Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461 Corinth, VT 05039

Approved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday November 12, 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; Jennifer Locke, Dan Carter, Brad Wheeler, Town Health Officer; and Glynn Pellegrino, Chair of the Conservation Commission. Attending via Zoom: Town Meeting Moderator Gary Apfel; Mathew Nola, Mike Tagliavia, Ben Machin from Redstart, and Tim ODell.

Board chair Holly Groschner called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Welcome and Agenda Approval
Groschner welcomed all attendees and read the agenda. She called for a motion to amend the agenda. Devoto made a motion to add to the agenda a matter from Glynn Pellegrino of the Conservation Commission and an update on MERP from Demrow. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 9/3/24 and 10/1/24 SB Minutes
Devoto made a motion to approve the SB minutes of 9/3/2024. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Matt Nola asked about the MERP grant; what is it for? Demrow explained that MERP is a grant that will fund energy improvements for the Town Hall and the Town Garage. Demrow made a motion to approve the SB minutes of 10/1/24. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Board of Health Report: 625 Young Rd
Health Officer Wheeler and Heavy Equip Operator Matt Fulford visited the 625 Young Rd site and Fulford came up with an estimate to collect waste, rent a trash container, and hire hauler Pete's Rubbish to cart it away to the Coventry Landfill; $2800. Groschner explained that the town does not have an ordinance to take on the expense and put a lien on the property. Wheeler stated that other than the one neighbor, Alton Young, who reported being bit by a rat, no other neighbors have complained. It was noted that neighbors have chickens and there is a large sheep farm uphill from the 625 address. After much discussion the board declined to spend the $2800 for the trash removal. Groschner asked Wheeler to do more investigating as to whether there are children or elderly at the said address. She then asked whether the town should establish an allocation of funds to assist needy homeowners to dispose of their trash. Road Foreman Blodgett opined that it would create a problem and enable irresponsibility to dispose of trash legally. Devoto stated that the Community Coalition was created to deal with these needs.

Devoto made a motion to move agenda item #10 up to #4. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
Groschner noted that Ben Machin from Redstart was not yet here so Devoto withdrew the motion.

Road Commissioner/Road Foreman Reports
Commissioner Porter said that he's been riding the roads as winter conditions near to check on vehicles and other hindrances that are in the town's right of way and requests homeowners to remove the problems.

Foreman Blodgett updated the board on the progress of the Town Garage Addition which is coming along well. The doors are scheduled to arrive next Wednesday. Groschner asked about the board's approval of the $200,000 expenditure which she could not find in the minutes. Demrow recalled that the board did talk about it. Blodgett said the board approved the amount of $200,000 and the balance to come from the Highway Fund. Groschner stated that the record does not reflect a vote on the subject. Demrow made a motion to approve the

total amount of $250,000 with $200,000 to come from the surplus and the remainder from the Highway Fund which may have to come from a Town Meeting vote. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

EPA Richardson Rd conditions

Ed Hathaway from the EPA has been exceptionally accommodating to the needs of the residents affected by the road upgrades to handle heavy equipment. The town extends their gratitude for his good faith in this project.

Park and Ride Camera Plan

Blodgett showed the board a photo of the camera which is on the way for the Park and Ride.

Groschner asked Blodgett about compiling photos of the road crew to showcase in the next Town Report. He stated he would like to collect photos from many years dating back a hundred years or more, he wanted it to be done right if it was done at all. Time is of the essence

The new F600 is just waiting for a paint job before delivery to the town.

Renewal Permit for Salvage Yard on Rt 25

Dan Carter was authorized by the board two years ago to operate a salvage yard at 10152 VT Rte 25. At the time there were 96 vehicles and Carter said he would reduce it to zero. He disposed of 46 and now there are 77 of which some are in barns. Demrow recollected that the board wanted to see progress; not necessarily zero cars. Carter said he now has 14 junk cars that he will remove. Groschner asked if there is a hazard regarding the floodplain. Carter stated that there is none. Demrow made a motion to sign off on Carter's permit with the state for two more years to operate the salvage yard and dispose of the 14 junk cars. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Casella Contract

Porter said the contract has been signed and the new Transfer Station Operations will begin January 1, 2025. Blodgett begins prepping the area for the compactor cement pads tomorrow (Wednesday). The cement pads will be poured Friday weather permitting. Porter suggested having public meetings for town residents to ask questions and be informed about the new Transfer Station rules and practices. It will be posted on the LRN. Devoto suggested having a spokesperson at the Transfer Station for the next 4 Saturdays to talk to residents about the changes.

Redstart Septic Survey

Groschner made a motion to move #10 item to #8. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Redstart Septic Survey Report consists of 77 pages and maps 47 parcels and storm drains from Village Rd in East Corinth Village. All of the parcels are uphill from the Tabor Branch of the Waits River. The survey cost was funded by a budgeted surplus in the amount of $5600. Health Officer Wheeler stated that there is a problem emanating from a culvert in front of Raymond Moulton's but can not identify the source. Groschner stated that the survey be given to Wheeler to help in his investigation. Groschner also stated her concern that now that the town knows what the problem is then maybe the town is now responsible to proceed further to correct the problems. Porter said that for many years nothing was known about the drainage and septic of the area and now has a map of all that is under the ground and pavement. Demrow said that the town's original intent was to just map the area. Groschner will send the report to Wheeler to help him with investigating the problem spot.

VSP Contract Approval

Grocshner went over the contract details from the State Police. The contract includes a 4 hour per week schedule from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday at $74.12 per hour. There is an overhead charge of $15 which brings it up to $89.69 total per hour.The State Police fiscal year is from June 1st to May 31st. Demrow made a motion to engage the VT State Police for the 29 remaining weeks in their fiscal year for

$10,404 which ends on May 31, 2025. Groschner said that the contract can be canceled after 30 days if needed. Matt Nola said the police presence would be good for the town. Devoto noted that Groschner's research indicated that the VSP was already responding to a wide diversity of calls from Corinth, and questioned what the town would be getting that it does not already get. Groschner indicated that it would provide comfort to those who wish to see law enforcement activity in Corinth. The officers on duty after hours will be available at overtime pay for any urgencies. Devoto seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Budget Committee Planning

Treasurer Kelley has requested that former treasurer Susan Fortunati attend the budget meetings and moderate the discussions. The board went over the budget meeting schedule. Kerrie DeWolfe, chair of the Planning Commission requested to attend the budget meeting on November 26th instead of November 19th. Demrow said Zach Ryan from the Upper Valley Ambulance Service will attend a meeting. Groschner recommended the board talk about the two major projects; Town Hall Renovation and the Town Garage Addition. Porter said that the entities requesting funds need to be at the meetings to make a case for their requests.

Other Business

Glynn Pelegrino requested that funding for Green Up Day be separated from funding for the Conservation Commission. He suggested having a different line item for each. Demrow said that the Green Up line item could go under the Transfer Station Line Item. Pelegrino said that the Conservation Commission helps coordinate with the Green Up committee but not more. The Treasurer will be directed by the board to put Green Up under a different line item.

Next was discussion about an invoice about the mural at the Transfer Station which was sent to the Community Coalition for $500 who then sent it to the Town. The town does not have an account with the Community Coalition so could not pay the bill. The bill was paid to the vendor by the Conservation Commission but needs to be reimbursed from the town.

Devoto stated that he has been helping the town clerk to go through the file cabinets to organize. He would like to volunteer to continue.

Gary Apfel informed the board that the Zoom cut out two times during the meeting.

Correspondence

The board received a thank you card from SAFELINE thanking them for their support.

Meeting Dates

Meeting dates of 11/18 Financial meeting and 12/3 Selectboard meeting are confirmed.

Adjournment

Demrow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Devoto seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.