

Approved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday December 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; Norm Collette, Town Hall Facilities Manager; Mike Tagliavia. Attending via Zoom: Town Moderator Gary Apfel; Anne McKinsey, Katharine Lea. Building Safety Officer; Kelly Ann Donahue, Lister; and Carol Freeman.
Board chair Nick Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of November 7, 2023 and financial meeting of November 13, 2023

Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular selectboard meeting of November 7, 2023 and the financial meeting of November 13, 2023. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public concerns

None

Road Commissioner's report / Highway Dept. concerns

Commissioner Porter said he received a number of phone calls from a resident complaining about snow from the town plow taking down some mailboxes. He returned the calls with no answer and will go out and view the sites. Foreman Blodgett said that all mailboxes are in the town's right of way and they try to avoid hitting them but sometimes weather conditions make it impossible to do so. The last two storms the town was hit with very heavy and wet snow, which can often knock over older mailboxes.

The board and Porter then discussed the contract with Casella about scheduled Transfer Station rate increases. Groschner will review the contract.

Blodgett stated that he's been attempting to navigate through the FEMA requirements online to facilitate moving ahead with needed projects, but has been having difficulty getting timely and accurate responses from Corinth's FEMA representative. Demrow offered to get in touch with VT Emergency Management to see what options the town has..

Next was the issue of the speed limit through Cookeville. Blodgett said he talked with Todd Eaton of VT Local Roads who said that if the town wants to establish a speed limit on a town road they must have a constable or town police to enforce it. Groschner will look into it.

Norm Collette said a local resident of Corinth Corner offered to pay to replace the "Backway Road" sign. Blodgett said they already have the replacement sign but if the resident would like to donate towards the cost of the sign the road crew would gladly accept.

Proposed Unsafe Building Ordinance Revision

Kramer stated that revising an existing ordinance is an involved process that requires careful analysis and can take some time. He acknowledged that a number of folks in town have contributed towards suggested revisions to the current dilapidated ordinance, and explained that the Selectboard has been evaluating different revision options and their ramifications. Groschner would like to thank the Planning Commission and particularly Chair Kerry DeWolfe for the work on suggesting revisions to the ordinance. She said that a Planning Commission meeting this Thursday will be discussing the proposed amendments to the ordinance. Most urgent is that any issued order can be enforced. The commission states that the penalties are not meaningful or punitive enough. Groschner stressed that issued citations must be in good form and the issue of the dilapidated Old Village Store in East Corinth was brought up as an example of an existing citation and issuance of fines that have been ignored. The citation issued was for \$100 and if not complied with then \$10 daily afterwards. No fees have been paid and no action taken. The board would like to look into how neighboring towns deal with this issue and to review Thursday's Planning Commission's recommendations before taking further action.

Town Hall Updates

Demrow stated that the board received a bid from Burrell Construction from Williamstown for the roof and eave renovation for Spring of 2024. The board and Collette discussed whether adding insulation to the project could be covered by MERP funds. Kramer explained that a representative from TRORC will be present at Monday's financial meeting to explain how MTAP can help facilitate moving the town hall project forward and accessing funds from different available grant opportunities for each item.

Collette said that Valley Floors is not interested in sanding the town hall meeting room floor as their sanding machines are large and the floor has irregularities. The discussion turned to more durable tile vs. existing maple floor. The consensus was for Collette to sand and finish the maple floor with smaller sanders after shoring up the underpinning of the floor and reconstructing the sills. There was some discussion regarding the funding sources for Town Hall improvement projects. Demrow made a motion to authorize Collette to underpin the meeting room floor and sand and finish. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Collette then informed the board that he asked a few residents to be on a newly formed building committee to review and recommend design changes for the town hall renovation: Dan Wing, Chris Groschner, Shirley Montagne, and Dick Kelley. He would also like to ask Jeff Martin as he has design expertise.

Demrow suggested John Haney as he was instrumental as project manager of the new Fire Station. Kramer made a motion to establish a Town Hall Building committee for the purpose of reviewing town hall projects and identifying funding availability, to be chaired by Demrow and to delegate to Demrow the responsibility for finalizing the committee roster and calling the first meeting. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

Moved until later in the agenda.

Other Business that comes before the board

The town's procurement policy was discussed. Groschner made an amendment to the existing policy:

"To the extent that the federal standards and procedures as stated in 2 CFR 200.319(c) and 200.320 conflict with this policy, it is superseded by 2 CFR 200.319(c) and 200.320 but only where required by federal statute applicable to the Town of Corinth as a non-federal entity receiving federal funds. This policy is further amended to include the conflict of interest standards and procedures for procurement as stated in 2 CFR 200.318(c) (1) where required by federal statute applicable to the Town of Corinth as a non-federal entity receiving federal fund, to the extent that such federal statute conflicts with the existing Code of Conduct and Purchasing Authority provisions in this policy."

Groschner made a motion to adopt the amendment to the town's existing procurement policy. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Porter reported that he sent the application fee to the state fire marshall on November 27th for approval of the Town Garage Addition.

Correspondence

None

Groschner made a motion for the board to go into Executive Session for a Personnel matter. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The board went into Executive Session at 8:40 PM, came out of executive session at 8:53pm and took no action.