

Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461 Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday November 7, 2023

Attending for the board: Nick Kramer, Carl Demrow, and Holly Groschner. Anne Rosten Selectboard Clerk. Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; Norm Collette, Town Hall Facilities Manager; Kevin Geiger, representative from TRORC; Mike Tagliavia, Andrew Alexander, Jason Duprey, Jim Guyer, Paula LaValley, and Paula Jewell. Attending via Zoom: Town Moderator Gary Apfel, Alex Nuti- de Biasi, from the JO, Dina DuBois, and Karen Reed.

Board chair Nick Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of October 3, 2023 and financial meeting of October 9, 2023

Carl Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular selectboard meeting of October 3, 2023. Holly Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Groschner made a motion to approve the financial meeting of October 9, 2023. Kramer seconded and the motion passed with Demrow abstaining due to absence at said meeting.

Groschner made a motion to amend the agenda to add a discussion about public safety concerns, an update concerning an EV Charger grant program, and an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss a personnel matter. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public concerns

Dina DuBois asked that an electronic speed limit sign be put up by the town hall. Kramer said it would be discussed during the Road Commissioner and Highway concerns.

Andrew Alexander asked if where he lives on Maplewood Road could be redesignated to Class 3 from Class 4. He said it was officially Class 3 when he bought the property and the road is in Class 3 condition. Blodgett will look into the road ordinance and let him know.

Alexander then brought up a concern he and other neighbors have about the recent survey the Planning Commission sent to residents in town. First, quite a few residents did not receive the survey and after seeing it they felt that the questions were manipulative and misleading with no options for opposition. Kramer explained that the Planning Commission is still in the process of gathering information and to his knowledge they would welcome feedback from any town resident. Alexander stated that he had attended a planning commission meeting to share his perspective and was told that the Planning Commission was not taking any more information.

Mike Tagliavia asked for clarification on the use of the grant money for the planning commission in last month's meeting. Kramer said they were applying for a Municipal Planning grant to continue examining the idea of land use regulations and noted that any new regulations proposed by the Planning Commission would have to be approved by the Selectboard or town voters. The subject warrants further discussion. Groschner explained that anyone can attend the commission's meetings.

Tagliavia brought up the reported "white suv" that followed a resident on Taplin Hill and had knocked on a few doors in town. There were calls to the police and they investigated. The white suv was found with two men who said they were lost hunters. Groschner said she spoke to the head of the VT State Police who said they found no reason for safety concerns.

Tagliavia said that five vehicles had been stolen within 15 miles from his home and two of them from Corinth. He is concerned about a law enforcement presence in town. Groschner said that the town now has a contract with the Orange County Sheriff's Dept. (OCSD) and they have ramped up their presence in town. She hopes people will reach out to the sheriff and the state police in the future.

Groschner reported that she contacted the Friends of The Meadow Meeting House for information regarding their Fidelity account without gaining any further information. This she volunteered to do after discussing it with Kerry DeWolfe at the October SB meeting. DeWolfe is advising the FMM.

Groschner informed the board that she contacted the state about applying for an EV Charger Grant. There was \$400,000 available to towns for that purpose but it is all spoken for. There will be another round of grants but the town will be responsible for 5 percent of the cost. Demrow stated that the town has no extra money for that. Kramer asked whether the local match could be met by in-kind donations. Groschner suggested the board submit an application to get in the queue for further consideration—submitting an application does not commit the town to any funds yet. She made a motion to file the initial ACCD grant application. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Road Commissioner's report / Highway Dept. concerns

Groschner said that two "Reduced Speed" signs were taken down on Chelsea Road near the end of South Road. She asked that the Road Commissioner replace the signs. Commissioner Porter said that those signs have been removed at least six times and the cost is \$200 per sign. Foreman Blodgett said road name signs also turn up missing which make it impossible for ambulances and fire trucks to locate where they're needed.

Porter stated that the Waits River Bridge will be finished by January 1st, 2024. The deck is in.

There have been complaints about rubbish left at the Park and Ride in East Corinth. A couch was dumped there that was full of needles and other debris. A name was found and the police will track it down. Groschner said there was exercise equipment left at the end of Abe Jacobs Road where it meets Chelsea Road.

Porter reported that he got one more quote for the body and equipment for the new F600. It was for the same amount as the one from Viking but has less added equipment. He asked for approval to purchase the one from Viking for \$61,700. Kramer asked about the town purchasing policy. Porter explained that the policy stipulates getting 3 quotes but there is no other company who provides what is needed. Given the circumstances, the board agreed to approve the purchase with Viking.

Jewell Lane: According to Porter, on Halloween, Tuesday October 31st, Paula LeValley and Paula Jewell had an argument with George DeNagy who sent a logging truck up on Jewell Lane, which is a dead end, and left ruts in the road. Porter indicated that he and Blodgett were working to respond to the situation but wanted to bring it to the board's attention.

Blodgett stated that the new man he wants to hire for the road crew has experience and is also an EMT. Groschner made a motion to approve Blodgett's new hire who will start on November 20th for \$21.00 an hour. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Blodgett said the new tandem dump truck has arrived. The requested Washington Electric pole is up at Vance Place and is powered.

Dina DuBois asked again about the speed limit sign at the town hall and she volunteered to pay for it. Kramer explained that according to Blodgett, the road crew has an extra speed sign that they can put up in Cookeville.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Presentation - TRORC

Kevin Geiger from TRORC explained how having a current LHMP helps towns to get needed money through the state emergency management dept. The town needs to write out a Request For Proposal (RFP) for TRORC to bid on. Once the state receives the money there will be a time limit for towns to bid. Holly will contact Lisa Kolb who heads the state emergency management dept.

MTAP Presentation - TRORC

Geiger then explained the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) to the board. He said Corinth is on the list as a Tier Two town to receive assistance for funding and assessments for community projects. They can also provide technical assistance to help with getting projects started. Demrow stated that there are two municipal projects being planned: the town hall renovation and the town garage addition. He asked if some of the town hall projects would qualify such as vinyl siding removal, drainage, handicapped ramp, new siding, and roof replacement. Demrow also said a sewer study has already been conducted in East Corinth village where the water and septic systems are privately owned, old and near the

Tabor Branch of the Waits River. To upgrade that infrastructure would be a huge undertaking which is beyond the town's resources. The board and Geiger discussed the timelines for available grants; MERP, ARPA, etc. which are all different. Demrow made a motion to accept the offer from TRORC to be a participant in the MTAP program. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Kramer asked Geiger to come back for further discussion at a financial meeting. Anyone interested in knowing more details about the MTAP program can go online to the VLCT website.

MERP Agreement

MERP grant funds will be available next August. Demrow made a motion to adopt the MERP agreement and for the board to authorize Groschner to sign. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Hall Updates

The board and Town Hall Facilities Manager Norm Collette discussed the town hall plans and the funds committed so far: \$150,000 from ARPA and \$15,000 from the Capital Reserve fund which does not cover the entire project. MERP money will be available next August and Collette suggested applying to the VT Historical Preservation for grant money up to \$50,000. Groschner asked about dividing the project. Collette brought up the many other projects not yet included in the plan that need addressing.

Kramer suggested revisiting how the original project should be funded since learning of all the different grants available. Demrow said he's been in contact with both designer Mark Nielsen and contractor Mark Rinehimer about the grant updates. This may necessitate Mark Rinehimer rebidding on the project.

Collette reported that after a propane delivery a gas smell was detected in the Lister's office. He investigated and found the air circulator port right outside the window which sucked in the fumes. He said it can not be shut off and asked the board to approve him spending up to \$300 from the town hall reserve fund to put in a rheostat off switch. Demrow made a motion for Collette to spend no more than \$300 to install a rheostat switch. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Collette then updated the board on the work done so far. The old flooring in the meeting room has been ripped out and exposed the original maple floor underneath which can be refinished rather than have Valley Floors put in a new floor. He says the refinishing and 5 coats of polyurethane would cost \$1500; far less than the \$6000 budgeted for a new floor. A new kickboard is needed as well as painting the trim and touching up the walls. It is all estimated to cost up to \$3500. Groschner thanked Collette and his wife Connie for their historical sense, donation of resources, and desire to keep the building's historical integrity. Collette will bring a quote for a kickboard and trim back to the board.

Meadowbrook Cemetery River Bank Erosion

The cemetery in question is actually called the Corinth Corner Cemetery on Cemetery Road. Collette met with foreman Blodgett and a FEMA representative about the project. A bid request must be submitted and the town procurement policy states that request for federal money must be posted in the local newspaper and requires three bids. The board will review the policy and look to add a brief amendment at next week's financial meeting. Demrow made a motion to adopt the agreement with FEMA and authorize the chair to sign. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Report Printing Contracts / Design

Kramer said he received two quotes for printing, designing, and postage for the town report: RCBrayshaw Printing from Lebanon, NH, and Repro who printed the town reports last year. RCBrayshaw's quote came in under REPRO's quote and included more service. Anne McKinsey will do the design and manage the project. Demrow made a motion to contract with RCBrayshaw and give McKinsey authority as project manager coordinator and pay for her service. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

Groschner made a motion to postpone this item until the financial meeting on Monday. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business that comes before the board

None

Demrow made a motion to go into executive session. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The board went into executive session at 8:59 PM, and came out at 9:15pm. The board took no action.

The board adjourned at 9:16pm.