Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461 Corinth, VT 05039

Approved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday February 11, 2025

Attending for the board: Holly Groschner, Chair; Carl Demrow and Stephen Devoto. Anne Rosten Selectboard Clerk; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; Jennifer Locke, Town Meeting Moderator Gary Apfel; Head Lister Kelly Ann Donahue, and Ginny Barlow. Attending via Zoom: Mike Tagliavia.

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

Welcome and Agenda Approval
Groschner welcomed all attendees and read the agenda. Demrow made a motion to approve the agenda. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of January Minutes from 1/7/25 SB and 1/13/25 SBF Meetings
Demrow made a motion to approve the SB minutes of January 7, 2025 and SBF minutes of January 13, 2025 after amending one item about Assistant Treasurer's job description.. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Concerns
Lister Donahue informed the board that she noticed new windows were put in on the second story of the dilapidated old store next to the East Corinth Church.

Road Commissioner's Report / Highway Dept
Road Commissioner Lee Porter was not in attendance. There was discussion about the Emerald Ash Borer Plan. The Project Manager will be Ginny Barlow, Tree Warden. She will coordinate with Road Foreman Blodgett about the contracted work to take place on White Rd. Barlow asked for help to put out the RFPs and mark the trees to be removed. Demrow made a motion to approve the Ash Borer Plan as presented. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The next step is to write to landowners on White Rd.

Roads: Blodgett said the roads are in good shape and plowing, sand, and salt is going well. He remarked how "normal" this winter is and currently the crew is working on leveling snow banks which limit visibility
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FEMA: Blodgett said that all the funds for the three big bridge projects are in the Town's bank account; in the Reserve and Special Projects Funds. Blodgett has put out bids for the jobs. Groschner asked that any meetings Blodgett schedules with Treasurer Kelley to have a Selectboard member there also.

Hedgehog Brook Bridge: Blodgett talked with the Contract Foreman about the project which will start in early May.

Garage Project: Blodgett explained that there is a little more electrical, sheetrock, and heating work to do on the new garage but has noticed that when he arrives in the morning it is warm inside and the equipment fits nicely. Demrow stated that out of the budgeted amount of $250,000 the project has cost so far $244,490 which is cutting it close. Blodgett said there is still $20,000 in the account and they will acquire more when the F450 and the Big Equipment trailer is sold. Groschner reminded Blodgett that any expenditure over $15,000 must be approved by the board. Devoto stated that the board should vote to approve a budget for extra funds over the $250,000 to complete the project. Groschner asked Blodgett to provide a document for the extra work before the board can vote to approve more funding. Blodgett explained that the extra funds will be in the Town's Account when the before mentioned equipment is sold. Demrow made a motion to approve raising the budgeted amount of $250,000 to $280,000 to finish the garage project pending the future sale of the equipment. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Salt and Sand: Blodgett said they have used quite a bit of the salt and sand and may go over what they bought at the start of the season.

Transfer Station Changes: Blodgett asked who is responsible for paying for electrical power at the Transfer Station. He complained that heat is being left on all week and even during open hours with heat turned up the windows and doors are open. Groschner said she will check with the Transfer Station contract. She noted the need for better signs to direct customers.

Contract Updates; RFPs

Groschner handed out the received bids on the Town Hall carpentry and paint work. One from Virgil Fuller for $2300.85 for the carpentry work and the other from Paradis Painting Service for $4000 for painting. Demrow made a motion to approve the estimate from Virgil Fuller for $2300.85 and require that the work be done by May 15th. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The bid from Paradis states “to be paid in full before work”: $1000 for materials and $3000 for labor. Demrow agreed to pay for materials beforehand and for labor after the job is completed. The work must be finished before June 30th. Demrow made a motion to accept the bid to pay$1000 for materials up front and $3000 for labor after job completion. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Review of Open Appointments

Demrow compiled a list of 35 openings for Town positions. Groschner proposed to the board to post the list on the town website and LRN so anyone interested can let the board know by March 1st. The board will have a list of possible appointees by the March selectboard meeting.

Lister Donahue presented two resumes for the two vacant lister positions for the board to review. Donahue requested that the board approve appointing Mary Martin and Marsha Blake as it is too late to place them on the ballot for Town Meeting. Demrow made a motion to appoint Mary Martin and Marsha Blake to the two open lister positions through Town Meeting Day at the rate of $17 per hour.Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Groschner asked Donahue to compile a list of duties and the number of hours and have the appointees sign.

Open Discussion—Town Meeting

Town Meeting Moderator Apfel conducted a dry run with the OWL for Zoom in the Town Hall. His concerns are: That not everyone will be heard over the Zoom and that someone needs to monitor the Zoom. A microphone will be provided. Groschner will ask the Town Clerk to suggest someone to monitor and to post a notice on the LRN. Apfel and Donahue will set up on the weekend before the Town Meeting.

Contract Updates

This item was tabled until the March SB meeting.

Subdivision Regulation Changes

Groschner stated that an administrative process needs to happen and also a public meeting needs to take place.The public meeting could be included in a SB meeting. Board members Groschner and Devoto attended the February 6th Planning Commission meeting. It was suggested that the Administrative Officer could administrate for the Planning Commission. The members of the commission requested coming up with a civility policy for public meetings. They have been poorly treated by the public. Devoto stated his concern about open government and free speech. A policy should provide time for public comments but civility should be enforced. Apfel said the commission chair can stop personal attacks. Groschner suggested for the board members and the Planning Commission Chair to attend each other’s meetings. Devoto advised providing any assistance the commission needs.

Town Administration / File Project

Devoto said that he and the Town Clerk have been going through the files and have a growing pile of files for jettison approval. The state mandates a file destruction form before any can be jettisoned. Devoto also suggested that the selectboard does not need a filing cabinet as it is mostly mail.

Law Enforcement: Groschner noted that Newbury signed a contract with the Caledonia County Sheriff. She also stated that the State Police have contracts with other towns. The board will further look into the issues with law enforcement.

Correspondence

None

Other Business

Lister Donahue asked about EC Fiber and what their plans are for a hub in Corinth. Groschner conveyed that Ed Childs who is the town's EC Fiber representative said the chair of EC Fiber does not want to put hubs on town property.

Adjournment

Demrow made a motion to adjourn. Devoto seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM after a unanimous vote.

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