

**TOWN OF CORNWALL
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, July 20, 2010**

PRESENT: Bruce Hiland, Joe Severy, Nancy Kemp

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Duclos, Jim Bolton, Sue Johnson, Annie Wilson, Jean Terwilliger

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The General Fund and Highway Orders were signed.

MINUTES

It was moved/seconded to approve the minutes of July 6, 2010 meeting as distributed. The vote was postponed until the next meeting, because only two members present at the July 6 meeting are present tonight.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Letter from Rick Kane of ACRPC regarding availability of transportation related grants for municipalities, with deadline of August 16;
- Notification that Hopkins have applied to the State to install two 2 solar panels on their James Road property. Interested parties (including the Town) may comment. If permit is granted by the State, Hopkins also need to apply for a building permit from Town.
- Letter from Adam Lougee of ACRPC regarding the Route 30 by-ways designation and funding available from ACRPC for corridor management planning for towns along the by-way. Bruce will talk with Adam L. about it and report back.

OLD BUSINESS

Emergency Generator

Katie Gieges sent in the paperwork. Stu Johnson met with Dennis Newton about the electrical setup and Tad Fyles about the propane.

Barking Dogs Complaint

Sue J. reported that she spent an hour in the kitchen of a home in the neighborhood in the early evening and never heard any dog bark. Judy Watts told Sue J. that there had been no further complaints from the resident who brought the issue to her attention.

Land for Habitat

Jean Terwillinger asked if there a plan for the land sitting behind the school. Bruce Hiland said that while there is no current plan for use of that land, the only access is the school road, and so it is not appropriate for a Habitat house.

Nancy Kemp wondered if there might a private owner in Cornwall who would like to donate a lot to Habitat.

Gardon property

Jim Duclos updated the board on recent developments in the Gardon matter. He has issued another building permit, based on Mr. Gardon's eligibility for it.

NEW BUSINESS

General Fund and Highway Tax Rates for 2010-2011

Sue presented the voted budget and grand list figures upon which the general fund and highway tax rates are calculated. It was moved/seconded to set the general fund tax rate at 0.19 and the highway tax rate at 0.15. This represents a penny more on the general rate and the highway rate stays the same. The motion carried on voice vote.

It was moved/seconded to set the local agreement rate at .0002. Sue J. explained that the local agreement tax rate is calculated to make up for the foregone education taxes due to the fact that Cornwall has voted to increase the disabled veteran's exemption to \$40,000 from the base \$10,000, which means we have to make up the \$30,000 in lost education taxes for each person in town that is eligible for the exemption. (In Cornwall's case that is two people or \$60,000. Not every town has a local agreement rate. Cornwall never did until we voted to increase the exemption.) The motion carried on voice vote.

Planning Commission: Town Plan update process

Jim Bolton, co-chair of the Planning Commission, reviewed the options for updating the current 2005-2010 Town Plan, which expires in September of 2010. The Planning Commission does not believe a comprehensive revision is needed, since this type of update was accomplished in 2005, with wide participation of town citizens. However, much has changed in local, state and national economies, with a major impact on housing in Cornwall and elsewhere. Census data, highly useful for updating the data in the Town Plan, will be available in March of 2011. It is not advisable to allow a Town Plan to expire, because towns with expired plans are not eligible for planning grants and are vulnerable, should there be an Act 250 challenge without a valid Town Plan in place. Therefore, the Planning Commission would like to readopt the Town Plan as is and then do a minor update next year, starting as soon as possible in 2010, with the intention to complete the update in 2011. The Selectboard is in agreement that this is a good plan.

Jim explained that the Planning Commission will hold a hearing, then the Selectboard will have their hearing and vote on the matter. The Selectboard is the body that votes on the Town Plan. Joe Severy said that, if funds were needed for the update process, Town Meeting in March would be a good time to

ask the voters for such funds. If so, the Selectboard will need to know the amount needed in January to add to the warning.

Jim Bolton added that one of the goals of the current Town Plan was to have a Village Center designation. Bruce H. replied that at the next meeting on August 3, there will be a presentation about the Lavalley Store Project.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Selectboard