Meeting called to order at 7:00PM by Carl Dow.

Minutes:
Before the minutes were read the Town Manager wanted to express how disappointed he was in how the minutes were done for the April 11, 2019 Selectpersons’ meeting. He feels that everything was slanted in a negative view against him, but other things were left out, including a statement made by Carl Dow that he perceived as threatening against him. Carl Dow explained his comment further and said it was not meant as a threat and that Travis Gould should not be sneaking around looking in windows when assessing properties; he feels that the Town Manager is representing the Select Board when he is assessing and the only properties that need to be inspected are the ones that had building permits taken out during the previous year. David Dunfee stated that all properties need to be assessed. He has looked it up with the State and found that legally, they must be assessed at least every three years. Carl Dow said that he had called assessing companies and found that some assess only those properties the Town requests to have assessed, and some go road by road and assess all houses each year. He feels that it is reasonable to have the Assessors Agent go to the door first and leave a door hanger when no one is home. Roseanne Young stated that she feels that there need to be very clear minutes done. She has spoken with Lynn Alexander and felt that Lynn was somewhat confused about the difference between trimming and clear cutting. Terri Jane Casavant said she feels the recorded minutes should be used to do the written minutes from the April 11, 2019 meeting as there were other items that were not accurate. The Town Manager wondered why the notes regarding the use of the Town truck did not include his comments as well.

There was general discussion about how the minutes should be done. There is a lot more detail going into them now than has been done in the past. David Dunfee said that he had spoken with the Town’s lawyer and was told that the only things required in the minutes are motions and actions. John Allen said he does not feel the drafted minutes should be made public and that they should contain the motions and actions, but also an overview of the conversation. Elizabeth LaForge suggested that the recording continue, but to do written minutes with just the motions and actions included in them. That would provide the recording if clarity is needed. Jennifer Mitchell said that she would like to see the meetings live streamed.

Terri Jane Casavant made a motion to table the minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting until they can be amended using the recorded minutes. The motion was seconded by Carl Dow and passed with a 5-0 vote.
Comments:

Irvin Caverly began to read a statement he had prepared and was interrupted by Carl Dow. Jana Wood stood up and stopped Carl’s interruption so that Irvin could continue reading (see attached statement).

After his reading was completed Anthony Smen said that he agrees with Carl Dow that Travis Gould should not be looking in windows while assessing. Irvin Caverly asked him why he believed that he was and Anthony responded that he has heard complaints. R. Stanley Bean spoke up and said that when he used to drive Travis Gould around for assessing he had seen him look into windows. Travis Gould responded that when he goes to the door, he can sometimes see in them when they are all glass, and when making measurements around the building you also sometimes see in the windows as you are going by. He is not “sneaking up and peeking into” the windows.

Travis Gould discussed usual assessment practices. Anthony Smen suggested that maybe the Town should relieve Travis Gould of the assessing duties and hire an independent assessor. Roseanne Young stated that maybe this would solve some issues for the Town Manager. There was more discussion on how the assessment effects reimbursements that the Town gets from the State and the importance of keeping the assessments up to date was better understood.

Irvin Caverly told the Selectpersons that he felt their criticizing of the Town Manager at the last meeting should have been done in private- not in an open meeting. R. Stanley Bean told him that Travis Gould had refused to go into Executive Session. Charlene Chesley said that it is the Select Board’s job to manage the Town Manager and the Selectperson’s meetings is the place for the Board members to bring their issues.

Lisa Tilton stated that it is pretty evident that mending is needed and she would like to see a team builder brought in to work with the Selectpersons and the Town Manager.

Announcements:

- The Road-Side Litter Clean-Up that was scheduled for April 27, 2019 has been postponed to the following Saturday May 4th due to the forecast of heavy rain for the 27th.
- Kirk Taylor will be grading the Town’s gravel roads as soon as he is finished doing the gravel roads in Charleston.
- Kyle Kinney will be sweeping intersections and will try to sweep the sidewalks as well.

New Business:

A. Ron Smith of RHR Smith & Company reviewed the 2018 Audit. He stated that the Town of Corinth is financially solid. It was a good audit and he has the highest opinion of the Town’s practices. He would like to see the Town with 30 to 90 days operating budget available, and that is the current status.

He did have 2 areas of minor concern. First, with the recent building of the new Fire Station garage the Town borrowed money from one of the trust funds. He would have done the same if he had been doing it, and acknowledged that it was well documented. He would like to see a paper drawn up that documents the details to include the terms of the loan and payback agreement, and stated it is not to late to do that now.

The other issue he found was to do with the Perpetual Care funds for the cemetery. Currently only the Cemetery Trustees are listed on the account at the bank. By State statute it is required that the Municipal Treasurer must be listed on the account. It is fine to have both the Municipal Treasurer and the Cemetery Treasurer on the account, or even the Municipal Treasurer and all of the Cemetery Trustees. If the Cemetery Trustees do stay on the account they will need to be added to the Town’s insurance coverage through MMA and bonded so that the funds are protected. Charlene Chesley stated that the Trustees have access to the interest on the account each year but are unable to touch any principal. They will have the Town Treasurer (Travis Gould) added to the account.
Ron Smith stated that there should be a policy/procedure for the carry forward amounts on the Perpetual Care funds as they must remain as cemetery funds. He said that the way the Town is doing it now is great.

Elizabeth LaForge will dig through Historical Society information to see if she can find the original by laws for the cemeteries and the Perpetual Care funds.

B. Elizabeth LaForge discussed the Maine Bicentennial Celebration that is coming up in 2020. She went to a bicentennial meeting put on by the State and found the overall statements to be that they would like each town to plan individual celebrations that make the State look good. The meeting did give information on a few things that are currently in the works:
  o A 2-day celebration at the University of Maine May 30th and 31st 2020
  o The State plans Statehood Day for March 15, 2020
  o Portland is planning a July 16, 2020 celebration to include the Tall Ships
  o The State is planning a closing ceremony in Augusta on October 10, 2020 where they intend to bury a time capsule

Elizabeth will be attending a meeting of historical groups on May 4, 2019 where there will be discussion on plans for the bicentennial.

She said that the Corinth Historical Society would like put a mannequin display in the Town Office next winter to honor the Town’s historical figures. They are also working on plans for a themed art exhibit at the Methodist Church working with the school and local artists. They would like to finish the Town Pound this year.

The Historical Society is open to any other suggestions offered regarding the State’s Bicentennial. The Town Manager said that he got an e-mail from other Town Managers to discuss what to do to celebrate the Bicentennial and will bring any information he gets back to the Selectpersons.

C. Travis Gould gave the Selectpersons an estimate of $869 from On The Line for striping of the Municipal parking lot. Carl Dow made a motion to table until the Town Manager can get a couple of more estimates. Motion was seconded by Charlene Chesley and passed 5-0.

D. John Allen came to discuss an $850 bill for water damage that he had 3 years ago due to water backing into his house from a flooded culvert. He had submitted the bills at the time and Travis Gould had sent them to MMA for consideration. MMA denied coverage. John stated that at the time this happened the Town Manager and Scott Bragdon both looked at the culvert and said that there needed to be a bigger culvert put there to replace it. There was discussion that this would be done when work was done on the White Schoolhouse Road that year. The culvert did not get replaced during the road work, and John had another issue with the water backing up again this year and he caught it early. He called Charlene Chesley and then David Dunfee. David called Terri Jane Casavant who contacted her brother, Jason Grant. Jason went over and looked at the culvert and discovered it had gotten plugged up with dirt and cat tails and he cleared it out with a rake. This took care of the water back up. John said that Jason told him that where the culvert was, was not originally ditched properly and he would like to resubmit those original bills to the Town for reconsideration.

Terri Jane Casavant had spoken with Jason Grant after he cleared the culvert. He told her that there is no issue with the culvert installation, just a problem with the cat tails building up in the culvert as they die off each year. Now that he is aware of the problem, he will make an effort to clear it out when needed.

Travis Gould reminded all that it was a microburst that caused the problem the first time, and this time it was spring flooding.

David Dunfee wants the Town Manager to ask MMA if the Town fails to maintain clearance in the culvert will insurance be responsible for the damages if the water backs up again.

Carl Dow made a motion that the Town ditch this area when summer road work begins. R. Stanley Bean seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

John Allen asked why Jason Grant was not called out to do this the first time it flooded. The Town Manager apologized to John for what he had to go through with the flooding and said that the Town will do something to correct it if needed in the future. He thought that he had done what was needed at the time.
E. Travis Gould gave the list of the proposed coaches for Rec from Paul Speed:
   a. PreK/K Softball—Brooke Nickerson
   b. 1st/2nd Grade Softball—still looking
   c. 3rd/4th Grade Softball—Zachary Pratt
   d. 5th/6th Grade Softball—Jonathan Davis
   e. Instructional Baseball—Ben & Tiffany Martin
   f. Farm League—Eric Cookson
   g. Little League—Phil Cadieux

Terri Jane Casavant made a motion to accept Paul Speed’s recommendations. Charlene Chesley seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Paul also advised the Town Manager that Michelle Cowperthwaite will run the concession again this year.

F. The County has asked the Town Manager if Corinth would like to go into a group of other county towns to purchase salt for next winter. Travis Gould recommended to the Selectpersons that it would be a good idea as the group should get a better price. If Corinth does join the group, we would have to accept the price given and not be able to check around if it is not to our liking. David Dunfee made a motion to go with the County group. The motion failed as there was no second.

Carl Dow made a motion to table the decision on salt for now. Terri Jane Casavant seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

The Town Manager will try to get a price from Morton, and Carl Dow recommended also getting prices from other companies.

G. There was discussion on hiring someone to work with the Select Board and the Town Manager. Terri Jane Casavant suggested that they have Don Gerrish from Eaton Peabody come to meet with the Board and help them come together. They are also looking for some clarity on how the minutes should be done—dictation of full minutes, recording only, or minutes including motions and actions only.

Carl Dow made a motion that he should call MMA first to see what they can offer for help. Charlene Chesley seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

H. Discussion about heat pumps. Travis Gould passed out examples of what taxes are with and without assessing for heat pumps. Based on last year’s mil rate it comes down to a difference of $18.13. Does the Board want him to assess them or not?

There was discussion about how the State adjusts the Town’s valuation.

Carl Dow made a motion that heat pumps be assessed at $1,000 each. Terri Jane Casavant seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

I. Carl Dow stated that he had called Lynn Alexander’s lawyer to discuss the roadside brush cutting by her house on the Black Road. The lawyer said she was going on vacation and would call him back. He has not heard back yet.

The Town Manager said he has called the man who runs the Correctional Facility crew that does the Town’s brush cutting and explained to him the requirements that Lynn Alexander has set forth for the brush cutting on her property and he said that they are not interested in cutting brush for Corinth under those conditions.

Roseanne Young brought in some information that she got from DOT (copy attached) that says that limbing can be done instead of cutting.

Carl Dow will still talk with Lynn Alexander’s lawyer.

J. Creating a Town pickup truck usage policy was discussed. The Town Manager has one set of Keys and Scott Bragdon, Fire Chief, has one set of keys. Charlene Chesley presented a newly written Town Truck and Mileage Policy.

Carl Dow stated that everyone should be offered mileage (using the current State Mileage Rate) for using their personal vehicle to attend training functions.

Carl Dow made a motion to accept the new policy with one change to include that another set of keys be kept at the Town Office. Terri Jane Casavant seconded the motion which passed 5-0.
K. Charlene Chesley made a motion that no meeting minutes go out to the public until accepted by the Selectpersons, but that they should be e-mailed out to the Selectpersons before the Selectpersons’ meeting. R. Stanley Bean seconded the motion which passed 5-0. Terri Jane Casavant made a motion for the Selectpersons to create a position for someone to take the Selectpersons’ meeting minutes that cannot be a current Town of Corinth employee or relative. Job description and pay to be discussed at the next Selectpersons’ meeting. Motion was seconded by Carl Dow and passed 5-0.

L. Creating a policy for the clerks who work the elections will be discussed at the next meeting.

M. Warrant #s 18 & 19 were reviewed. Charlene Chesley made a motion to accept them. R. Stanley Bean seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Other Business:

- Charlene Chesley recommended that when a new cleaning person is hired, they should be paid $25 a week rather than minimum wage to make the job more attractive.
- Charlene Chesley advised that she has received a call about a mess of debris left near the covered bridge. Travis Gould said that he will take care of it.
- The Town Manager checked with MMA about the person doing our winter snow shoveling and found that they should be paid through payroll and be on our Worker’s Compensation coverage.
- Lisa Tilton said that she needs the Selectpersons to stop by Camden National Bank to sign some paperwork for the Town.

Comments:

Louise Giles said that she had questions about the petition that had gone around in an attempt to have a vote on the Town Manager put on the ballot for Town Meeting. Charlene Chesley said she thought it was a dead issue and they should move on. Elizabeth LaForge reminded everyone that the right to hire or fire the Town Manager belongs to the Select Board, not the residents. Irvin Caverly stated that he has spoken with some who signed the petition and they told him that they had been coerced into signing by one of the Board members. There was conversation and a consensus that it is time to move on from this issue.

Adjournment: Carl Dow made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10PM. The motion was seconded by Charlene Chesley and passed with a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. McEwen
Deputy Clerk