Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461 Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday September 3,, 2024

Attending for the board: Holly Groschner, Chair; Carl Demrow and Stephen Devoto. Anne Rosten Selectboard Clerk; Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; Kelly Ann Donahue, Head Lister; Mike Tagliavia, Jon Ruggles, Anne McKinsey, Susan and Bob Fortunati, Jeff and Sandy Spiegel, Jennifer Locke, Mike Pittman, Sarah Polli, Catherine Lea, Dina DuBois, Peter Keene, and Mathew Hayes.. Attending via Zoom: Town Meeting Moderator Gary Apfel; Mathew Nola and Alex-Nuti de Biasi, Journal Opinion Editor.

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Board chair Holly Groschner called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

Groschner welcomed all attendees and read the agenda.

Approval of 8/6/2024 Minutes

Devoto made a motion to approve the SB minutes of 8/6/2024. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Bob Fortunati asked how the minutes are edited and Groschner explained the process.

Road Commissioner/Road Foreman Reports

Road Foreman Blodgett said a new house is being built on 672 Turkey Hill Rd and requested an exception to the culvert policy of requiring 18 inch culverts, to instead allow a 15 inch culvert, which is quite adequate and is the state standard. Devoto made a motion to approve the 15 inch culvert for this project. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Blodgett suggested changing the town policy at a future meeting.

Blodgett asked for approval to start the process of purchasing a new Western Star dump truck as it takes a year or more to complete. They would trade in the 2018 Western Star. Blodgett received quotes for the chassis from two dealers: Charlebois at $176,947 and ATG at $179,999. Devoto made a motion to have Blodgett move forward on the quote from Charleboise for $176,947. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Blodgett stated that the 2020 Western Star will be paid off this month. Blodgett then divulged that he received two quotes for the equipment upfit for the new truck. One quote from HP Fairfield for $114,727 and another from Viking for $103,900. Devoto made a motion to approve the quote of $103,900 from Viking to upfit the new Western Star dump truck. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Blodgett stated that the Hedgehog Bridge project is now scheduled to begin at the end of September. He will provide road signs two weeks prior to the beginning of work and also notifications will be posted on the town website.

Ed Hathaway from the EPA requested assistance for notification to people using Richardson Road. The town can not accommodate his request. Groschner explained that the EPA is responsible for any notifications. Blodgett said Richardson Road will need upgrading to accommodate the heavy trucks: either gravel, staypak or one and half inch minus. Groschner advised to have the contract to read; gravel, staypak, and one and a half inch minus as needed. Groschner then explained the EPA Coppermine project to the audience. Groschner made a motion to authorize the board chair to sign the EPA contract with amendments. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Blodgett brought up the problem with dumping trash at the East Corinth Park and Ride on Rte 25. He said the VT State Police will make regular patrols there.

Osgood Cow Crossing: George Osgood put up small Cow Crossing signs and has purchased state approved signs and wants to move forward. There needs to be a safety study at the site. Devoto will check with TRORC for a safety study cost.

Public Concerns

Dina DuBois expressed her and her husband's delight at the condition of the Corinth Roads compared to other towns.

Jeff Spiegel had a complaint about finding two enormous tarps that were dumped on the side of Hayward Rd. Blodgett said he would send a bucket loader to pick it up. Spiegel stated that the trash he sees on the side of Corinth roads has grown exponentially since he moved here over 50 years ago.

Chris Groschner asked why the town sand pile looks different than before. Blodgett explained that they are purchasing manufactured sand from Martin's Quarry which he thinks will far exceed the usefulness and cost of the usual sand they have purchased in the past.

Sarah Pollit asked about the Hedgehog Brook Bridge detour. Blodgett explained the detour route and said it will be posted on the town website.

Town Clerk's Request for Web Business Directory

Groshner received a request from the town clerk to establish a town website business directory. The board would approve if no ads and to keep it current and the costs would come out of the town clerk's budget. Devoto made a motion to approve the request as long as it will be maintained currently, no ads allowed, and costs to come out of the town clerk's budget. Demrow seconded and the motion passed with one abstention.

Casella Waste Management Contract

Chair Groschner stated that Casella presented a good agreement but to add amendments to the contract. She asked Lee Porter to be sure the 20% increase can only be once or spread over the five year contract. And to add to the contract there is "No Known Contamination". Groschner asked Devoto to review the contract and proceed with the said conditions and get the permit signed.

Susan Fortunati asked who collects the money at the transfer station. Porter explained that Casella will have an employee every Saturday to collect fees via credit card or check; NO CASH. Demrow made a motion to have Lee Porter meet with Casella with the agreement and with the changes made and to authorize board chair Groschner to sign for the town provided changes are made. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Devoto made a motion to authorize Chair Groschner to sign for storage transfer and recycling certification. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Groschner said that there has not been any hazardous waste collection in town for a number of years and the need to talk with NEK Waste Management for extra collections after the board gets the Casella agreement back. The board thanked Lee Porter for his negotiations with Casella.

ECFiber Hub Agreement

Demrow briefly summarized the negotiating process with ECFiber who requested to place a Hub next to the Cookeville Fire Station. ECFiber has agreed to buy a new generator for the town and provide for the generator maintenance, have stumps removed, and have a new 500 gallon propane tank buried across the town hall parking lot. Demrow made a motion to authorize Demrow to sign the ECFiber Hub Equipment Placement Agreement subject to the Fire Dept's approval. Devoto seconded and the motion passed. Groschner abstained due to a conflict of interest. Susan Fortunati asked if the Hub would serve the whole town. Groschner answered that the Hub is central to getting internet service established in town but not sure about some outlying areas. Mike Pittman asked about electric service. Groschner replied that the town has allocated $30 a month for their service. She then thanked Demrow for his hours of work with ECFiber.

Update on 657 Village Rd (Old East Corinth Village Store)

Groschner updated everyone on the ongoing problem with the 657 Village Rd property and how the back building is collapsing into the Tabor Branch. She went over the history of cited violations that have not been paid adding up to $5790 at $75 a day. The board will need to engage legal counsel to convert the violations into a lien against the property if choosing to do so.The mortgage is for $35,000 with WRSB but not recorded as paid off. Groschner will contact the bank for more information. Mike Pittman asked if this policy is solely targeting this property. Groschner said that there is a dilapidated building ordinance that is not discriminatory and the violations refer to the collapsing back building. If The Building SafetyOfficer receives a complaint she will investigate for ordinance violations. Chris Groschner stated that there have been other cases in the past where the Building Safety Officer has had to investigate. Susan Fortunati asked if someone buys the property can the penalty be waived. Groschner answered "yes". Jeff Spiegel asked if Demrow would ask the WRSB to take action to enforce conditions if the mortgage is not paid off. Anne McKinsey asked if the board could appoint a special committee to oversee the process. Demrow explained that to appoint a committee there has to be a task

or charge for the committee.. Sarah Polli said there were issues of concern during the past sixteen years of construction on the building. Maybe having an Ad Hoc committee was discussed.

Animal Control Officer Update

Mathew Hayes said he was willing to apply for the ACO on a volunteer basis and put forth his concept to bring positivity, humility, and compassion regarding animals and the owners to the position. Devoto posted the position on the LRN and immediately received a response from Hayes. It will be considered in Executive Session.Groschner suggested having the ACO decision be on the October agenda. Jennifer Locke asked if the ACO oversees livestock abuse. That is the jurisdiction of the Game Warden Nate Lumsdem; contact # 802-595-3526.

Law Enforcement Update

Groschner revisited the law enforcement study she compiled earlier; the calls made to 911 over the past year; 261 calls of which only 20 the OCSD picked up and the rest were answered by the VT State Police. Chuck Winn from the St Johnsbury barracks will attend the October SB meeting. He advised that 911 should be called in an emergency but if not emergency but need assistance to call 802-748-3111 ext. 8. The State Police provided the electronic speed sign in front of the town hall which records the # of vehicles, speeds, and times of day.

ATV Travel on Town Rds

Complaints have come in from Richardson and Pike Hill Rds about ATVs and the noise. The person to call is the Game Warden, Nate Lumsden . 802-595-3526.

Confirm Meeting Dates

Confirmed::September 9th Financial Meeting and October 1st Regular SB meeting

Executive Session

Devoto made a motion to go into Executive Session. Groshner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Demrow made a motion to adjourn. Groschner seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

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