

Approved August 5, 2014

TOWN OF CORNWALL  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
Cornwall Town Office  
Tuesday, July 1, 2014

**Present:** Bruce Hiland, Dave Sears, Ben M, Ben Wood,  
**Guests:** Bobbie Carnwath, Jack Carter, David Dodge, Dinah Bain, Lew Castle,  
Craig Zondag

Meeting called to order at 7 pm  
General Fund and Highway Orders – *signed*  
Reconciled June bank statement - *reviewed*

**AGENDA**

No changes were submitted.

**MINUTES**

*June 3* – Dave MOVED/ Ben M. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Letter from VLCT asking for nominations to VLCT board
- Letter from VLCT asking for nominations of legislators for the legislative service award
- SB news for the summer newsletter – *reviewed and approved by the board*
- Announcement from Lt Michael Manley of the Vermont State Police that the next advisory board meeting is scheduled for July 23 at 6 pm
- Letter of appreciation from Vermont Emergency Management to Katie Griegs for the updated Local Emergency plan for Cornwall now on file with VEM
- Information about the new Vermont recycling law
- Copies of correspondence between Burton and Pomierter - litigation conclusion.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

**TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT** – *Sue Johnson*

- **Capital Committee News**
  - The Town has received the permit from the State to install well. Phelps Engineering says they need to be on site when well is

drilled, by State law. Ben Wood will talk with Spaffords, the well drilling company.

- Replacement of roof covering – Ben W. has estimates for two different coverings (standing seam metal or slate). Standing seam roofs are acceptable for historic buildings and would cost significantly less. The Capital Committee is fine with the standing seam, but would like to have citizens weigh in. Sue will put information in the next newsletter.
- ***New Open Meeting Law*** – goes into effect July 1, 2014, with the intent to increase transparency in Town governance. The law generally applies whenever a majority of the members of a municipal board, council, commission, committee or subcommittee have a conversation or make a decision about municipal business. An agenda must be created and posted in advance of every regular and special meeting, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Meeting minutes must be taken at every public meeting and must be posted 5 days after the meeting. If a Town has a website, agendas and minutes must be posted on the website also.
- ***Strawberry Stand on the Green*** – Mr. Barth from Park Hill Road called to ask if his children come set up on the Green and sell strawberries the family has grown. Ben W MOVED / Ben M SECONDED a motion to grant permission to the Barth children to sell strawberries on the Green. Motion passed.
- ***Homestead rate*** – State has set the residential rate at 158 (149 last year) and non-residential rate at 141 (136 last year). At the next Select Board meeting, the Town tax rate will be set.
- Sue needs a board signature on a document from the National Bank of Middlebury to take a deceased man's name off the Town's account.
- ***Changes to election law – some changes include:***
  - New date for the Vermont primary will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in August beginning in 2016
  - Secretary of State's Office will share with the Town for cost of vote tabulators. Towns have been paying 100% in the past.

#### **ROAD COMMISSIONERS REPORT – *Stu Johnson***

- Purchased chloride tank, steel for the sand pusher – both were expected expenditures.
- Paving is done.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- ***Delinquent Dog Owners*** - Currently 4 people on the list have not contacted Sue to register their dogs, despite repeated notice. Sue will give each of them a courtesy call. If the dog officer has to come to their house, after the Select Board issues an official warrant, it will cost the owner \$100 to register their dog (instead of \$12).
- ***VLCT Dog Ordinance Meeting*** – Sue attended and learned that in order to do anything with dogs (except licensing), a Town must have an

ordinance. In the VLCT publication *The Big Book of Woof*, January 2014 edition, is a model ordinance. Towns can designate anyone to be an enforcement officer for the ordinance. Alternately Towns can use the Vermont Judicial Bureau to enforce. Ben M. suggested that if the Town did not have an ordinance, problems with dogs would be considered civil matters, where civil suits could be brought by aggrieved parties against dog owners and the Town itself would not be involved. Sue will contact the Dog Committee regarding the model ordinance in *The Big Book of Woof*.

- **Pipeline Update** – Ben M updated the board on the current phase of the PSB process. Discovery questions have been asked of non-petitioners and the deadline for responding is July 18. Chris Bray's testimony and letter to the editor addressed Vermont constitutional law and how it pertains to the Phase II application. Citizens attending the June public hearing in Middlebury were overwhelmingly negative on the project.
- **ACRPC** – Jack Carter said he has some questions for the ACRPC regarding the pipeline. Ben M. asked him to email his questions to him and Ben M. will pass to Stan G, who will be at the next meeting.
- **Cornwall Testimony** - Bobbie Carnwath praised Bruce H. for his work in writing testimony on behalf of the Town to the PSB, saying she was proud to be a citizen of Cornwall, after reading Bruce's testimony.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **LFICD Financial Update** – David Dodge, Chair, LFICD  
LFICD plans on selling their airplane. Cornwall and Bridport split the original investment for the plane, and LFICD will also be talking with Bridport on July 14 about their plan. The plane was only used 30 hours a year in the past 3 years. Insurance has doubled. The system for reimbursement is such that it has not been possible to cover the fixed expenses for the plane and that is not expected to change. The LFICD discussed with the board all the other factors in their decision, and the options available to manage mosquito control without plane ownership. They plan to put plane on the market at the end of the season. The Select Board is in agreement with the LFICD plan.
- **Nominations for Open Selector Position** – Because Abi is becoming Interim Principal of the school, she is stepping down from the Select Board. Nominations for a Selector to fill out her term will be heard at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Select Board