

Approved October 4, 2016

**CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**

Regular Meeting

Town Hall, September 20, 2016

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sue Johnson, Stu Johnson, Sean Fierman, Bill Sinks, Jared Moats, Barney Hodges

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm  
Quorum – established.

**AGENDA:** John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of Catering Requests in New Business. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

General Fund and Highway Orders – signed.  
Report on Reconciled Bank Statement – reviewed.

**MINUTES** – September 6, 2016

John MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as amended: in Old Business, Creation of Appointed Assistant Road Commissioner, add “This appointment reflects Brian’s role as Select Board liaison to the road department.” Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Request from the American Red Cross for Town funding.
- Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) – information on transportation issues.
- VLCT information on self-governance issues.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

**TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER’S REPORT** – Sue Johnson

- Sue J. recently attended the meeting of Vermont Town Clerks and Treasurers. Sue said that it was both educational and inspiring.
- Tax bills went out. A high percentage of the bills went down because the tax rate went down.

**(ASSISTANT) ROAD COMMISSIONER’S REPORT** – Brian Kemp

- A few complaints were received about roads deteriorating, increased dust. Stu Johnson generously went out and did some grading. No more complaints have come in since then.

- Ongoing complaints about the speed on Wooster Road have been received, but not from those who live on that road. A speed alert unit was up for a while on Wooster Road, but this unit is shared throughout the county. Police patrols are there at times. Sue J. said that the Town could purchase a solar speed alert unit. John will follow up with the State on the status of progress on this issue.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Opening and Reading of the Town Hall Renovation Bids**  
The Select Board and members of the Capital Committee introduced themselves to meeting guests who came for the reading of the bids. Ben Marks reminded the Board that the bids would be opened and bid amounts read, but the bids would not be discussed. The following four bids were received:
  1. Smith and McClain - \$441,830.51
  2. Multy Builders, LLC - \$778,560
  3. The McKernon Group, Inc. \$525,454
  4. Structural Energy Corporation - \$466,812
- **Swamp Road Bridge** – The Board discussed next steps for action regarding the Swamp Road Bridge that burned on September 10 around 2:50 pm. The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD ) tones went out at about 2:40, but by the time CVFD personnel arrived, the bridge was "fully involved" -- meaning that the entire structure was aflame. There was a strong, steady wind from the south that day and although the east-west bridge had no windows, it functioned like a horizontal chimney whipping fire from the east to the west sides. Salisbury fire units approached from the east. CVFD, Whiting and Middlebury units approached from the west.

The state's fire investigator was at the scene. The bridge's sides and roof are dangerously damaged and leaning. A downed tree in the river at the bridge is an additional safety hazard. No visual inspection should be from anywhere but the road or the creek bank next to the bridge. Jersey barriers have been erected on the Cornwall side to prevent vehicles from approaching the bridge deck.

Stu Johnson contacted all stakeholders within 24 hours of the fire. Stu J. contacted Property and Casualty Inter-municipality Fund (VLCT PACIF)) has been called and that adjusters have visited the bridge. The Town is working with Paul Veazy, the Salisbury Road Commissioner and Select Board member.

The bridge has been deemed a total loss as a structure. As the bridge was

co-owned by Cornwall and Salisbury, there will have to be decisions made in concert concerning the cost, timing, and method of removal, the cost and advisability of a temporary "Bailey Bridge," and the cost, timing, and design of a new bridge. Bills will need to be shared 50/50 between Cornwall and Salisbury.

**Next Steps:**

1. **Emergency Declaration from ANR** - Magna D. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to request an emergency declaration from the Agency of Natural Resources. This will facilitate rapid removal of the hazardous existing structure and downed tree in the river. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
  2. **Evaluation of Request for Proposals (RFP)** for bridge removal. On September 27 Dick Hosking from the Agency of Transportation is coming to Cornwall with a draft RFP for the Town to consider. Brian K. has forwarded everything related to the bridge to Paul Veazy in Salisbury.
  3. **Formation of a Joint Committee** - Sue said that VLCT suggests that a small joint committee of same number of representatives from the two towns be created and that the VLCT claims adjuster be at the meetings of this committee.
  4. **Contract for Temporary Bridge** – There is a clause in the insurance coverage for the bridge that mandates that the towns must have a contract in place for a temporary bridge within 180 days of the incident. The Board discussed coverage amounts, exclusions, main expenses, and related expenses (such as debris removal, permits, architects fees). Should the towns decide to close the road and not rebuild the bridge, the insurance company would determine a cash value plus depreciation.
  5. **Contractors for Bridge Removal** - Brian K. reported that a member of the board for Historic Bridges reached out to him and will send a list of contractors who provide removal services.
  6. **insurance Coverage** – Sue J. will contact VLCT to get more detailed information on coverage amounts and specifics of coverage. 2 options - Put in temporary bridge or to close the road.
- 
- **Hodges 100 kw Solar Project** – (Ben M. has recused himself from the discussion) John R. stated that he met with Barney Hodges before tonight's meeting and Barney H. is also here tonight to discuss his solar project application. Since Barney H. submitted his application to the Public Service Board at the end of August, the Board only has until the end of September (30 days) to submit comments to the PSB. Barney H. described the scope and purpose of his solar project and his plan for screening. He was not able to present a specific written plan in accordance with the solar ordinance in Cornwall to the Board tonight, but he plans to talk with the developer Mike Norris and write such a plan as soon as possible. Barney said that he is clear on what he needs to do and

that a delay in the PSB process is not a problem for him.

Ben W. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to have attorney Benj Putnam ask the PSB for a delay in its' process to give the applicant time to develop an adequate written screening plan in accordance with the Cornwall solar ordinance. Motion passed – 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Ben Marks).

- **Road Foreman position**, including executive session to discuss salary and benefits. Brian K. said that he and Stu J. and John R. have interviewed 4 applicants and have selected one well-qualified candidate to recommend for hire.
- **Two Requests to Cater Malt and Vineous Beverages**
  - Porter Hospital Fundraiser at Breadloaf View Farm on October 1
  - Reception by Waybury Inn at Breadloaf View Farm on September 24John R. MOVED /Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve both requests. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **Executive Session**

Magna D. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion that premature general public knowledge of personnel issues related to the hiring of a Road Foreman would clearly put Cornwall at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing personnel issues. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Magna D. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to go into executive session to discuss the personnel issues related to the hiring of a Road Foreman. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:50pm.

Magna D. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to authorize Brian to offer the position to Michael Sunderland. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Magna D. MOVED/ John R. SECONDED a motion to invite Matt Bonner and Bruce Byers of the Development Review Board (DRB) to the next Select Board meeting to share DRB progress and status. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Magna D. MOVED / John R SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Select Board.

