

Approved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday May 2, 2023

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 facilities manager; Amy Peberdy, Wade Pierson, Jon Ruggles, Dick Hutchins, and Sarah Polli. Attending via Zoom: KellyAnn Donahue, lister; Anne McKinsey, Dina DuBois, Gary Apfel, Carol Freeman, and Chris and Holly Groschner.

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

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of April 4, 2023 and financial meeting of April 10, 2023.

No discussion. Kramer made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 4, 2023 and the financial meeting of April 10, 2023. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public concerns

- a. Window Dresser's request: Amy Peberdy explained that the Window Dressers are a group of local citizens who help residents who need to cut down on drafts by building inserts to install on the inside of window frames. The cost of each insert is \$48. She requested the use of the town hall for a week starting October 19, 2023 for the Window Dressers to build the inserts. Kramer made a motion to allow the use of the town hall for the group to build the window inserts. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Peberdy also asked the board if the town would appropriate \$500 as an energy saving project for residents; possibly annually. Demrow explained that ARPA funds can not be used for annual expenses. The board decided to have Peberdy take it up for next year's budget appropriation requests to be voted at town meeting.
- b. Flags in the village: The flag project for East Corinth village was first presented at the March selectboard meeting. Wade Pierson and Jon Ruggles, who are heading the project, came back with an amended presentation. Pierson explained that Green Mountain Power approved the use of their poles with a bracket for the flags. The plan is to fly the flags 24/7 from Memorial Day until Veterans Day. Pierson also reiterated that any property owner along Main Street can opt out. The board discussed a possible compromise to end the display on Labor Day. Sarah Polli stated her opinion that most of the residents are in favor of the flag display. Anne McKinsey said that residents she spoke with do not want to see flags there for 6 months. After quite a bit of discussion Cawley stated how disappointed he was about the division the proposal has caused and that he can not endorse a self-appointed committee instead of it being a town project. Pierson explained that the committee had the best of intentions and did conduct door to door surveys. Cawley said that he felt the board could not endorse a project that did not include the consensus of the town. Kramer made a motion that the selectboard would not oppose any landowner who wished to display an American flag from a utility pole on that landowner's property. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Road Commissioner's report / Hwy. concerns

Porter asked if he could go ahead with the dump permit renewal. The board said to go ahead and send out the permits with the tax bills and not have a date printed on them.

Ryan Downing, a surveyor working for the Gill family on Heath Rd. requested that the selectboard consider a trail on the residence's property to be discontinued as a town trail. The matter will be taken up at June's selectboard meeting.

Porter let the board know that Terry Murphy and Ron Danforth are working on designs for the town garage.

Blodgett asked the board to sign for the State Highway and Better Back Roads grants. Kramer made a motion to authorize the board chair to sign the Better Back Roads and State Highway grant. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Blodgett then stated that he needs to hire a new person for the road crew and would like to advertise the position with the VLTC, the JO, etc.

Town hall projects, repairs and renovations/ARPA projects' status

Norm Collette explained about the vast number of options for the tile floor replacement in the meeting room including the asbestos removal as well as existing tile to get to the original maple flooring. He illustrated the way the floor joists and sills are out of line and what can be done to fix it. The cost will be at least \$10,000 and the date to proceed is probably 2024.

Collette then brought up the town hall kitchen stove replacement. The discussion centered around either buying used or new. The cost for a new gas stove is \$850 plus \$200 to install. Collette explained that a new stove will have all the latest safety features as well as being efficient. Demrow made a motion to authorize Norm Collette to spend up to \$1200 for a new gas stove and installment out of the Capital Reserve fund. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mini grants/weatherization assessment

Kramer relayed how he sat through the training webinar about the grant and assessment process to access the funding for weatherization. The board discussed the option of applying for a \$4000 mini-grant but decided against it. The application for the larger project grants is not open at this time but the board will continue to monitor and intends to submit an application.

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

Kramer stated that he sent back the survey but to move forward more help is needed as it is complicated. The board may revisit this matter in future years.

LEMP: Cawley revised the new LEMP plan with needed changes made; Christiane Carroll, town clerk, Norm Collette, town hall facilitator, and Cathy Haley, service officer. He also added that the town hall is the designated primary shelter. Kramer made a motion to approve the LEMP as revised by Cawley. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

The board received the return receipt for the certified letter informing the owner of the East Corinth Old Village Store that her failure to take action on the dilapidated building has resulted in a fine of \$150 with additional fines of \$10 daily going forward. The return receipt was put into the town land records with the inspector's report.

Other business that comes before the board

Lister Donahue asked the board to sign for a grand list extension request to the state. She explained that certain properties; i.e. Northeast Slopes, the fire department, the ballfield, Minerva Lodge, and the Corinth Historical Society Academy building will need to have their tax exempt status reviewed at the next town meeting. Demrow made a motion to authorize the board chair to sign the Grand List Extension request for the state. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Dina DuBois asked about the status of the old East Corinth Village Store property. Chair Cawley updated her on the penalty process and all that has been done and what to expect at this time.

Kramer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Demrow seconded and the meeting ended at 9:00 PM.