

Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461
Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of Financial Meeting
March 20, 2023

Attending for the Board: Carl Demrow and Nick Kramer. Anne Rosten, select board clerk. Others attending: Dick Kelley, treasurer. Others attending via Zoom: Shirley Montagne, selectboard financial clerk; and Alex Nuti-de Biasi, editor for the Journal Opinion.

The meeting was conducted in person and on Zoom. Sitting chair Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Warrants and Bills

Treasurer Kelley had some questions for the board about a couple of bills. One for \$300 from Sullivan and Powers did not specify what it was for. Demrow asked Kelley to call S & P to clear it up. Demrow made a motion to approve the warrant as presented. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Payroll: Demrow made a motion to approve the payroll as presented. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable: There was an ongoing discussion regarding a \$315 bill from the Orange County Sheriff's Department for 6 hours of patrol between September 2022 and January 2023, prior to the seating of the new sheriff. Demrow explained that the state auditor reviews VT sheriff dept books. He also stated that the board should not be receiving any more bills from the sheriff's dept until they are adequately staffed. Some discussion took place about the rising costs of the Upper Valley Ambulance and the service it provides. Demrow made a motion to approve the accounts payable. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Fund balances/ARPA

The board reviewed the progress of the ARPA fund deposits and what has been received and paid out so far. Liz Davis has expressed an interest in keeping up with what is going on with the ARPA funds so Kramer suggested asking her to be the point person for the ongoing progress and keeping the public updated through posts on the LRN. Demrow agreed to contact her and provide her a contact with Treasurer Kelley.

Audit status

Kelley received the FY 2020 preliminary audit with an accompanying representation letter for the board to transfer to the town letterhead and for them to sign. The representative from Sullivan and Powers said there was a resolution question about the FY 2021 audit. Kelley scheduled a phone call to them for Wednesday to resolve. Kelley stated that in the two and a half years he has been the town treasurer; he has never actually seen a completed audit. The board decided to wait for selectboard chair Cawley and board financial clerk Montagne to look over the two letters before signing them at the next financial meeting. Kelley will email both documents to them.

Montagne informed the board that she's been getting the system books updated and the two bank accounts have been reconciled. Fund balances for ARPA have been updated, Demrow reported that he and Kramer visited Chad Hewitt at S & P and did receive some information to present at town meeting. Montagne asked about the possibility of switching to another auditing firm. Kelley said he has prodded the firm countless times for results with little response. The board decided to table the subject until the next financial meeting in April.

Cemetery commission account status

Kelley explained that the cemetery accounts are separate from the general fund and that there should be a separate audit for that account. The members of the commission are duly concerned about their books. Demrow suggested asking a member from the cemetery commission to attend the next financial meeting. Kelley stated that he and the commission have a good working relationship.

Former Village Store property/fines

The certified letter sent to the property owner of the old Village Store in East Corinth detailing the property's violations of Town ordinance was picked up and the thirty day deadline for the property owner to appeal has passed. Per Town ordinance, fines may now be levied against the property until the property owner brings the property into compliance with the ordinance. Acknowledging that fines may be levied retroactively to the date following the thirty day appeal period, Demrow suggested that the board revisit the levy at a future board meeting when all members are present to discuss the implementation of the fine.

Tax sale

Delinquent tax collector Susan Fortunati requested to hold a tax sale next February 2024 and to work with attorney Jeff Taylor. Demrow made a motion to authorize delinquent tax collector Fortunati to conduct a tax sale next February 2024 and to engage the services of attorney Jeff Taylor. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Other business that comes before the board

There are a number of options for a mailing list to mail out town reports. There has been ongoing discussion about it among board members and with the Town Clerk. Demrow suggested mailing only to the names on the town checklist and also having copies available at the town hall, the library, the town post offices, and online for any others that want them. Will revisit at next month's meeting before a final decision is made.

Demrow made a motion to adjourn. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:06 PM.