

Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461 Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday June 6, 2023

Attending for the board: Rick Cawley and Nick Kramer. Anne Rosten selectboard clerk. Lee Porter, Road commissioner; Joe Blodgett, road foreman; Norm Collette, town hall facilities manager; Kelly Ann Donahue, lister; Ray Moulton, cemetery commissioner. Others attending: Holly Groschner, Mike Tapliavia, Andrew Gill, Ryan Downey, Joyce Powzyk, Attending via Zoom, Gary Apfel, Kim Remillard, Dick Kelley, treasurer; Karen Reid, and Steven Devoto, Attending via Zoom call: Paula LaValley.

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

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of May 2, 2023 and financial meeting of May 8, 2023

Nick Kramer made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular selectboard meeting of May 2, 2023 and the financial meeting of May 8, 2023. Cawley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public concerns: Highway discontinuance request

Ryan Downey, a licensed land surveyor and site tech, who represents land owner Andrew Gill, made a request for the selectboard to approve the discontinuance of old town right of way #13. The right of way leads to Garden Hill from Heath Rd; approximately a half mile. Cawley explained the 3 ways to initiate a discontinuance request t: 1. a petition with 5% of Corinth voters: 2. a request of the landowner abutting the road in question: 3. the selectboard makes their own motion to discontinue. The landowner is pursuing the 2nd option and Cawley advised that the request must be made in writing. The selectboard must set a time and date for the selectboard to examine the site and take testimony from all concerned. The selectboard must give notice by certified mail to all affected landowners at least 30 days prior to the scheduled visit and must further post the notice as required by statute, publish the notice in the Journal Opinion and provide notice to the planning commission. The select board has 60 days after the site visit takes place to make a determination in writing. The landowner is not required to be present.

Road Commissioner's report / Hwy. concerns

Porter got a quote for the new transfer station stickers; \$400 for 2000. They would be the same as prior stickers other than no date would be printed. Another color was suggested. A decision will be made as to color at the next meeting.

Porter then said he and Blodgett inspected the site for a new driveway application for a 2nd entry to an existing residence. They both agreed that the site for the 2nd entry/exit was a bad location due to expected runoff, etc. They decided to decline the request for 2nd entry but agreed for the applicant to go ahead with improving the existing driveway.

Discussion turned to the plans for the addition to the town garage. Both Blodgett, Porter, and the board are pleased with designer Terry Murphy's work and ready to move forward with the cement foundation. Blodgett expects that the building will be up and winterized enough before winter to house equipment though will not be heated by then.

The paving grants have come in. Blodgett opted to go with Pike Industries' bid for the paving projects this summer as their bid came in lower than Blacktop's. Hayward Rd. to the Bradford line on Taplin Hill Rd. is the first project. The town of Bradford asked to have their end to Rt 25 be included in the paving and agreed to pay for their portion. It will lower the overall cost and be a seamless job. Kramer made a motion to approve the contract from Pike Industries to pave all the way from Hayward Rd. to Rt. 25 contingent with Bradford paying for their portion. Cawley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Blodgett stated that he met with a prospective hire for the vacant road crew position who lives in town, is young, and hoping for the job. At this time he does not have his CDL license. Blodgett explained that he could train for the license in-house which would save the new employee \$3500. Porter suggested that he commit to working for the town at least 2 years to compensate for the CDL training. Kramer made a motion to authorize Blodgett to offer an \$18 hourly rate with

benefits, subject to a background check and a 6 month probationary period. Cawley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Blodgett stated that they got the grant for the Hedgehog Brook Bridge repairs. The bidding will take place this Fall and work to begin next Summer.

Discussion: Right of Way agreement – East Corinth Cemetery

Raymond Moulton brought up concerns about the cemetery commission's responsibility beyond their usual maintenance of the road to the East Corinth Cemetery now that the road has extended beyond to four subdivided building lots that will require year round use. Currently there is one lot owner who plans to build and needs a maintenance agreement for all property owners using the right of way to be able to acquire a mortgage. Jeff Taylor, an attorney for the lot owner, has produced an agreement for the cemetery commission to sign. Moulton wants the agreement to ensure that the commission will not be liable for winter maintenance or other issues due to the extra use. Cawley suggested contacting Taylor to redraft the agreement to address the town's concerns. Moulton asked if the property owner can be billed for any damage to the road. Cawley answered yes. The board and commissioners will wait to view an amended agreement.

Warner Bros. contract (possible executive session)

The Warner Bros. contract with the town states that they will be filming a sequel to the movie "Beetlejuice" for a few days that will require the road crew removing and then reinstalling the guardrails on the Chicken Farm Road bridge, traffic holdups, road closures, etc. The road crew will be compensated for any work done. The fire dept has also been notified and communication with Fire Chief Pospisil will be ongoing as to emergency situations and/or detours. Holly Groschner asked how the town is being compensated and if it's possible to keep any of the built sets. Because the filming of the original version of "Beetlejuice" took place in East Corinth in 1988 there have been tourists coming over the years to take pictures and inquire after information about the filming. East Corinth resident Wade Pierson gave an info poster about the original movie to the library for inquiring visitors. Lister Donahue expressed her pleasure at seeing the Olde Village Store cleaned up and all debris removed after years of it being a dilapidated eyesore. Paula LaVallee stated that the film crew, who are working close to her property, are very courteous and accommodating.

Lister pay rate

Martha Brough has been appointed lister so the board discussed her pay rate. Donahue stated that Brough has learned quite a bit since working as an assistant town clerk and already has some understanding for the lister's job and so advocates starting Brough at the rate of \$17 an hour retroactive to May 23, 2023. Kramer made a motion to establish Brough's pay rate at \$17 as lister retroactive to 5/23/2023. Cawley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

None

Other business that comes before the board

Cawley received a request to appoint Kimberly Remillard to the Planning Commission. Remillard said she's lived in town since 2004 and is excited and happy to serve on the commission. Kramer made a motion to appoint Kimberly Remillard to the Planning Commission. Cawley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Cawley received an email from Kerry DeWolfe, chair of the Planning Commission, proposing some revisions to the Dilapidated Building Ordinance. The board will put it on the agenda for the July selectboard meeting.

Gary Apfel stated that he has been posting the agenda on the LRN for the past two years and would like to continue. Since board chair Cawley is retiring after this month's meetings Apfel would like to continue to post the agenda and will do so through one of the other selectboard members.

Board member Nick Kramer, on behalf of the rest of the board, thanked Rick Cawley for his leadership and years of service to the town, which, in addition to his most recent term on the board, has included over 30 years of service in other volunteer and professional capacities.

Cawley made a motion to go into executive session to discuss The Warner Bros. contract. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The board came out of executive session at 8:49. Kramer made a motion to authorize the board to execute the contract with Charlestown Productions, LLC, pending successful negotiations consistent with the terms discussed in executive session. Cawley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Kramer made a motion to adjourn. Cawley seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.