

Approved September 6, 2011

**TOWN OF CORNWALL
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 2, 2011**

MEMBERS: Bruce Hiland, Dave Sears, Judy Watts, Ben Wood
STAFF: Sue Johnson, Stu Johnson
GUESTS: Ken Manchester, Joan Bingham, Pat Anderson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

General Fund and Highway Orders were signed.

July bank statement was reviewed.

MINUTES

Dave MOVED/ Judy SECONDED a motion to accept the minutes of July 5, 2011, as distributed. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Announcement that the US government is conducting a census of local governments along with a request to participate.
- Letter from VPR about Public Post – this will be a place on the VPR website for town news.
- VTrans letter of acceptance of the Route 74 Lemon Fair bridge project – Bruce Hiland signed.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Stu Johnson

- **Roads Scholar Level II Award** - Bruce Hiland presented to Ken Manchester.
- **Update on Road Work** - Big culverts are in on West Street, paving contractor is lined up. Sperry Road project went well - 7 trucks from neighboring towns collaborated. Excavator is coming back for 5 days. Back up driver during Stu's recovery is lined up.
- **Town Garage Water Pump System** - Iron algae is clogging up the system. Stu treated with recommended chlorine product.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT

- **Tax Rate FY 2012** -Bruce MOVED/ Judy SECONDED a motion to set the municipal tax rate FY 2012: 0.18 for the general fund and 0.15 for the highway fund – 0.33 total. The motion carried.
- **Surplus FY 2011** – we were good stewards of Town funds and have \$147,000 surplus.
- **Homestead declarations penalties** – As a result of recent changes in the way Vermont homeowners file homestead declarations, municipalities

have a choice to assess or not assess penalties for not filing properly. Previously the State assessed these penalties. Sue Johnson stated that such penalties don't amount to much money in Cornwall. Dave MOVED/ Ben SECONDED a motion that, this year, Cornwall not charge a penalty to homeowners who do not file the homestead declaration properly. Motion carried.

- ***Bike Racks for Park and Ride***– Notice that VTrans has funding to purchase bicycle racks for Park and Ride locations. Bike Rack would arrive at no cost to the Town, but the Town would be responsible for installing at the park and ride area. Stu had concerns about plowing. After brief discussion, it was decided not to pursue obtaining a bike rack.
- ***Town Clerk time off*** - Sue will be off the last 2 weeks of August.

OLD BUSINESS

- ***Update on moving old town buildings*** - Geoff Demong met with Monty Provencher. Mr. Provencher said that the Lavalley House and the #5 Schoolhouse could both be moved and has given a rough estimate of the cost of moving Lavalley House.
- ***Burton matter*** – update provided by Bruce
- ***Joint Meeting Schedule Sept-Dec 2011*** – Listers October 4. Library board, TBA. Selectboard will attend School Board meeting on October 20.
- ***Capital Budget/Planning Committee*** – discussed opening coming up on the committee
- ***Town Hall Project Update*** – all paperwork now with Steve Smith. He plans to do the work in August.
- ***Route 74 Bridge Update*** – article in the newspaper today. Project has not gone out to bid yet.
- ***James Road (Weybridge) Closing Update*** – No immediate repairs until after August.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***Public Comments Agenda Item*** – suggested that “Public Comments “ be added to the agenda of every meeting, after Correspondence Review. This is not intended to limit public comments to one part of the meeting but rather to emphasize that Selectboard meetings are open public meetings and that citizens are invited to come and express their views and concerns.
- ***Mowing Damage Claim*** – Discussed situation involving mowing of field owned by Tom Synott and appropriate response of the Town to mowing damage claim.

OTHER BUSINESS

Joint Meeting with Cemetery Commission – Joan Bingham and Pat Anderson are here to share information about their work on the Cemetery Commission. Cornwall is a member of Vermont Old Cemeteries Association.

The Town is currently responsible for. West, South, and Fair Cemeteries. Fair Cemetery is an active burying ground. Other cemeteries, such as Evergreen, are run by non-profit associations. The Town provides funds to keep the stones in the three town cemeteries in repair, lawns mowed and brush cut back. Youth Conservation Corps did a major repair and straightening about 5 years ago to West and Fair Cemeteries. South Cemetery needs work now. Bruce suggested that the Cemetery Commission get estimates for the work to be done, and make a proposal to SB for the next budget planning session. Dave would like to see the Town be proactive toward the stone maintenance.

The State will pay for repair of documented revolutionary soldiers graves. Joan does not know if there is grant money for cemeteries. In some towns, living relatives are asked to contribute towards upkeep of graves. Joan is aware of only one private cemetery in Cornwall.

Sue has list of people buried in the cemeteries. Stu suggested that it be documented as to who is buried where and what the stone said, before it is too late. Perhaps students at the school would be interested in a project to document stones with photography.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Selectboard