Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461
Corinth, VT 05039

Approved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday September 1, 2026

Attending for the Board: Chair Holly Groschner, Carl Demrow, and Stephen Devoto. Anne Rosten, Selectboard Clerk. Lee Porter, Road Commissioner: Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; Jennifer Locke, Debbie Ruggles, State Representative Mike Tagliavia, Jim Guyer, Jeff McLaughlin, Dina DuBois, Dan Wing, and Jeremy Goodrich. Via Zoon: Michael Miller, Town Meeting Moderator Gariy Apfel, Chris Groschner, Payroll Clerk John Sutton, Anne McKinsey, Paula LaVallee, and Charles Reed.

Board Chair Groschner called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

Welcome and approval of the Agenda
Groschner welcomed all and noted that the SB met for an Executive Session at 6:00 to discuss employee matters and no action was taken. Groschner then asked that agenda item #6 be taken off the agenda as the candidate for sheriff, Jacob Held, was unable to attend tonight but will be attending the October SB meeting. She also stated that Dan Wing and Dina DuBois asked to discuss the purchase of an electronic speed limit sign during the Highway item#4.: Demrow made a motion to approve the agenda with the two amendments. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of SB minutes of 8/4/2026
Groschner noted that the SB called a Special Meeting on 8/20/26. Demrow made a motion to approve the SB meeting minutes from 8/4//2026 and the Special SB meeting on 8/20/26. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Highway Dept Report
Road Foreman Joe Blodgett reported that Pike Industries has been paving. He also presented a permit request from Washington Electric Company (WEC) to put up two new telephone poles on Chelsea Rd to accommodate dairy farmer George Osgood's need for extra electrical needs for new farm building construction.. Demrow made a motion to approve the two new poles to be erected by WEC on Chelsea Rd. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Blodgett then asked for SB signatures for a grant to fix damaged guardrails and update road signs for $50,000. Blodgett said the road crew is almost finished working on Limlaw Rd. Dan Wing reported that he has hired Bill Ricker to provide material to the beginning of Tenney Road following to his garage on Cookeville Rd.
Groschner then discussed receiving emails from Joanna Hamlin whose car was damaged on South Rd on Monday August 17th after a torrential rain. She hit a deep ditch that did extensive damage to her car. Blodgett said that his crew did not work on the Corinth end of South Rd until the Wednesday after the storm and that the damage was done on the Bradford part of South Rd. Groschner said she will write to Hamlin and inform her that her complaint was investigated and the town was not involved on South Rd until after the damaging incident.
Dan Wing informed the SB that he and Dina ordered an electronic speed limit sign online which had good reviews and is solar powered. The town road crew will help to set it up when it arrives.
Groschner then brought up a former complaint about tree roots being buried by the grader on class 4 roads in town. Road Foreman Blodgett defended the crew's work on the roads. He said that because there is no money to buy material for the class 4 roads they have to pull dirt in from the sides to fill in washouts and gullies. Blodgett also said that there are no marks or scars on the trees that are in the right of way.
Commissioner Porter reported that Casella has agreed to accommodate Saturday holidays by providing either a Friday before or a Sunday after a Saturday holiday for the transfer station to be open and they also will post notices on the LRN about it two weeks in advance.

Public Concerns

Jeff McLaughlin from Maplewood Rd brought up his concern about the ordinance ban on UTV and ATVs on class four roads in town. As most of Maplewood Rd is class 4 there is no town maintenance for upgrades. McLaughlin said that it is much easier and more efficient to use his UTV to work on the road instead of a truck and hopes the town will revisit the issue. Groschner explained that they have other pressing priorities to deal with but that McLaughlin could pursue other options such as a petition to have it discussed at Town Meeting or to request it to be on the agenda at SB meetings. Jim Guyer said that dirt bikes, motorcycles tear up the road more. Demrow reported that there are two motorcycle club meets that are coming through town on Sept 6th as they have for a few years.

Debbie Ruggles asked about the status of the burnt out house on Village Rd. Devoto said there was nothing to report yet as he had not had any response from the property owner.

Anne McKinsey thanked the SB for all the work they have done on the OECVS (Old East Corinth Village Store).

Jeremy Goodrich from Turkey Hill informed the board that he and Wendy Faery have served the board a final petition about the property damage they claim the town did by removing material from their driveway. Groschner reminded Goodrich that the town saved the material and it is available to him by the town. He claimed it is not the original material and will sue the town. He would not divulge the name of his counsel and the town will be served the paperwork.

FMMH Resolution Revisited

Cemetery Commissioner Norm Collette has informed the board that he wants a further meeting with them to discuss his concerns about the FMMH's (Friends of Meadow Meeting House) claims to access the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund for their needs. Collette wants bills to be submitted to him. The board's resolution is to provide up to $2000 a year out of the Perpetual Care Fund for the FMMH and for them to submit bills by 7/1 for the previous fiscal year. Demrown made a motion to supersede the motion passed at July's SB meeting regarding the Meadow Meeting House Cemetery maintenance and accept the new resolution. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Job Descriptions - Treasury Dept.

Groschner explained that after numerous interviews over 15 months the board has decided to leave the treasurer position unfilled and divide the job into two parts and a third party to help. The job description needs some tweaking which will be discussed at Monday's financial meeting.

FY2025 Audit

The FY2025 audit has been completed and will be posted on the town website soon. Shirley Montagne and Batchelder Associates worked together on it. Groschner stated that the town is running a deficit in the highway and general funds. The General Fund is –$107,271 and the Highway Fund is –$197,309. The reason is that the town has been operating without an up to date audit for a few years and the delinquent tax role is one third of the town budget. The auditor wants to start the FY2026 Audit next week. No fraud was found in the town books.

SB Policy- Email Review Draft

From now on any town employee must use a town email address; not personal ones. Demrown motioned to approve the amendment to only use ALL ACCESS town email accounts. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Old East Corinth Village Store status report

Devoto sent a courtesy letter to the property owner by certified mail two weeks ago with no response. The letter stated that the amount of accrued fines is $60,000. She had ten days to respond with a plan. The SB is to decide the next steps to take which is to file a suit and go to court.

ALL ACCESS: computer/internet/phone installation in Sept

ALL ACCESS needs to meet with the town staff for training. The phones will have to be fiber-based and offline from Sept 4th thru the 8th.

Other Business

Town Hall Building Manager Norm Collette is waiting for the final reimbursement from the VT Historical Preservation for $48,000. The town garage has the solar panels and is waiting for WEC to install (?). Demrow said that there is $25,000 coming from MERP. He said there may be $15,000 or $20,000 left for the generator. The town hall also needs a new dishwasher and refrigerator.

Future Meeting Dates

The next SB financial meeting will take place on Tuesday September 8th. The next SB meeting will be on October 6th and the SB financial meeting will be October 12th. The November SB meeting will be November 4th, and the SB financial meeting will be November 9th.

Correspondence

A liquor licence was requested by Miss Shannon's School (East Corinth Masonic Lodge) for 10/31-11/1. The issue was tabled and Demrow will talk to the Gendrons who requested the license.

Executive Session

Devoto motioned to go into Executive Session – Personnel Matters 1 VSA 313 (a)(6)

Adjournment