

Approved September 2, 2014

TOWN OF CORNWALL
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Cornwall Town Office
Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Present: Bruce Hiland, Ben Marks, Ben Wood, David Sears, Magna Dodge, Sue Johnson, Stu Johnson

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm
General Fund and Highway Orders – *signed*
July bank statement – *will be reviewed once reconciled*

AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda: Dog Ordinance, Acceptance of Abi Session's Resignation

MINUTES

July 1, 2014 –Dave MOVED/ Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Letter from Phelps Engineering, offering another test for water well. Ben will contact them to determine if it is necessary or optional.
- Letter from Irene Poole soliciting support in her run for side judge
- Memorandum from Public Service Board regarding order revision pursuant to Act No. 199 (S 220). The board found no cause to comment on the memorandum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT – Sue Johnson

- *August 26 Primary Election* - Sue is in the process of testing the vote tabulator and will continue until satisfied that it is working well.
- *Accounting assistance* - Sue plans to hire NEMRC for reconciling bank statements
- *Open Meeting Laws* - Posting numerous Town board and committee agendas and minutes on the Town website as well as multiple physical locations, in accordance with new State rules, has added significantly to the Town Clerk's work load. Some towns have taken down their websites because of the new rules.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Stu Johnson

- New pump was placed in the well today. Spafford & Sons Well Drillers recommend putting chlorine in the well to counteract rust. The board will discuss advisability of adding chlorine during the “salt summit”.
- Stu has been asked to participate in a group advising the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding pollution of Lake Champlain. Stu said he plans to attend. Our Cornwall Road Commissioner has a reputation statewide for being very knowledgeable about road and runoff issues.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Pipeline Update* – Ben Marks, in his role as attorney representing Cornwall in the PSB process, updated the board regarding the proceedings. Vermont Gas has filed rebuttal testimony. In early September, the Town will have a final chance for witnesses to respond to rebuttal testimony. September 12 is the filing deadline for the Town's response to Vermont Gas's rebuttal testimony. Bruce H. has drafted a public statement in response to a letter to the editor by two Rutland legislators critical of the Cornwall's stance on the pipeline issue. Magna D. has agreed to edit/condense for better effect.
- *Dog Ordinance* – the board discussed options and next steps. Currently the Town has a dog ordinance. If the decision is to not have one, there is a procedure for repealing. While a dog ordinance is difficult to enforce, Ben Marks pointed out that civil rules and tort law apply to conflicts between citizens. The idea of having a public forum on the issue was discussed, as an agenda item on a future Select Board meeting. Bruce suggested an article in newsletter, with notice of the date of the public forum.
- *Resignation of Abi Sessions as Selector* - Ben M MOVED/ Ben W SECONDED a motion to accept with regrets the resignation of Abil Sessions. The Select Board expressed its' gratitude to Abi Sessions for her service to the Town as a Select Board member and recognized her valuable contributions to the life of the Town. Abi's fair-minded and judicious approach to all issues before us has been of inestimable value and we will miss her. The Select Board wishes Abi the best in her new role as the principal of the Bingham Memorial School. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Appoint Interim Selector* - Bruce MOVED/ Ben M. SECONDED a motion to appoint Magna Dodge to fill Abi's vacant position. Sue conducted the swearing in ceremony. As her first task on the board, Magna agreed to

Bruce's request to edit/condense his public statement on the pipeline for better effect.

- *Salt Summit* – scheduled for the September 16 Select Board meeting
- *Tax Rates*
 - *General fund rate* – Dave MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion to accept the general fund tax rate at 0.20. Motion passed.
 - *Highway fund rate* – Ben W. MOVED / Magna SECONDED a motion to accept the highway fund tax rate at 0.17. Motion passed.
 - *Local agreement rate* – Dave MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion to accept the local agreement rate at 0.0046. Motion passed.

The homestead rate and non-residential rate are set by the State of Vermont as 1.5801 for homestead and 1.4146 for non-residential.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Ringey, long-time Little League coach in Cornwall, recently passed away. Bruce MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion to make a \$200 contribution to the Little League in his memory. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Select Board