

Approved March 24, 2015

**TOWN OF CORNWALL
SELECT BOARD MEETING**

Cornwall Town Office
February 17, 2015

PRESENT: Ben Wood, Ben Marks, Dave Sears, Magna Dodge, Sue Johnson, Stu Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: John Roberts, Marge Drexler

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Quorum – *established*

Agenda – *approved*

General Fund and Highway Orders - *signed*

Report on Reconciled Bank Statement - *reviewed*

MINUTES - February 3, 2015

Magna MOVED / Ben M SECONDED A motion to approve the minutes as distributed. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Information from ACTR regarding their public transportation services
- Information from VLCT about the Spring Select Board Institute
- Official Letter from Vermont Gas to say they have abandoned plans to build Phase II of the Addison-Rutland pipeline after IP withdrew financial support.
- Letter from John Burton asking for explanation of absences – Hiland, Sears, and Johnson

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Marge Drexler said she came tonight to thank the Select Board for all the extra work done on the pipeline issue. Marge acknowledged it must have been difficult to find balance, while hearing from many citizens with diverse views on the issue. She really appreciates the extra time and effort made by the board for the past two years in dealing with the proposed pipeline project.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- Sue is organizing her schedule for Town Meeting day

- There will be no regular Select Board meeting on March 3. Vote counting will be going on at that time.
- Sue will be looking into getting a recording device to record all meetings.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Stu Johnson

- Road department had no major problems during the latest storm with road maintenance.
- Sanding equipment has not been working optimally in the cold weather. Stu is working on equipment to improve performance.
- New staff of Local Roads program will be meeting with County Road Commissioners group in near future.

OLD BUSINESS

- ***Dog ordinance*** – Magna Dodge summarized the research done on this issue by the “dog committee” and others over the past year. Magna said that Town Attorney Jim Carroll feels we are better off with an ordinance than without one.

Highlights of discussion:

- Education of the public is key. It was suggested that when dog owners register their dogs, they be given a copy of the dog ordinance and asked to sign a receipt as proof that they were given a copy. Information about the ordinance would be distributed in multiple formats.
- The person enforcing would issue a “complaint” not a ticket.
- Fine would be \$50, increasing with each successive offense.
- Ben Marks suggested that the cost of enforcement should be added to the fine.
- Dave Sears said he was opposed to fines for dog problems, because they can't be enforced. Whoever does this work would need to transport the dog to the Humane Society. No one in Cornwall nor in the county is willing to do this work right now – not the Town Constable, State Police, County Sheriff, nor current Dog Officer.
- Sue Johnson said that the process for adopting an ordinance is that first the Select Board approves, then the Town will put a notice in the paper, including information about citizen's rights to petition for a vote on the ordinance. Unless such a petition is filed, the ordinance shall be effective in 60 days.

Magna MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion that Cornwall adopt the VLCT dog ordinance model with the following adjustments:

- Section 4. C: "A dog that disturbs.....continuous period of 30 minutes or more."
- Section 7. A, B, C, D: Would like to have the cost of enforcement added to the penalties.
- Section 7. H: Change wording after "set" by deleting the word

"annually by" and inserting "from time to time at the discretion of" the Select Board.

MOTION PASSED - 3 in favor, 1 opposed

Ben M MOVED Magna SECONDED a motion that a copy of the ordinance be presented at the time of registration of the dog to every Cornwall dog owner and that receipt of the ordinance be acknowledge in writing, beginning at the time of the effectiveness of the ordinance.

MOTION PASSED - 3 in favor, 1 abstention.

- **911 sign update**- Stu got the rest of the private road signs up. Inventory of 911 signage will continue in the spring. Dave Sears will consult with a Weybridge Select Board member to see what that town is doing about 911 signs, as he understands they are using professionals to install to code.
- **Request of Conservation Commission to increase member size** – tabled until the March 17 meeting, when CCC members can come.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Road Commissioner responsibility** – The board discussed the language of a position statement regarding Road Commissioner responsibility. The board agreed that while “the buck stops” with the Select Board, the Select Board also wants to give the elected Road Commissioner the autonomy needed to do his job. For example, the Road Commissioner can sign contracts with vendors, according to the job description of road commissioner (as opposed to road foreman).

At the conclusion of the discussion the board agreed on the following position statement: “We have given the Road Commissioner authority to manage the roads to the best of his ability using his own judgment without oversight of routine operations.”

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Recording meetings** – It is not required to record municipal board meetings, but it is advisable to do so? Ben Marks will pose this question to VLCT. Sue Johnson will ask her group of Town clerks. They will report back at a later meeting.
- **Pipeline and PSB process** - The Public Service Board has asked has asked for comments from the intervening parties regarding Vermont Gas’ petition to withdraw its Phase II application. The Parties have a deadline of February 26 to make comments. Ben Marks will make a motion to the PSB that Cornwall be reimbursed for legal costs.

Dave MOVED/ Magna SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. MOTION PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Select Board