

Approved January 20, 2015

TOWN OF CORNWALL
SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
Cornwall Town Office
Tuesday, January 14, 2015

PRESENT: Ben Wood, Magna Dodge, Ben Marks, David Sears (joined 4:03),
Bruce Hiland (via telephone)

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Martin, Randy Martin, Andrew Marks, Raph Worrick,
Bronwyn Worrick,

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm

Agenda – The agenda was amended to add warning of a public meeting on
February 2, 2015 on the Town’s capital plan.

Magna Dodge moved, Bruce Hiland seconded, a motion that the Town warn a
public hearing on February 2, 2015 to consider the Town’s capital plan. The
motion was unanimously approved.

Ben Marks then moved, and Bruce Hiland seconded a motion to go into
executive session to discuss negotiations with VGS. The motion was
unanimously approved.

Mary Martin asked whether there would be an opportunity for public comment
before the Select Board went into executive session.

In order to receive public comment, Ben Marks moved, Bruce Hiland seconded,
to rescind the motion to go into executive session. The motion was unanimously
approved.

Public Comment:

Randy Martin asked what the Board would be talking about in executive session.
Ben M. responded that the Board would be getting legal advice related to its
negotiations with Vermont Gas.

Mary Martin indicated that she was confused whether Ben M. was acting as the
Select Board’s attorney or as a Select Board member and would like the Select
Board to be more clear about Ben M’s role. Ben Wood responded that once in
executive session, Ben M. would be acting as the Select Board’s attorney. There
was a short discussion of how to make Ben M.’s role clear in future meetings.

Raph Worrick asked whether VGS had asked that a vote of citizens be taken before town meeting. Ben M. responded “no.”

Mary Martin asked how long the Select Board would be in executive session. Ben Wood and Dave Sears responded that the Select Board would act as efficiently as possible.

Randy Martin asked whether the Select Board would be taking any action after the executive session. Ben M. explained that as the date for posting notice for the February 12, 2015 special public meeting had been missed, in order to have a special meeting of the Town on another date, the Board would have to set a new select board meeting with the issue of a new public meeting date specifically warned.

David Sears moved, Bruce Hiland seconded, to find that premature general public knowledge of the town’s negotiations with Vermont Gas would clearly place the selectboard at a substantial disadvantage, because the selectboard would risk disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses its negotiations in public and that that we enter into executive session to discuss the same under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 4:20

The Board exited executive session at 4:50.

Magna Dodge moved, Bruce Hiland seconded, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Ben Marks took minutes.