

Approved August 7, 2012

**TOWN OF CORNWALL
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Cornwall Town Office
Tuesday, July 3, 2012**

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

Guests: Stephanie Pyne, Sue Burdick, Gary Barnett, Katie Gieges

Meeting called to order - 7:00pm

General fund and highway orders – *signed*

June reconciled bank statement - *reviewed*

MINUTES

- **June 5 Meeting** – Bruce MOVED / Ben SECONDED a motion to approve with the following correction – corrected spelling in the name of Lawrence **Pyne**. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Reminder from ACRPC that a transportation advisory committee member from Cornwall is still needed.
- Discovery letter from Town Attorney about the Groves matter

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

JOINT MEETING WITH THE LISTERS

Listers Stephanie Pyne and Sue Burdick updated the board on their work. Stephanie and Sue said they are working together well. Pretty soon, they will advertise for a third member in the Town newsletter. The amount of time for the work of the Listers varies – ranging from 4 hours/month in an easy month to 40 hours a month in a busy month. This summer the Listers have been busy with grievances and new buildings inspections. Cornwall had 4 property tax grievances this year, 3 of which were able to be resolved without litigation. Sue B. stated that the housing market in Cornwall is doing well now.

Sue B. spoke of some highlights of Vermont 2012 property tax legislation, including changes to the veterans' exemption, whereby eligible veterans may exempt \$10,000 of the appraised value of their homestead from the education tax. The requirement that the veteran had to be in a war was removed. Those eligible for the veterans tax exemption now includes anyone who has served in

the military, including the Vermont guard. Another change is that taxpayers are now again required to file an annual homestead declaration.

Sue B. said that the Listers are comfortable with not having a professional onboard right now, especially since the market is doing ok.

TOWN CLERK/TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT – Sue Johnson

- **Board of Civil Authority (BCA)** - met on June 28, are doing the site inspections of 3 Burton properties on July 6. July 10 is next BCA meeting, during which a decision will be made on the Burton matter.
- **Tax rate** - is estimated to be going up by 6 cents, homestead rate by 2 cents, mainly because of the increase in the general fund budget for the West Cornwall Fire Station. Sue J. pointed out that the capital program and budget was created to avoid such a jump in the tax rate and the sooner we can incorporate Town buildings into the capital plan, the better.
- **Budget surplus** - 50,000 expected from FY 2012.
- **Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance** - will not be requiring the per capita payment from municipalities.
- **Parking Lot Paving** - Sue is looking into options for grants to get parking lot resurfaced.
- **Dog Registrations** – All dogs are registered except one whose owner is very delinquent.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Stu Johnson

Paving is all done. A new source for diesel fuel is needed – Stu suggested Champlain Valley Plumbing and Heating, and the board concurred, based on price and the information Champlain provides. Stu will formally notify the current diesel fuel vendor about the end of the business of Cornwall.

OLD BUSINESS

• **PACE Program Update** – Gary Barnett, Energy Coordinator, reported that all materials are ready for implementation for this home energy efficiency financing program previously approved by the voters. The role of the Town in this program is to send in the designated assessment to Efficiency Vermont for those participating in the program. Dave MOVED/ Ben SECONDED a motion to authorize Bruce to sign the resolution stating that the Town adopts the program and the program administration agreement between the Town and Efficiency Vermont. Motion passed. Gary will get final paperwork to Sue for Bruce's signature.

- **Groves litigation update** – returned to the court process
- **Lavalley property disposition update** – Bruce has been looking into options. Has been in touch with an architect who dismantles old buildings. Sue and Kate G. will get photos of interior to send to him. Bruce has also been in touch with ReSOURCE (formerly known as ReCycle North) in Burlington. Bruce will continue discussions, get estimates.

- **CVFD property transfer update** – Fire Department has agreed to the title transfer document as originally drafted including the reversionary clause. Bruce will check with Town Attorney to get final paperwork done.

- **#5 Schoolhouse update** – School District has been given evidence from recent research by Town Clerk and Selectboard that the School District owns #5 Schoolhouse. School now has burden of proof if they believe otherwise.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2012 BEOP (Basic Emergency Operations Plan)** – received from Katie Gieges. Vermont Emergency Management compels each town to have such a plan and to update it annually. Katie and her committee have updated the plan for 2012. Ben MOVED/Judy SECONDED a motion to authorize Bruce to sign and accept the plan.
- **Town Hall Repairs** - Abi MOVED/Judy SECONDED a motion to approve up to 2,000 for needed repairs to the Town Hall. Motion passed.
- **Pagers for Fire Department** – Dave Sears reported that the State has provided the Fire Department with \$6,000 worth of pagers.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Cornwall Website – Services Registry** – discussed idea of a registry of people in Cornwall of people who provide services. Sue will put something in the newsletter and on the website to solicit listings.
- **New Sheriff** – Don Keeler
- **Radar speed signs** – Stu will get information from his sources. Bruce will check with Adam at ACRPC about possible TAC or other funding.
- **Joint meeting with LFICD** - suggested by Dave S. – Bruce will contact Lew Castle to schedule
- **Item for future agenda:** Cornwall's \$30K veterans' property tax assessment relief – research and schedule in the fall

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Selectboard