

Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461
Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday May 7, 2024

Attending for the Board: Carl Demrow, Holly Groschner, and Stephen Devoto. Anne Rosten, Selectboard Clerk. Lee Porter, Road Commissioner: Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; KellyAnn Donahue, Head Lister; Gary Apfel, Town Meeting Moderator; Norm Collette, Town Hall Facilities Manager; Nancy Olivet, Richard and Annie Dolan, Mark Nickles, James Jon Ruggles, Norman Patenaude from Pike Industries, Rick Cawley, Robert Sandberg, and Michael Buonanduci. Attending via Zoom: Dina DuBois and Dan Wing, Treasurer Dick Kelley, and Chris Groschner.

Board member Groschner called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. The delay was due to the Special Town Meeting being held at 7:00 PM.

Minutes of April 2, 2024

Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes from the SB meeting of April 2, 2024. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Road Commissioner's report / Highway Dept. concerns (Porter//Blodgett)

Porter requested that the SB send him a copy of the Casella contract to look over. Devoto will send it to Porter. Porter also stated he will meet with Meyers to discuss their contract. Groschner requested that he create a list of criteria for the RFP.

Porter then passed out photos of the work being done on the Town Garage addition for the SB to view. He reported the walls have been poured and backfilling will begin and the floor and radiant heat will start this week weather permitting. Road Foreman Blodgett will send the project contract spreadsheet to Groschner. Blodgett stated the project is slightly above budget; currently at \$230,000.

Porter relayed that the new F600 is currently in Claremont. Blodgett said the new dump truck is being built and Treasurer Kelley is getting the loan approved for the purchase.

Blodgett then went over the paving contract bids with the board: Pike Industries at \$145,732.75 and BlackTop at \$147,967.26. He urged to go with Pike Industries as they came in at the lower bid and he has been satisfied with their work over the years. Chair Groschner signed the Pike contract. Dina DuBois, who lives at the beginning of Tenney Road, asked if the road crew would replace two rotted and rusty culverts that she says are dangerous on Tenney. Blodgett stated that they would tear them out and let the water run freely across the road for now. The class 4 road would still be passable without the culverts.

Public Concerns

Work in the public right of way. Jon Ruggles passed out a detailed plan for a retaining wall project on his property which will include GMP putting in a new power pole. The sidewalk portion of the project will encroach five feet into the town right of way. Road foreman Blodgett indicated that the encroachment is not an issue as it does not disrupt the town's use of the right of way. Ruggles did not need SB approval but wanted SB consent to move forward with the project which he states will make that section of Village Rd more pedestrian safe.

Piano tuner. Groschner received a request for the piano in the Town Hall to be tuned. Groschner consulted Matt Sergeant, a professional piano tuner, who charges \$200. Town Hall Facilities Manager Norm Collette suggested getting an opinion about the condition of the piano and asked that the piano not be moved without his supervision and use of a dollie to preserve the flooring. Demrow made a motion to spend up to \$200 to have Matt Sergeant tune the piano, unless he finds it not worth tuning. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Appointments

Emergency Coordinator Kelly Ann Donahue nominated Mark Nickles and Dick Dolan to serve on the Emergency Management Committee..

Donahue will send them the updated LEMP plan. Groschner made a motion to appoint Mark Nickles and Dick Dolan to Emergency Management. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Demrow contacted Robert Fortunati who agreed to be appointed Fenceviewer. He did not connect with Gary Bicknell yet. Demrow made a motion to appoint Robert Fortunati as Fenceviewer. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

After checking with VLCT on VT statutes, the Board agreed to reappoint Martha Brough as Town Clerk. She will have to appear on the ballot and be elected to continue after next year's Town Meeting. Demrow made a motion to appoint Martha Brough as Town Clerk. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

LEMP Approval – KellyAnn Donahue

Donahue prepared the Emergency Management Plan for the SB to sign. Chair Groschner signed the LEMP. Donahue will send it to the state for approval. The plan will have all the significant information about the designated buildings (The Town Hall and WRVS) and what is included in each building for provisions and emergency arrangements. Dina DeBois asked that the information be available to the public. Donahue indicated she intends to call the Committee to meet twice this year.

Town Hall Maintenance / Improvement Updates

Demrow and Collette met with the Town Hall Building Committee a month ago. Clark Angus, the Structural Engineer referred and paid by the Preservation Trust went over the building and found the roof trusses to be in good shape. The scope of work has been narrowed down to roof replacement, eaves, historic window replacement, ADA ramp, and maybe vinyl siding replacement. To bring costs in alignment with existing funds, the project needs to be narrowed down more. The Committee will meet with a rep from VT Preservation Trust on May 20th. More discussion about the allocation of funds will take place at Monday's financial meeting.

Collette brought up his concerns about the upheaval that happens during the Window Dressers Workshop. He said the meeting room becomes a carpentry shop and all furniture is crowded into the hall that leads to the restrooms. He asked for the restrooms to be cleaned daily and for workers to be more conscientious. Dan Wing, a volunteer organizer for the WDW will address Collette's concerns. Collette did a walk through with EC Fiber representative Aaron Bowman. They discussed the generator, pulling up the stumps by the Cookeville Firehouse, pouring a cement slab in the drainage ditch, and burying a 300 gallon propane tank among other things. Groschner asked Collette to put together a list of these preferences. ECFiber will prepare a site drawing for the EC Fiber Lease agreement to be approved by Collette and the selectboard.

Grant Updates

Discussion with Selectboard Financial Clerk Shirley Montagne about funding for town hall maintenance projects will take place at Monday's meeting. Demrow talked about the timetable for MERP for energy aid in the Town Hall and Town Garage. The town is waiting on the energy contractor to complete its report so that it can participate in the main grant process which opens in August.

ARPA – Demrow timely filed the mandatory ARPA report through March 31 indicating expenditures of \$54,196.82. Groschner stated that the board will make a resolution at Monday's financial meeting about using ARPA funding for retention of municipal employees through payment of payroll expenses.

EC Fiber license agreement — update Groschner

Demrow stated that Corinth is on the tail end of EC Fiber's build plan. Porter said he's been hearing from neighbors who are confused about EC Fiber and Topsham Telephone's network. Groschner advised talking to Ed Childs, the Corinth representative to ECFiber's board, who is also the chair of EC Fiber's construction committee.

Pike Hill / EPA – Updates and Agenda Items for next meeting with Ed Hathaway

Porter said that the EPA needs to provide the town with an updated plan. The EPA has offered to pave the project roadways or rebuild them as unpaved roads. Porter stated that paving would cut down on dust and would cost less to maintain. Devoto suggested that the EPA should be responsible for conducting a survey, including knocking on doors to ask residents on the affected roads their preference. Groschner asked for a recommendation from the road crew. The Town Moderator, Gary Apfel, said the issue deserves a town discussion and suggested holding a town meeting. The selectboard agreed and discussion centered around getting information for a meaningful discussion. Demrow said he would talk to the Vershire SB for input on their experience as the EPA is moving forward with capping the Ely Mine this Summer.

Dog Ordinance Enforcement, Animal Control Officer

Devoto compiled information about potential dog shelters and animal control officers. He explained that the Humane Society in Barre currently has no room to impound dogs. Devoto reviewed the contract from Country Canine Boarding Kennel with the board. He reported that its principal, Michelle Boyer, provides dog shelter services for Vershire and Orange. Her kennel holds a dog for 5 days and then sends it to the local shelter if the owner does not pick the dog up. If there is no room at the shelter then she will contact a veterinarian to euthanize the dog. Owners have to pay all dog shelter fees in order to release their dog. If the owner does not claim the dog, the town must pay the kennel and veterinarian charges. He also contacted Kaitlin Haskins who is the animal control officer for Topsham. She is interested in the position of Animal Control Officer at \$12 per hour and to contract with Corinth for kennel service. Devoto agreed to post the Animal Control Officer position on the public listserv and to screen candidates. Groschner asked for a vote to engage Michelle Boyer's Country Canine Boarding Kennel for 60 days until a competitive bid can be received. Demrow made a motion to sign Country Canine Boarding's contract for 60 days starting immediately. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Devoto also reported making a house call to the owner of the aggressive dogs on Hayward Rd; one of the dogs already has five complaints lodged against it. As soon as the boarding contract is signed and returned to Country Canine, Devoto will engage the game warden for assistance in transporting that dog to the shelter.

Correspondence

There was discussion of a complaint from Paula Lavallee, a resident of Jewell Road, who observed a neighbor's logging truck leaking a chemical. Town Health Officer Brad Wheeler has agreed to inspect the site and the leak.

Other business to come before the board

Devoto reported on his experience at a TRORC meeting. He learned a lot but not actually pertaining to Corinth.

Porter has arranged to meet with Meyers to discuss the RFP for waste management. Stephen Devoto will attend and Bob Sandberg was also invited.

Confirmation of Meeting Dates: 5/13 Financial; 6/4 Regular Meeting

The dates of 5/13 Financial and 6/4 Regular Meeting confirmed.

Executive Session

Devoto made a motion to go into Executive Session. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm, Devoto moved to adjourn, Demrow seconded. Unanimous.