

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday April 4, 2023

Attending for the board: Rick Cawley, Carl Demrow, and Nick Kramer. Anne Rosten selectboard clerk. Lee Porter, Road commissioner; Harry Falconer from TRORC; Bob Fortunati, Mike Tagliavia, and Barry Shaw. Attending via Zoom: KellyAnn Donahue, Ister, Katie Kramer, and Anne McKinsey,

Board chair Rick Cawley called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of March 7, 2023 and financial meeting of March 20, 2023.

No discussion. Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 7, 2023. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Kramer made a motion to approve the minutes of the financial meeting of 2023. Demrow seconded and the motion passed with an abstention from Cawley who was absent from the financial meeting in March.

Guest presenter - Harry Falconer from TRORC re: energy grants

Falconer conducted a slide show explaining MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience program), a program within the TRORC district for which towns can apply for grants to update town owned buildings; retrofitting for efficient weatherization up to \$500,000. Corinth is considered to be in a favorable position to qualify. Members of the board asked Falconer pertinent questions about the program. Falconer encouraged anyone interested to go to the TRORC website to view the program details.

Public concerns

Barry Shaw asked the board about the bridge over the Waits River on the road to East Corinth village. Road commissioner Porter explained that the total cost of the bridge project is not more than \$500,000 and the town will be responsible for 20% of the project. The exact timing of the bridge replacement is still to be determined and the Town's share of the project can be made up of in-kind staff time.

Road Commissioner's report / Hwy. concerns/Certificate of Compliance

Porter reported that the road crew has been keeping up with the condition of the roads; adding material where needed during this mud season. Porter put forward a request for the board to approve a grant application of \$27,000 from the state of Vermont for road improvements for which the town is responsible for 20%; \$6750, which can be met using Town road crew labor and materials. Demrow made a motion to authorize the selectboard chair to sign the grant in aid application. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion then turned to how the grant monies received are accounted for. Porter stated that the Highway Dept has long wanted a more precise accounting for all the monies that come in for their projects. Demrow stated that the board should take it up in a future financial meeting. Porter said that Road Foreman Blodgett works hard at tracking down available funds. Demrow reminded all that the town of Corinth pays far less per mile of road than surrounding towns.

Kramer made a motion to sign the certificate of compliance for town road and bridge standards and network inventory. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Village store property / Notice of Violation

Cawley prepared an order to send to the landowner along with a letter explaining the consequences of the selectboard's decision. As of March 11, 2023, the 30 days expired for action on the landowner's part to respond. There has been no appeal or submission of a plan of action to deal with the problem. The penalty is \$150 as of that date and \$10 each day forward until action is taken. Demrow made a motion to adopt the order and for Cawley to have it recorded. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of town officers, study committee re: law enforcement

Demrow made a motion to re-appoint all officers as described in the town report whose terms expire in 2023. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Three people have been recommended to be appointed to the Conservation Commission: John Melquist, Louise Graff, and Mary Kent. Kramer made a motion to approve John Melquist, Louise Graff, and Mary Kent to the conservation commission for four year terms. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Kramer then nominated Rick Cawley to be the chair of the selectboard. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Law enforcement: As suggested at town meeting, the board approved a law enforcement study committee. The board agreed to ask Jeff Spiegel, Chris Diaz, Katherine Lea, Catherine Haley, Ken Schaeffer, and Mike Tkac to join as members. The select board members will contact each for interest. The board will also let the town clerk know about appointing this new study committee. The committee will be responsible for identifying law enforcement needs in the town and then presenting their recommendations to the board. Cawley suggested appointing Spiegel as organizer to begin. Kramer made a motion to establish a Corinth law enforcement study committee and charge the committee to deliver recommendations to the selectboard on how to address Corinth's law enforcement's needs and appoint Jeff Spiegel as organizer with the understanding that once the committee is formed they can elect their own officers. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town hall repairs and renovations (ARPA)/status/town garage

Cawley heard from only one pre-bidder even though he posted notice of it in all local newspapers and online and often. The bidding is due by April 13th. The board decided that Saturday morning would be the best time for them along with Mark Nielsen and Norm Collette to meet and review the bids. Demrow made a motion to hold a special meeting on Saturday April 15th at 9:00 AM to review the bids. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Road commissioner Porter discussed the town garage addition proposal with the board and stated that he knew a local contractor who will quote a price for phase one of the project which consists of ground prep and putting up a foundation. Porter estimated that phase one would be under \$150,000. The other three ARPA projects; the town hall repairs, The Jaws of Life which the fire dept purchased and the East Corinth sewer and water study will leave sufficient funds in the ARPA account to fund phase one of the town garage improvements, so the board decided to have Porter contact road foreman Blodgett and give him the okay to move ahead on phase one. Kramer made a motion to authorize road foreman Blodgett to solicit bids for phase one of the town garage project as discussed at previous meetings. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Other business that comes before the board

Chair Cawley called item 12 ahead of items 8 through 11 to allow lister Kelly Ann Donahue to discuss her business. She was attending via Zoom. Donahue reported that she's been in contact with her state supervisor in Montpelier to go over all the statutes and requirements to continue her work. Debra Kingsbury has been helping out in the lister's office as a consultant but is limited due to the fact she is not a town resident. Residency is a requirement for sitting in on grievance meetings and signing documents. She asked if Treasurer Kelley could be appointed to fill that requirement. Cawley stated that the board would ask him officially at Monday night's financial meeting. Donahue then informed the board that she has caught up with a lot of the work and has completed several training sessions. Demrow then updated Donahue and the board on the progress so far the legislature has made on assessment and grievance changes which is not yet complete.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan/Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)

The board received a Request For Proposal (RFP) template to solicit bids to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Kramer said that he would update the RFP template. The new LEMP plan is due on May 1st and the board must redo the plan since there is a new town clerk and facility manager. As the town hall is a designated shelter the board decided to ask Norm Collette if he would consent to be appointed the shelter manager.

Opioid settlement participation

Cawley took the time to read through the settlement agreement which is a class action suit against the pharmaceutical companies.. Any money Corinth receives may be required to be spent on opioid prevention. The board decided to sign on to it.

Mailing list

Kramer made a motion to use the list of registered voters as a mailing list for town reports with extra copies available at the town hall, the library, post offices, and on the town website. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

The board received a notice of funding opportunities through the state for the fire dept dry hydrant program.

Demrow made a motion to adjourn. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 PM.