

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

**Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting  
Tuesday January 3, 2023**

Attending for the board: Rick Cawley, Carl Demrow, and Nick Kramer. Anne Rosten selectboard clerk. Lee Porter, road commissioner; Fire chief Ed Pospisil, fire dept. Chaplain Jim Ainsworth, Mark Nielsen, architect, and Jeremy Goodrich. Attending via Zoom: Norm Collette, town hall maintenance; Gary Apfel, town moderator, and Rich Moore.

Board chair Rick Cawley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of December 6, 2022 and financial meeting December 12, 2022.

No discussion. Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 6, 2022 and the financial meeting of December 12, 2022. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public concerns

Chief Pospisil asked the board if there were enough ARPA funds left to purchase two or three 3000 watt generators for emergency use. He explained that during the storms of the prior two weekends there were families without power and some required oxygen which could not operate without power. There also was a fire up on Hayward Road which left a family without proper shelter or heat. He had called the Red Cross who could not help at the time due to helping elsewhere. Demrow suggested for them to contact Jeff Spiegel, who is in charge of the Corinth Community Coalition. They have a fund from the proceeds of bottle returns that could possibly be used for purchases such as was explained by the fire chief. Rich Moore also said he had a 3000 watt generator that he would donate to the fire dept. They thanked the board for their help and stated they would follow through on their suggestions and contact Spiegel and Moore.

Jeremy Goodrich from Turkey Hill Road showed the board pictures of the town's trailer with a vehicle on it and inquired whose it was. Kramer explained that sometimes the town has to move vehicles that are in the right of way or otherwise impede town maintenance. Goodrich asked if cameras were installed in the town trucks as was earlier discussed. Commissioner Porter explained that there were more pressing road issues that took precedence so cameras were not installed yet. Goodrich then stated his frustration of town trucks plowing big rocks and other debris onto his lawn and driveway. He says the town has widened the road two feet alongside his property. Porter explained that plowing when the roads are not frozen is much more difficult as the plows can't help but pick up the soft roadbed in places. Cawley said he's been up and down Turkey Hill Road and on many other dirt roads in town and sees the same conditions as Goodrich's. The road commissioner and foreman are aware of the situation.

Road Commissioner's report / Hwy. Concerns:

- a. Review FY "24 budget: There were some questions as to differing numbers on the proposed annual highway budget which were resolved at the budget meeting preceding the selectboard meeting.
- b. Discuss posting of unmaintained roads: There have been vehicles driving on class 4 roads that have been groomed by the snowmobile club. Some drivers do not realize they are not town maintained in the winter and a few get stuck. Porter said they have been putting signs up on class 4 roads saying "NO WINTER MAINTENANCE" to warn unsuspecting drivers.

The subject of problems contacting Washington Electric during power outages came up. Phones were out all over town and ones that worked only got recorded messages from the electric company. There was no way to report where any outages were. Demrow suggested writing a letter to the general manager and president of Washington Electric for a solution.

Porter brought up the proposed sale of the town 2008 Ford F250. He said they could sell it for \$5000 which is what the town paid for it. Originally the listers shared the use of it but haven't since Lister Galayda resigned. The town has purchased a 2004 F450 with 22,000 miles on it for \$500. The board agreed on the sale and purchase of the trucks as long as Lister Donahue is first consulted about any needed use of a truck. The town contracted appraiser does have a truck.

#### Town hall repairs and renovations (ARPA)

Mark Nielsen gave a status report on the plan which is 99% done. He met with someone from Barre Electric about the lighting options. He discussed the options with Dan Wing and Dina DuBois who are happy with the proposed lights not shining into their windows. There was discussion about the window replacements, the hazardous material and vinyl siding removal, rotted sills, sump pump connections, fuel tank burial, et al. Cawley asked about the bidding process and who to contact. It was decided to get more than the mandatory 3 bids. Nielsen will get a list of contractors from the library and the board also suggested contacting local contractors. Demrow asked about town supervision when work begins and site management as parking and public entering will be redirected. Demrow asked Collette if he was willing to be the construction manager and he accepted.

There was more discussion over unit pricing of windows, clapboards, insurance, etc. Cawley asked Nielsen about state permits and the need for a structural engineer to sign off and put a stamp on the plan. Demrow and Collette will contact two structural engineers in the area. Nielsen will put together a bid form with the documents and hold a pre-bid meeting which Collette will also attend. More details and questions were discussed and then the board thanked Nielsen for all his work.

#### Review first draft of warning

Cawley called a special budget meeting just before tonight's selectboard meeting to go over numbers on the draft of the town meeting warning that weren't in balance. There were discrepancies in the highway fund which was discussed earlier as well as another item which were resolved. Moderator Apfel requested that a report on the town hall renovation be on the warning to inform residents of the progress. Also, due to the emergency needs that come up which the fire dept revealed earlier he felt that a discussion on the matter is needed for town meeting. Cawley agreed that the board list the planned ARPA expenditures report on the warning as article 14, after the budget items. Kramer made a motion to conditionally approve the draft of the warning pending no further petitions for warrant articles. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Cawley said he finished the selectboard report for Demrow and Kramer to read and sign.

#### Correspondence

Demrow read a letter from the state dept. of taxes from 12/22/2022 which states that the town's Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is 25%. That amount of discrepancy warrants a reappraisal. Demrow noted that 75% of Vermont towns received a similar notice. The town has 35 days from receiving this letter to reply. They will reply by January 16, 2023.

#### Other business that comes before the board

Demrow stated he hadn't heard from the building safety inspector yet about whether service of the order was successful. Collette asked if the 20 year old gas range in the town hall kitchen can be replaced as he feels it is a safety issue. Apfel offered to donate a modern gas range he has in storage. Collette then explained his thoughts on the proposed new floor in the small meeting room. He would prefer to remove the 3 layers of old flooring which would expose the original maple. The board replied that there is asbestos in the old flooring

which might be cost prohibitive to remove. After some discussion Demrow said he would ask Brad Wheeler to find out the cost of removal.

Demrow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kramer seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.