

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting  
Tuesday December 6, 2022

Attending for the board ; Carl Demrow, and Nick Kramer. Rick Cawley via Zoom. Anne Rosten selectboard clerk. Lee Porter, road commissioner; Joe Blodgett, road foreman; Norm Collette, town hall maintenance; Others attending: Dan Carter, Brad Wheeler, and Chris and Holly Groshner. Via Zoom: Treasurer Dick Kelley, Gary Apfel, Dina DuBois, and Dan Wing.

Board member Nick Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of November 1, 2022, and financial meeting of November 14, 2022; and a special meeting of November 28, 2022.

No discussion. Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 1, 2022 and the financial meeting of November 14, 2022. Cawley seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Demrow then made a motion to approve the special selectboard meeting of November 28, 2022. Kramer seconded and the motion passed with Cawley abstaining since he was not in attendance at that meeting.

Public concerns

None

Road Commissioner's report / Hwy. Concerns:

Foreman Blodgett presented two grant applications for the board to sign; both from the Better Back Roads. The first was for the East Orange Road to build up bank support and put in new culverts. Cawley made a motion to authorize Kramer to sign the grant for East Orange Rd. grant. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Second was a grant to stop erosion on Hoots Road with ditching. Cawley made a motion for Kramer to sign the grant. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Blodgett explained the plan to improve Magoon Hill from LaMontagne's to Tenney Road and also improvements for Carpenter Place.

Chris Groshner commended the road foreman for obtaining all the grants for the roads.

Junkyard permit on Route 25/Dan Carter

Dan Carter had informed Cawley that the state had pressed him to apply for a junkyard permit and asked what his intentions for the vehicles were. Carter told the state that he will sell or scrap the vehicles that have collected there over the years and he has disposed of quite a few already. To get the permit the town has to sign off on it. Carter gave the board the state paperwork as well as maps and a couple of aerial views. Demrow asked how many vehicles are still on the property. Carter estimated around 50 down below and 10 up by the road. Kramer asked about a time frame and Carter requested a 2 year permit. Cawley asked for time to review it and take it up again at Monday's financial meeting to which all agreed.

Painting project/redeemable container at transfer station

Jeff Spiegel of the community coalition made a proposal for a student-led mural painting of the redeemables container at the transfer station and requested the use of ARPA funds for the project; possibly \$2000-2500. Holly Groshner suggested contacting the VT Arts Council for the funding. Cawley stated that the board wouldn't know whether there were excess funds until after they had better numbers on the projects that have already been committed to and that Spiegel needs to make a more detailed proposal at a future date. The board decided to table it for now.

Fiber optic at town hall

Topsham Telephone asked if the town wanted to hook fiber up the town hall which will allow downloading at 25mbps and uploading at 3mbps. Cawley asked Kelley for his input as Kelley had a discussion with Heidi from Tops-Tele. She stated that the service would be \$69 per month plus \$5.99 monthly router rental which is less than what the town currently pays for DSL. People who work in the office are strongly in favor. Holly Groshner asked Kelley about any installment fee which he didn't know. She said the fee could be as high as \$400. She also explained that Tops-Tele received a \$1,000,000 grant

and only hooked fiber up to 55 residences so installment fees should be nonapplicable. Groshner also has access to the maps that show where fiber is hooked up and they are inaccurate which affects the amount of grant money available. She requested that she be allowed to correct the record which the board agreed to. The board agreed to move forward and pursue the plan to hook up to fiber. Demrow made a motion to engage Topsham Telephone to get the 25 mbps download and the 3 mbps upload for the approximate total monthly cost of \$76 providing there are no installment fees. Cawley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Village sewer study

Ben Machin from Redstart Forestry sent a draft of the letter to send to village residents about the sewer survey for the board to review and approve. Demrow made a suggestion to have the wording "East Corinth Sewer Survey" at the top of the letter so residents will immediately know what the content is. The board agreed and Cawley will contact Machin tomorrow.

#### Status report/town hall repairs and renovations (ARPA)

There was quite a bit of discussion about the many details involved in starting the town hall project; siding removal, possible lead paint on the old wooden clapboards under the aluminum, asbestos, etc. Norm Collette and Brad Wheeler made test hole studies for the porch renovation and reported good soils for support. Weatherization was also discussed about replacing windows, insulating the upstairs, the walls, and the roof. Demrow stated that there was up to \$500,000 for municipal weatherization projects available through a state grant program that will start accepting applications next year. There were questions about permits from the fire marshal and running the plans by the Historic Preservation Trust and how much of the ARPA funds to utilize. Wheeler answered the questions about hazardous material such as lead paint and asbestos.

Treasurer Kelley asked if the town hall office workers will have a say in the design and how disruptive the project will be to their jobs. Cawley said the project design has been discussed at numerous selectboard meetings and the planning stage is far along and money has already been spent, but agreed to share current draft designs.. And since the project mostly involves the exterior office work shouldn't be disrupted.

Collette then brought up the floor which needs to be replaced. He illustrated how uneven the floor and supports holding the walls up are and how they can be remedied. He spoke with Valley Floors who will put down a new floor unless asbestos is found underneath. There are layers of flooring material that are underneath the tiles; Luan, linoleum, and the original maple. Asbestos could be in the linoleum. Wheeler has samples from the linoleum and the tiles he can have tested for asbestos. If asbestos is present then a certified professional is the only option to remove it at the cost of \$5000 - \$10,000.

Demrow made a motion to have Wheeler send out samples of linoleum and tile to test for asbestos and base the flooring decision on the result. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next was discussion about putting solar panels on the Cookeville fire house. Collette stated that solar panels on the fire house roof could generate 10 - 12 kw of electricity. The board and Collette will talk with the fire dept about it and find out what kind of funding is out there and pursue it at a later date.

#### Wage policy

Kramer made revisions on his draft policy from last month and shared it with the other board members for review and further revisions. This second draft will change the language of "officers" to "positions" and include mileage reimbursement policy and invoice to time sheet. They will take it up for final approval at next week's financial meeting and add election and poll workers in paid town positions.

#### Other business that comes before the board

As more people are joining in the meetings via Zoom it has been noticed that the sound quality has not been adequate for involved engagement. The OWL system that the library uses was discussed as an option as well as Bluetooth speakers. Kramer stated that OWL has superior sound quality compared to the current system. Demrow suggested borrowing the OWL system from the library for the January selectboard meeting and depending on the result making a decision for the town hall to purchase. The OWL system's cost is approximately \$1000. Demrow will request borrowing it from the library for the January meeting.

Holly Groshner urged the board to pursue getting technology in to the town hall as the ARPA and other funding will not always be available and the benefits will last over time.

Lee Porter brought up a letter from Tom Otterman about the Tillotson subdivision. He asked the board if they had any concerns about it. The board stated that they had no direct involvement and if the planning commission and road foreman are satisfied the board is also.

Demrow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cawley seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.

