

Town of Corinth Selectboard  
PO Box 461 Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting  
Tuesday February 6, 2024

Attending for the board: Carl Demrow and Holly Groschner. Anne Rosten Selectboard Clerk. Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; Kelly Ann Donahue, Lister; Mike Tagliavia. Steven DeVoto, Dave and Ruth Adams, Andrew Alexander, Jim Guyer, Chris Groschner, Anne McKinsey, and Kerry DeWolfe,. Attending via Zoom: Town Meeting Moderator Gary Apfel; Carol Freeman, Alex Nuti de Biasi, Editor from the Journal Opinion, and Megan Asbury and Geena Baber from TRORC.

Acting board chair Holly Groschner called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of January 2, 2024 and financial meeting of January 8, 2024.

David Adams noted the wrong date of 2023 for the January meetings. The board acknowledged the correction to 2024. Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular selectboard meeting of January 2nd and the financial meeting of January 8th, 2024. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public concerns

Chris Groschner brought up a concern about finishing the natural wood floors at the Town Hall. He had been a selectboard member for quite a few years and remembered when the wooden floors were refinished by Brown's Flooring and their recommendations for future upkeep: damp mopping instead of wet, keeping traffic to a minimum, and buffing. Groschner asked the board to reconsider putting a tile floor down in the meeting room. Demrow said he will bring it up with the Town Hall Building Committee.

Mike Tagliavia stated his concern about the budget for the contract with OCSD (Orange County Sheriff Dept) for this year's Town Meeting and Demrow said it was in the General Fund and can be viewed in this year's town report when it comes out.

Tagliavia also asked how appointments to different committees are warned for interested citizens who want to serve. He feels that differing views are not heard or considered at the Planning Commission.

Andrew Alexander said he would like to see the Planning Commission produce a new survey.

James Guyer asked about posting of amended minutes at the Planning Commission. Demrow said they should be following the open meeting laws.

Groschner referenced an email the Select Board received from Jon Ruggles from the East Corinth Beautification Committee regarding his work on the village sign, flowers, etc.

Road Commissioner's report / Highway Dept. concerns

Commissioner Porter asked the board for permission to post the roads for weight limits before March 1st as needed. Demrow made a motion to permit the Road Foreman Blodgett and Commissioner Porter to post the roads as they see fit. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Blodgett explained that they have a VT state grant pending for the Hedgehog bridge in East Corinth and will be accepting bids. Blodgett and Porter asked that they be authorized to open bids and make a decision on February 20th after reviewing the bids. Groschner made a motion to authorize Blodgett to open bids and make a selection on February 20. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MTAP Updates / Town Hall / Garage Projects - TRORC

Megan Asbury and Geena Baber from TRORC explained to the board their statement of work from the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) to help identify one or two grants to help with the Town Hall renovations. Demrow

explained to the audience that Corinth qualifies for MTAP as a high-need town. The grants will attempt to fund needed town hall renovations to the south side of the building; the roof, porch, ramp, underpinnings, drainage, etc. The Town Hall Building Committee which consists of six members is working to obtain a design. The grants being pursued are: Accessible Modification due April 9 and Historical Preservation due at year end. Demrow said the board is waiting for an energy audit from the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) which has been applied for and accepted. The board thanked Asbury and Baber for their work. More will be discussed at Monday's financial meeting.

Commissioner Porter asked about Town Garage renovations. Demrow said MTAP did not identify any potential grants for the garage..

#### Proposed Unsafe Building Ordinance Revision

Groschner read and explained the ten revisions to the existing Unsafe Building Ordinance. Demrow stated he was happy with the changes. Planning Commission chair Kerry DeWolfe explained that the new revisions made the language more clear and user friendly. Dave Adams and Anne McKinsey asked questions. Demrow made a motion to accept the ten revisions to the Unsafe Building Ordinance as posted. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Planning Commission Appointment

Groschner tabled the appointment of Liane Allen to the Planning Commission in order to consider additional information about the select board appointment process.

Kerry DeWolfe, chair of the Planning Commission, asked the board to appoint Dick Kelley as an alternate to the commission. Tagliavia complained that Kelley has not been at any recent Planning Commission meetings. Demrow made a motion to appoint Dick Kelley as Alternate to the Planning Commission for a three year term. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Lister Appointment

Lister Kelly Ann Donahue recommended the board appoint Ruth Atkinson-Adams to a term of 2 years for lister and provided Ms Atkinson-Adams resume and letter of interest. Demrow made a motion to appoint Ruth Atkinson-Adams for a two year term as lister. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Emergency Management Committee Appointment

Kelly Ann Donahue asked that she be appointed to the Emergency Management Committee to replace Joe Blodgett and provided a letter of interest with a commitment to attend training. Demrow made a motion to appoint Kelly Ann Donahue to the Emergency Management Committee. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Orange County Sheriff's Update

There is a scheduled meeting at the Town Hall on February 29th at 7:00 PM with Sheriff Contois, a Vermont State Trooper, and Trevor Whipple of VLCT to answer questions from residents and discuss who to contact for law enforcement needs. Groschner is delegated by the board to work with towns in Orange County to meet local law enforcement needs.

#### Town Clerk Resignation & Interim Replacement

The board received a letter of resignation from Town Clerk Christiane Carroll thanking the town for the opportunity to serve. The resignation was effective February 6, 2024. Martha Brough, who has been working as Assistant Town Clerk, provided a letter of interest to serve as Town Clerk and serve for the interim of the term. Demrow made a motion to appoint Martha Brough as Town Clerk. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. A notice of the clerk's resignation will be posted as required by statute. Chris Groschner stated that the law allows for citizens to petition for a special election.

#### Liquor License Renewal

Crossmolina Farm applied to renew their class one permit to sell beer and wine and a class two permit to sell prepared food. Demrow made a motion to approve the class one and class two permits. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Correspondence

The board received a notice from VLCT informing them that there are new requirements for any nonprofits that have paid employees to register with the Dept of Labor.

Washington Electric requests the board sign a permit on Vance Place for tree cutting and trimming along electric lines from 2/2/2024 - 2/1/2025.

#### Other business that comes before the board

Dave Adams asked if the Animal Control Officer, Michelle Boyer, had resigned. Demrow replied that the board had received her resignation in writing.

Jim Guyer and Mike Tagliavia praised the selectboard for giving them the time needed to present their concerns and their willingness to listen.

Groschner made a motion to adjourn. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:00PM.