

Approved September 6, 2016

**CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**

Regular Meeting  
Cornwall Town Hall  
August 2, 2016

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ben Wood, Ben Marks, Magna Dodge, Brian Kemp, John Roberts

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sue Johnson, Stu Johnson

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

**Quorum**—*Established*

**General Fund and Highway Orders**—*Signed*

**Bank Statement Reconciliation** —*Reviewed*

**AGENDA**—John MOVED, Magna SECONDED, to approve the Agenda

**MINUTES**—July 5, 2016 Brian MOVED /Ben W. SECONDED, to approve the minutes as presented. *Motion passed*—4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 recusal; (Ben M was absent from 7/5 meeting)

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Correspondence received from resident for stone-damaged tire; Ben W will contact sender.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** —none

**TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT**—[Sue]

- Sue has found a possible rental space for use during the Town Hall renovations.
- **Primary Elections**—Assistance needed during the day for voting; Evening is taken care of. The tabulator has been tested and is ready to run.

**ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**—[Stu] Earlier this year, the loader bucket was "lifted" from the side of the road where it had been placed by the road crew. Bucket has not been seen since, and will need to be replaced.

- The \$268 cost of repairing the covered bridge was split with Salisbury; bridge had been damaged by a tractor with disc-harrows, driven by an operator later picked up for DUI. The DA (prosecuting the DUI) and insurance company are in negotiations over the final reimbursement value.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **School Wind Turbine** —The school has been granted its Certificate of Public Good by the Public Service Board and can move forward with its wind turbine construction, estimated to take roughly five weeks. Town Counsel has drafted a license agreement, giving permission from the town to the school for construction of the turbine on a small parcel of town land. Once the Select

Board approves the agreement, it will go to the school and the District Office for their review and comments. Ben M has some corrections to make, as does Sue, prior to sending the document along.

- **Road Commissioner Position**—Discussion of preferred sequence of events to handle the newly opened position.
  - Brian agreed to act as liaison between Road Commissioner and Select Board until Town Meeting.
  - The Board will begin advertising to fill a Road Foreman position.
  - Brian, John, in consultation with Stu, will develop a job description for the position, VLCT may also have some info/templates available. Sue will be updating the job application form.
  - Board discussed adding a Warning to Town Meeting regarding a vote to change the Road Commissioner job from an elected position to an appointed position.
- **Harper Factory Report**—John reported that the Department of Agriculture has sent a “Cease and Desist” to the Harpers, demanding a reduction in their operations and descriptions of exactly how they plan to meet the agreements that form part of their easements. Ben M noted that is likely that no benefit will be found for the Town in attempting to take action through Act 250.
  - Short discussion about closing certain roads to 18-wheeler traffic. No action taken.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Tax Rate**—The Select Board reviewed the Budget figures for the current year. The Homestead rate will be down by \$0.0310, and the Non-Residential rate will be up by \$0.0035.
  - John MOVED, Magna SECONDED, that the 2016 *General Fund* rate be set at \$0.2442, and the *Local Agreement* rate be set at \$0.0007. *Motion passed.*  
5 in favor, 0 opposed
  - John MOVED, Magna SECONDED, that the 2016 *Highway* rate be set at \$0.1674. *Motion passed.* 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **Town Hall Roof Truss**—[Ben W] The Capital Committee is waiting for a final report. At this time, it appears there are two options regarding work on the roof truss, and one piece of strong advice:
  - First: stop all upstairs activities immediately
  - Patch the truss now for approximately \$1,500, then fold the work into the renovation work when it begins.
  - Make a permanent fix now at an estimated cost of \$7,500. This option could prove to be a poor choice if the renovations uncover unexpected issues in the area which could make it necessary to undo some or all of the “fix.”
- **Liquor License Policy**—Board discussed several aspects of such a policy and the reasons for considering its implementation. No action taken at this time.

- **Public Service Recognition Event**—A request was received to consider holding an event to recognize those who are in the public service sectors. The Board felt the Town Hall, would be the fitting place, but its current condition and the planned renovations that will take several months make it unwise to do so. There was some discussion about possibly reconsidering such an event in the spring or perhaps later in 2017.
- **Town Ball Field**—•John MOVED, Brian SECONDED, to reaffirm the Select Board’s support for athletic endeavors—such as the current soccer group’s—and other community uses of the Town Ball Field. *Motion passed.* 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- **September Agenda**—Several issue from July will be followed up on and listed in the Agenda for September.
- **Road Speeds**—The Sheriff’s Department will be placing a speed-flasher on Cider Mill Road during Field Days.

**ADJOURNMENT**—Magna. MOVED / John SECONDED, to adjourn the meeting.  
*Motion passed* – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Conway, Substitute Minute-Taker