

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday September 5, 2023

Attending for the board: Nick Kramer, Carl Demrow, and Holly Groschner. Anne Rosten Selectboard Clerk.
Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; Mike Tagliavia, and Steven DeVoto. Attending via Zoom:
Gary Apfel.

Board chair Nick Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of August 1, 2023 and financial meeting of August 14, 2023

Carl Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular selectboard meeting of August 1, 2023 and the financial meeting of August 14, 2023. Nick Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public concerns

None

Road Commissioner's report / Hwy. concerns / FEMA update

Commissioner Porter reported that the issue of debris at the beginning of South America Road has been resolved after speaking with the resident. Porter also said he's been getting emails from a fraudulent address marked as from a town official. Kramer mentioned it is a somewhat common occurrence and will post a warning note about it in the LRN.

Porter then asked about ordering a new F550 or F600 truck for the town as the current one will be eight years old and the warranty has expired. Due to Covid the town is off the usual rotation of replacing the trucks every five years. Even if the highway dept. puts in the order with Ford it will take about a year to receive it and the town is not committed to purchase which allows for an up or down vote at town meeting. Porter said the Government Price Concession incentive used to be up to \$7000 but now is as low as \$700. He estimated a ballpark figure for the purchase from \$70,000 up to \$120,000 with added equipment and an extended 6 year warranty. Foreman Blodgett thought it best for the town to hold on to the existing truck for chloride application and general use if the trade in value is low. Chair Kramer asked Porter and Blodgett to come back with a final cost proposal.

Blodgett asked the chair to sign a grant from the VT Agency of Transportation for \$31,000; reimbursement for the Taplin Hill culvert project and another grant for \$200,000 for the Brook Road paving which is finished.

Blodgett then asked permission to hire Lynn King as a part time driver for trucking sand and gravel and needed snow plowing in the winter. Blodgett will be out of commission for three months due to back surgery and the highway crew will be short handed due to a driver resignation. He asked for the new hire to be paid \$20 per hour with no benefits and will continue to look for a replacement. Groschner made a motion to hire Lynn King for the temporary driver position for \$20 per hour. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Blodgett then reported that all the less extensive road repairs due to the July flood are about done and will send the bill to FEMA. The Joe Lord Road temporary culvert fix has started to disintegrate and will need more extensive work done before the winter. Blodgett is actively looking for the two eight foot culverts and a contractor to work on it. It will need a more permanent repair next year. Blodgett has been in contact with Michelle Athouris-Miller, the FEMA representative who has been out to inspect the damaged sites twice and has approved the needed funding. Blodgett is now waiting on the FEMA mitigation representative for confirmation to move ahead with temporary repairs to Joe Lord Rd with the understanding that FEMA will reimburse the Town for those expenses.. Blodgett said that Claflin Road is in good shape and the bridge in Waits River is being worked on.

Reappraisal Order and Plan

The selectboard received a reappraisal order from the State due to the Town's Coefficient of Dispersal (COD) being beyond limits ordering the town to make a town reappraisal plan. Demrow explained that the COD is a measure of how

different properties are selling on the market as higher priced properties have gone way up opposed to lower priced properties which have not. The town was last appraised in 2017. The board sent a signed receipt of the order and will come up with a plan. Mike Tagliavia expressed his concern that taxes will rise due to the reappraisal and many in town can not afford that along with the current inflation. He also noted that some properties are being bought up by out of state buyers for inflated values. Kramer explained that the tax rate due to reappraisals generally averages out to a third goes up, a third goes down, and a third stays the same. Demrow said that the reappraisal will work in the best interest for Corinth.

Town Hall updates

The work on the floor in the meeting room will be done on October 20th and 21st. Norm Collette and the town clerk have removed all the wood cabinets from the vault and a new box has been installed. The board received updated figures from Mark Reinheimer for the town hall work and the board will discuss the numbers at next month's selectboard meeting.

Porter brought up his concern about the 20 year old town hall generator and asked if purchasing a new one should be on the ARPA list.

Correspondence

The board received a letter from Peter Gregory, executive director of TRORC, thanking the town for paying the annual dues.

There was also a notice from Norumbega Trail Riders and Montshire Trail Riders about the September ride through Corinth.

Other business that comes before the board

Just a reminder about the continued Trail 13 hearing to take place on October 13, 2023 at the town hall.

Executive session

Demrow made a motion for the board to go into executive session. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The board entered executive session at 8:05 PM and came out at 8:35 pm. The board took no action.

The board adjourned at 8:36pm.