \$25,499.17 which is due August 10th. Kramer made a motion to approve Kelley's request to write a check to Peoples United for the John Deere for \$25,499.17. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Norm got 3 bids from the 3 different tree services to deal with the trees around the Cookeville Fire Station and the dying maple by the flagpole. The 3 quotes were from Longto Tree Service for \$6400, Woodsman Tree Service for \$4750, and Matt Foster's Logging for \$3095. All are insured. The board concurred to go with Matt Foster. Demrow made a motion to accept the quote from Matt Foster Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Norm let the board know that Fire Chief Pospisil will provide smoke alarms for the town hall.

Carl Demrow raised concerns about part of the old Village Store in East Corinth that is close to the East Corinth Church and is about to fall in the Tabor Branch which runs just behind. The whole building appears to be a hazard for fire and/or falling in and an inspection should be scheduled pursuant to the dilapidated building ordinance. To start the process requires a building safety officer; currently an unfilled position in Corinth. Ideally the position requires experience in structural engineering. Members of the board will ask Fire Chief Ed Pospisil if he knows anyone who might qualify.

Norm then showed the board a survey map of the town hall grounds from a Tom Otterman survey. Norm will ask Tom what it would take to add the orchard and other physical features as well as the location of the septic leach field.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.