

**TOWN OF CORNWALL
SELECT BOARD REGULAR MEETING
May 5, 2015**

PRESENT: Ben Wood, Dave Sears, John Roberts, Ben Marks

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Stu Johnson; Benj Deppman, Denny Rheume

CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 pm

AGENDA – Dave MOVED/ John SECONDED to approve the Agenda. *Motion passed.*

GENERAL FUND AND HIGHWAY ORDERS - *signed*

MINUTES

- *April 21, 2015* – John MOVED / Dave SECONDED to approve the minutes with typo correction. *Motion passed.*

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- VLCT Spring Workshop Notices: *Planning/Zoning, Human Resources*
- John has some 911 information for later
- Vt Dept of Forests and Parks— FYI notices of areas subject to their oversight: Lemon Fair Wildlife Area and the Swamp's Wildlife Area. No action needed.
- Notice from NorthEast Resources Recovery Assoc. regarding Cornwall's Recycling Plan. No action needed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT – Sue Johnson

- Report on current tax receipts status
- Dog Report—A follow-up letter from the SB, at the end of May, to those who still have unlicensed dogs.
- Sue reviewed the format/formula of the twice-yearly school disbursement report from the State.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Stu Johnson

- Winter salt—over ordered so ahead of the game for next winter.
- Roads—discing where possible, generally too dry. Rain would be helpful.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***Lease Lands***—Benj reviewed his findings from the title research done for the Bonner property on West Street, on behalf of the owners. When lands originally granted from the king, certain of those lands were required to be set aside for several specific purposes, with rent being paid by the owner to the town. Cornwall has only one of the five types, school land leases (glebe lands, for example refer to land set aside for the church) Through the years, and through the various sales of land over the those years, tracking of the lease lands has faded to the point where there is little or no record of them other than that they exist. No rents have been collected for decades. As near as Benj could ascertain, Cornwall has about 45 lease-land acres, with some being part of the Bonner parcel. It was noted that even if rent were being paid, the town could only spend

the interest on it, and the amount would be negligible. Most towns are attempting to do away with their ownership of lease-lands, and Benj proposed to the SB that they do so as well. He left copies of his title research and copies of his proposed Quit-Claim deed with the Board, awaiting their decision and —hopefully—their signatures on the deed. The Board will make their decision known at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- *911 signage*— John R. followed up with the Town Clerk in Shoreham regarding that Town's source for the green reflective signs. He found they get theirs from Giddings. However Giddings is getting out of the sign business and he was recommended to contact the Dept. of Corrections.

In an effort to gain feedback from residents regarding the issue of 911 signage and lack thereof, John had posted a request for responses on Front Porch Forum. Two responses were received, neither with any helpful or insightful commentary.

Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of the 911 signage and options for mandates, or not, and enforcing compliance, or not. The Board was split over the issues of public safety and mandating compliance, The former being a legislative body's mandate, and the latter being onerous. Denny noted the importance, from a Fire/Rescue perspective, of being able to locate the scene of a call as quickly as possible. Minutes can make the difference between life and death, or losing one's home and all its contents. Location of new construction remains unknown in many instances, especially if at the end of a long unmarked drive. The Planning Commission will be approached for their take on the possibilities of tying compliance to zoning permits. Other options might be hiring the installation out, establishing an educational campaign, holding a public discussion followed by a vote at Town Meeting. The board is open to other suggestions, and to receiving any inquiries regarding the need for the signage.

- Ben M. will contact Planning and Zoning.
- Sue will put together the beginnings of a public education campaign.
- *Salt issue* – Monitoring of the salt content in the affected homes to continue. The pump is currently off, the plan is sample the water before the pump is turned on and again after it has been on for several months. Installing reverse osmosis filters works, but is prohibitively expensive on a whole-house basis, so is basically done only on a spigot-by-spigot basis. The salt issue discussion will continue.

OTHER BUSINESS—none

ADJOURNMENT—

- Dave MOVED/ Ben M SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. *Motion passed.*
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Conway, Substitute MinuteTaker