Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461
Corinth, VT 05039

Approved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday December 3, 2024

Attending for the Board: Holly Groschner, Carl Demrow, and Stephen Devoto. Anne Rosten, Selectboard Clerk. Lee Porter, Road Commissioner: Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; KellyAnn Donahue, Head Lister; Martha Brough, Town Clerk; and Etive Brough, Bob and Susan Fortunati, Jennifer Locke , Mike Pittman, and Jeff Spiegel. Attending via Zoom:, Gary Apfel, Town Meeting Moderator; Shirley Montagne, Selectboard Financial Clerk; Mike Tagliavia, and Kerry DeWolfe.

Board Chair Groschner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Groschner welcomed all and asked the board to amend the agenda to include discussion with the Town Clerk about the office budget under Public Concerns. Demrow made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Concerns

Bob Fortunati expressed his frustration at the condition of the class 4 section of Coppermine Rd. He said it has gotten worse since the Selectboard Meeting discussion in July. He remembered the board agreeing to address it with the Road Foreman by October. His concerns are about a waterbar that has been established in the wrong place and the problem of vehicles getting stuck and needing to be pulled out. Fortunati presented some photos for the board to view. More on the condition of Coppermine Rd under Highway Concerns.

Jeff Spiegel asked about the Corinth Community Coalition's long awaited payment from the Corinth Conservation Committee. Groschner said the payment was approved a month ago. Spiegel also asked about the bin that receives the returnable bottles and cans in lieu of the new Casella contract. The bin will still be available for the CCC and the CCC to collect returnables. He addressed Road Foreman Blodgett about sand available for town residents to use. Blodgett reassures him the pile is there.

Town Clerk Brough requested that the board approve $601.17 for land record supplies. Demrow made a motion to approve the $601.17 expense request. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Brough then stated her intention to resign as Town Administrator and said Kelly Ann Donahue is willing to take it on. Groschner advised her to send an email resignation with a suggestion to appoint Donahue. Devoto made a motion to appoint Kelly Ann Donahue as Administrative Officer pending the resignation of Martha Brough. Donahue requested that Martha Brough be appointed a lister as the other lister is resigning as of December 11th. Demrow made a motion to appoint Martha Brough as Lister from December 11th thru Town Meeting Day in March 2025. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Brough and the board discussed working together to make the filing and documentation system more efficient.

Road Commissioner's Report/Highway Dept Concerns

Road Commissioner Lee Porter reported on the condition of the town road's right of ways which have all been cleared of obstacles. Foreman Joe Blodgett said the Thanksgiving storm was well managed by the crew and the roads are in good shape. Groschner asked Blodgett where the $50,000 to complete the Town Garage Addition was coming from and stated the need to have all expenses line-itemed. Blodgett said that grants are due to come in and he will supply specific grant references that cover the deficit expenditure.

Blodgett then explained that the Class 4 segment of Coppermine Rd is in rough shape due to all the rain last Summer and an underground spring which is flowing out onto the steepest part of the road. Anne Rosten, who lives on the southern end of Coppermine said that they've had to pull vehicles out that get stuck. One vehicle was a van that the occupants spent the night in before knocking on Rosten's door at 6:00 AM the next morning.

Fortunati was concerned about the property owners along the road that cannot get access. Porter said that the majority of people who buy property on Class 4 roads want it to stay Class 4. Financial Clerk Shirley Montagne said she lived on a class 4 road for years and the town never maintained it other than run the grader through once a year. Blodgett explained that the state will not give towns funds to fix class 4 roads. He also said the state would like to turn them all into trails. He said the plan is to put up signs at each end stating that the road is not maintained and to put up Jersey Barriers at each end to bar vehicles and take them away in the Spring when the road is dried up

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Casella Transfer Station Public Meeting 12/18/24

Porter stated that there will be two representatives from Casella at the 12/18 meeting at 7:00 PM to explain the contract with the town. Groschner will post it in the LRN. Porter also drew up posters to post around town about the meeting.

LHMP Committee/FEMA Buyback/VSP Update

Groschner explained that she and the VSP are still working towards a contract.

Devoto submitted the application for the FEMA buyback on the Martha Travis property on South America Road. It is an Extraordinary Circumstances Request Request. The town must have a LHMP plan in place to acquire the grant. The deadline for grant payment is September 2025. Montagne is chair of the LHMP committee whose members include herself, KellyAnn Donahue, Joe Blodgett, Stephen Devoto, Karen Galayda, and others.

Jeff Spiegel is concerned that most town people do not attend Town Meeting and therefore are not likely to be aware of The Land Acknowledgement Statement which was raised at Town Meeting 2024 and brought to a nonbinding vote. Spiegel asked if it could be included in the minutes from the Town Meeting and maybe be read out loud by the Town Moderator Gary Apfel.. Demrow suggested that Apfel and Spiegel work together to come up with a solution.

Planning Commission subdivision regulation changes

Planning Commission Chair Kerry DeWolf stated that the proposed changes will be discussed at Thursday night's PC meeting. The committee will make a decision. Susan Fortunati said that according to state statute Title 24 sections 4441 and 4442 C , any changes need to be brought before the town for a vote. Groschner said that an adoption can be made before a public meeting.

MERP RFP

Demrow sent the signed MERP Agreement for $411,000 to the state and the state confirmed receipt. He received new guidelines to send to Blodgett. The town received a $7500 REDI Grant for writing the Community Development Block Grant for the Town Hall back porch.

Correspondence and Other Business

Lister Donahue stated that she has already posted the available Lister position on the LRN.

The board approved the meeting dates of 1/7/24 for SB meeting and 1/13/24 for Financial meeting.

Groschner made a motion for the board to go into Executive Session. Demrow seconded and motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.