

Approved September 6, 2013

TOWN OF CORNWALL  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
Cornwall Town Office  
Tuesday, July 2, 2013

**Present:** Bruce Hiland, Judy Watts, Ben Wood, Dave Sears, Sue Johnson, Stu Johnson

**Guests:** Ben Marks, Mary Martin, Holly Noordsy, Andrea Murray, John Tenny, Jeremy Rathbun

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.  
General Fund and Highway Orders - *signed*  
Reconciled June Bank Statement - *reviewed*

### MINUTES

**June 4 Minutes-** Ben MOVED / Dave SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes with the following highlighted corrections:

- Road Commissioner's Report: Stu attended a regional highway safety forum **in** Brandon.
- *Town Building Assessment RFP* - VIA and Phelps **will** be coming back to the board with a joint proposal at the July meeting.

*Motion passed.*

**June 20 Minutes** – Dave MOVED /Judy SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. *Motion passed.*

### CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Correspondence regarding current litigation
- Letter from South Bingham resident complaining about Vermont Gas subcontractors
- Information from Addison County resident regarding pipeline dangers
- Report on sodium levels at Town Garage – Bruce will forward to John Roberts

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

*Mary Martin* asked - What would the board like from Cornwall citizens – that is to make even clearer their opinion of the pipeline?

*Bruce Hiland* responded by saying that question would be addressed later on the agenda.

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

- **Tax Rates 2013-14**

Sue J. presented the tax rates for 2013-14. The general fund rate is 0.21 (down by 0.03). The highway rate stayed the same at 0.15. General fund

rate plus highway rate brings the total municipal rate to 0.36. The homestead rate (set by the State) is 1.4967. The non-residential rate (set by the State) is 1.3647 (down from 1.4 last year).

Ben MOVED/ Dave SECONDED a motion to approve the 2013-14 general fund rate of 0.21. *Motion passed.*

Judy MOVED / Dave SECONDED a motion to approve the 2013-14 highway rate of 0.15. Motion passed.

- Sue completed the final year-end calculations and determined a budget surplus of \$117, 393.14.
- The Town office will be closed on Thursday for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Sue plans on taking a half-day off on Friday.
- Sue is still waiting for new accounting software.
- Sue forwarded the municipal planning grant alert to CCC. Holly Noordsy said she will encourage CPC co-chairs Jim and Tracy to pursue the grant, as the CPC will be updating zoning and subdivision regulations in the near future.

#### **ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Stu Johnson**

- Paving contract has been signed.
- In line with capital plan, Stu would like to purchase a truck at end of 2013, rather than at beginning of 2014. The board fully supports Stu's proposed timing for the purchase.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- ***Town Buildings Assessment Proposal – capital planning***  
Andrea Murray from VIA, John Tenny from Mill Bridge Construction, and Jeremy Rathbun from Phelps Engineering are here to present their joint proposal for an assessment of Town buildings. Within the Town's tight budget of \$5,000, they will apply their combined expertise with historic buildings, architecture, and civil engineering to carefully assess Town buildings and, in collaboration with the Town, prioritize identified needs. The outcome would be a prioritized and detailed list, rather than a fancy report. The timeframe is approximately 6 weeks.

Ben MOVED/Dave SECONDED a motion to accept the proposal. *Motion passed.*

- ***Emergency Planning update*** – Sue Johnson for Kate Gieges – Sue presented the updated basic emergency operations plan. Dave suggested it would be improved by adding more cell phone numbers for the Fire Department. Sue will mention to Kate.

Judy MOVED / Ben SECONDED a motion to approved the updated. Basic emergency operations plan, with numbers added/updated. Motion *passed*.

- ***Vermont Gas Pipeline Proposal*** – The board reviewed the forum and subsequent feedback from Cornwall citizens regarding the proposed pipeline. Those who are opposed to the proposed pipeline and/or the proposed route through Cornwall are numerous and vocal. If there are people who are for the pipeline, no one seems to know who they might be. Stu J. said there are people in town who don't care one way or another. Bruce said that since the route has been chosen, there has been no official communication from Vermont Gas to the Selectboard. Bruce outlined next steps for the Town as a three prong strategy:
  - Continue to wait and see.
  - Continue working with elected officials.
  - Explore alternatives.

Regarding Mary Martin's question earlier, citizens can converse via the online Cornwall Front Porch Forum, talk with their neighbors in person, and continue make their opinions known to their legislators and town officials.

Bruce H. suggested that the Town hire Ben Marks to provide legal advice and to act as the Town's project manager during the current phase of the Town's response to the proposed pipeline project. The board agreed in principle to hiring Ben with funds from the legal services budget. Ben will write an engagement letter outlining the scope of the work to be provided, for board approval. Decisions regarding the Town's response will continue to be made by the board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- ***Request from Andrew Marks*** - for endorsement of Friends Meeting letter. After a discussion about the importance of timing, the item was tabled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Selectboard