Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461
Corinth, VT 05039

Approved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday October 1, 2024

Attending for the Board: Holly Groschner, and Carl Demrow. Steve Devoto on Zoom. Anne Rosten, Selectboard Clerk. Lee Porter, Road Commissioner: Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; KellyAnn Donahue, Head Lister;, Brad Wheeler, Town Health Officer; State Trooper Jason Haley, Brianna Haley, Bob Fortunati, Mike Tagliavia, Jon Ruggles, Jim Guyer, John Tripp, John Tripp Jr, and Todd Williams. Attending via Zoom: Chris Groschner, Gary Apfel, Town Meeting Moderator; Alex Nuti-de Biasi, Editor Journal Opinion, Carol Freeman, Ron DeAlmeida, and Shirley Montagne, Selectboard Financial Clerk.
Board Chair Groschner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Board of Health continued from September
Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes from the September Board of Health Meeting. Health Officer Wheeler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

625 Young Rd: Groschner asked if the legal orders of violations have been filed as liens as one of the proposed processes. Wheeler said it is not yet complete and has spoken with the homeowners numerous times. They would like help from the town. Wheeler will file a health order. Matt Fulford will provide a cost estimate for the project which entails renting and setting up a dumpster for the property and then hauling to Coventry Landfill. Groschner stated that per the town purchasing policy the job has to be posted and cost is a factor. Groschner stated that the board needs to form a resolution and file a lien. Wheeler will meet Fulford at 625 Young Rd at 5:00 PM on Thursday, Oct. 3rd.

657 Village Rd: Health Officer Wheeler will check to see if the septic system has been pumped out recently. Demrow said he would forward to Wheeler contact information for the Dept of Environmental Conservation since they are responsible for septic enforcement. KellyAnn Donahue stated that a press release went out regarding the theft of the Pride Flag from the East Corinth Church, which abuts 657 Village Rd. Consequently it has now caught the attention of Homeland Security and the Justice Dept.

Truck Emissions in East Corinth: Wheeler inspected the emission leaks on Jewell Rd and found no elevated toxic readings in the soil. Nothing is migrating into the soil or river. He also reported on a campsite on White Rd. He spoke with the property owner who has the use of an indoor bathroom.

Groschner made a motion to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Welcome – Agenda Approval
Agenda approved with the addition of road culverts during the Road Commissioner's report.

Update: Law Enforcement
Groschner moved this item up due to State Trooper Jason Haley's presence. She first asked Trooper Haley about patrolling the East Corinth Park and Ride. He replied it was limited due to lack of staff, a lot going on, but doing the best they can. He reported that there was a homeless encampment at the Bradford Park and Ride. Trooper Haley said he is stationed in St Johnsbury and Bradford and also lives in Bradford. He frequently patrols Bradford and Corinth and stops in and talks with Renee Salomaa at the East Corinth Store. Groschner stated that the board has done a careful study of the 911 dispatches of the past year and noted that most all calls were handled by the State Police. She has been in contact with Lieutenant Wine[?} who replied he is open to ideas to help them be more effective.

Trooper Haley reported on the Speed Trailer statistics from an eight day Friday to Friday survey. Of the 2022 cars going through the average speed was 31 mph. The speeding is from the cars going straight down Cookeville Rd. Cars slowing down were headed down Center Rd. Groschner asked about a speed trailer with a camera to photograph license plates. Trooper Haley said that can not be done as it is unconstitutional.

Brianna Haley, Trooper Haley's wife, was asked about her role. She said she works for the VT National Guard on veterans issues for Caledonia County. Haley stated that if any veteran needs help at any time be it shelter or food, etc. to contact her at 802-338-4324.

Board member Devoto asked if the State Police could help with enforcing the local ordinance regarding the ACO (Animal Control Officer) in impounding dogs. Trooper Haley said that he can only impound if the offending animal is not on the owner's property.

Groschner reiterated the policy of emergency calls: Call 911 if a HOT emergency but call 222-4680 ext8 to report anything else; he stated that the 911 dispatcher and the person answering the regular line sit next to each other and can coordinate the appropriate response .

Groschner asked for any other concerns. Brianna reported that mental health concerns are great in Orange County but do not have the resources other counties have. The board thanked them for coming.

Road Commissioner/Road Foreman Reports
Road Commissioner Porter reported he received complaints that a wood splitter and trailer were in the roadway on White Rd. He said he knows the owner of the trailer and it will be moved.

Porter then noted that the signed contract by Casella and the Selectboard was filed along with the permit this morning at the Town Hall. They are currently putting in the new wires and the cement pads. The cement will be poured next week. Porter will ask Amber Vachiarelli to provide a price structure for the public to access. The new price structure will require a credit card or check for payment; Cash will NOT be accepted.

Road Foreman Blodgett updated the board that the Hedgehog Brook Bridge Project has been postponed until next year. He said time is getting too short but the grants are good through next year.

Osgood Cow Crossing: Demrow made a motion on Devoto's behalf to approve the Osgood Cow Crossing signs. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. There are now 2 cattle crossing signs on Chelsea Rd and two on Cross Rd.

Blodgett said they're working on the Camera Plan for the East Corinth Park and Ride. He stated that the Salt Contract came through with a savings of $5400 as the price is going down. Porter said the roof is now on the Town Garage Addition. Blodgett met with the Pike Hill Copper Mine work crew on their progress..

Public Concerns
Bob Fortunati asked about the October deadline for a solution to the issues he brought up at June's SB meeting. He said the problem is worse near his house. Groschner will accompany him to evaluate the problem.

Appointment of ACO
Groschner made a motion, on behalf of Stephen Devoto, to appoint Matt Hayes for the ACO (Animal Control Officer) and the annual.budgeted contract amount of $750 and $20 per hour. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

LHMP
The board sent an RFP out for the LHMP plan and favored the proposal from Stephanie Megnan for SEAM Solutions. Devoto made a motion to accept the contract with SEAM. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MERP
Demrow reported that two MERP grant applications have been submitted- one for $214,979 for the Town Hall Project and $235,505 for the Town Garage Addition. TRORC submitted the applications on the town's behalf.
Norm Collette, the Town Hall Facilities Manager, is finishing a grant to the VT Historic Preservation for $20,000 for work on the back side of the building, not including the ADA porch/ramp. The town has submitted a pre-app for $85,000 for a Community Development Block Grant for the ADA porch/ramp.

Shared Services
The board is reviewing ways to share services with other towns; law enforcement with Newbury, Topsham, Washington? Lister Donahue suggested getting together with the other towns to discuss a plan for shared services for an assessor, along with TRORC.

Budget Committee Planning
Groschner stated that it is time to start planning for the budget committee meetings. As noted Anne McKinsey has been the manager of the Town Report for many years but has not submitted a proposal as yet. Groschner proposed asking McKinsey to submit an RFP to manage the Town Report. Groshner will attend a budget committee meeting.

Other Business
None

Correspondence
The board received a notice from TRORC for an increase of 3% to the annual dues which brings it to $2517. Groschner suggested that Demrow convene the budget committee first meeting with Treasurer Dick Kelley on November 19th and maybe propose November 12 for the meeting as an alternative.

Meeting dates
SB Financial meeting for October 14 and the regular SB November meeting for 11/12 due to the National and State election.

Approval of Sept 3,24 minutes
Approval of minutes postponed.

Adjournment
Demrow made a motion to adjourn. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.