Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461 Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday January 2, 2024

Attending for the board: Nick Kramer, Carl Demrow, and Holly Groschner. Anne Rosten Selectboard Clerk. Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; Dick Kelley, Treasurer; Christiane Carroll, Town Clerk; Kelly Ann Donahue, Lister; Mike Tagliavia. Steven DeVoto, Jason Mosel, Dave Adams, Jeff and Sandy Spiegel. Attending via Zoom: Town Meeting Moderator Gary Apfel; Catharine Lea. Building Safety Officer; Dina DuBois, and Rick Moore. Board chair Nick Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of December 5, 2023 and financial meeting of December 11, 2023
Board Chair Nick Kramer authorized moving to table this item until later in the meeting.

Public Concerns
Cross Road resident Dave Adams said that large bags of trash are being dumped at the town turnaround on his road and asked what could the town do about it. Board member Carl Demrow suggested putting up a sign to discourage violators. Jeff Spiegel stated that putting up a sign with a picture of a camera would work as it has on his road. Backway Road resident Mike Tagliavia reported that the culvert at the end of his driveway gets overrun with water during storms. Road Foreman Joe Blodgett said it needs ditching to divert the water as the runoff comes down out of the adjoining woods. Road Commissioner Lee Porter said there are plans to ditch that part of the road. Adams then said the last rainstorm washed out past his culvert which is clogged with debris. Blodgett stated that driveway culverts are the homeowner's responsibility. Kramer thanked the residents for sharing their concerns and confirmed that the Road Foreman and Highway commissioner are often happy to meet with residents to review particular situations on a case by case basis.

Road Commissioner's report / Highway Dept. concerns
Porter and Blodgett reported that the roads have been soft over the past couple of weeks but frozen at this time. He suggested it might be prudent to post the dirt roads earlier than usual for weight limits if roads continue to soften up with warmer weather. He reported that the new FEMA contact has helped immensely with navigating through all the paperwork for the grant.

Proposed Unsafe Building Ordinance Revision
Kramer proposed tabling this item until later in the meeting, since Groschner, who had been point on making revisions to the ordinance, was not yet present.

Dog Complaints / Ordinance Enforcement
The Spiegels are concerned with their neighbor, the Booths, five dogs. Jeff Spiegel explained that the two most aggressive dogs are now being kept inside an invisible fence but the other three are often in the road. Jason Mosel said his wife has been nipped at while jogging and has to carry a stick. There was discussion about the ordinance and the duties of the Animal Control Officer Michelle Boyer and what warnings and fines have been imposed. Also discussed was the ordinance itself as to the procedures, fines, impoundment options. Can Orange County Sheriff Dept be of help? Game Warden? Boyer has expressed her desire to resign the position. Demrow said he will contact Boyer to go over ordinance procedures and draft a letter to the dog owners from the Selectboard.

FY25 Budget
Kramer said there was scheduled a final budget committee meeting which has been postponed since the board is waiting for the final fund balances. More information will be available at Monday's Financial meeting.

2024 Town Meeting Warning
The board needs the final budget numbers to finalize and adopt the Town Meeting Warning. Moderator Apfel expressed his desire to have one or two discussion items on the Warning to interest more townspeople to attend. While appreciating the importance of the substantive discussion items proposed by the Moderator, Groschner suggested that the discussion of the budget needs to be completed first so that residents whose participation is limited due to work obligations can

attend the budget segment of the meeting. Kramer noted that a major concern at last year's town meeting was the discussion about the sheriff's dept and funding for it. Corinth residents are very concerned about the lack of law enforcement in town and want solutions, and the board is prepared to discuss actions taken to date at Town Meeting.

The Town Meeting Warning needs to be finalized by the end of the month. Kramer expressed the hope that it will be finalized at next Monday's financial meeting.

Town Hall Updates

Demrow reported that the Town Hall Renovation Committee met for the first time and the meeting served as an introduction to update members on what the board and Town Hall Facilities Manager Norm Collette have been working on for the past year.

There was discussion about the roof membrane and trusses and the need for an engineer to look at the trusses. The old roof membrane is fabric to be replaced with a rubber membrane. Demrow said that Spring 2025 is the projected construction start date once the funding is secured as the board does not want to go to the taxpayers for funding.

Colette will patch and finish the meeting room floor.

Approval of December Selectboard and Financial minutes

Demrow made a motion to approve minutes of December 5, 2023 and December 11, 2023 meetings. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Unsafe Building Ordinance Revision

Groschner is waiting for proposed amendments to the existing ordinance to be approved by the Planning Commission. The December Planning Commission Meeting did not have a quorum and no action was taken. The board will wait for the recommendation from the Planning Commission, which is scheduled to meet January 4th.

Correspondence

An invitation from the OCSD (Sheriff's Dept) for a member of the board to attend a meeting at the sheriff's office on January 4th, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Groschner will attend.

VLCT sent an invitation to the board to attend a Town Meeting Day training.

Other Business that comes before the board

None

Executive Session

Groschner made a motion to go into Executive Session and invite the Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Lister KellyAnn Donahue to participate. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. KellyAnn Donahue left the meeting at 8:26pm. The remaining participants came out of the executive session at 8:45pm and the board took no action. Groshner moved to adjourn. Demrow seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.