

Approved October 18, 2011

**TOWN OF CORNWALL
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 4, 2011**

MEMBERS: Bruce Hiland, Judy Watts, Ben Wood, Nancy Kemp

STAFF: Sue Johnson. Stu Johnson

GUESTS: Dave Anderson

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm.

General Fund and Highway Orders were signed.

September bank statement was reviewed.

MINUTES

Nancy MOVED/ Ben SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20 meeting. Motion carried on voice vote, with one abstention.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- **From Town Attorney Jim Carroll's office** – notice of change to billing rates
- **Bike Path Event** – announcement of celebratory ride on new bike path from Cornwall to Middlebury, a collaboration of VTrans and the two towns. It was noted that this is not an official town event.
- **From ACTR** – announcement of open house
- **From Phelps Engineering** – annual notice regarding septic tank pumping. According to Sue, the septic was pumped out 2-3 years ago and does not need to be done this year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Stu Johnson

- **Mutual Aid Agreement** – Assistance from neighboring towns to Rochester is ongoing. Cornwall is sending 4 trucks this week. Town of Rochester has asked Cornwall and other Addison County towns to sign a Mutual Aid Agreement to be in effect for the duration of the repair to damage related to Tropical Storm Irene. This agreement will allow Towns to decide how to be compensated or how to choose to donate their services while allowing Rochester to be eligible for FEMA reimbursement or receive credit against Rochester's required project cost percentage.

Judy MOVED/ Nancy SECONDED a motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement. The motion carried on voice vote.

- **Truck Schedule in Capital Plan and Budget**– Stu expressed concerns about the viability of the truck schedule in the capital plan. The Capital Plan and Budget Committee needs revitalizing. Stu will talk with Llyn Rice, who stepped down from the committee when he moved to Middlebury.
- **Brush Cutting** – Hiring a skilled person to cut brush would improve efficiency. Stu would like to ask Terry Stephens and the board supports his plan.

TOWN CLERK/TOWN TREASURER’S REPORT – Sue Johnson

- **Habitat and the tax-exempt question** – Sue researched the issue. She found that State law provides that real estate used for charitable purposes could be exempt from tax under the public use exemption. Criteria includes the nature of the use of the property. Sue will bring her findings to T Tall and tell him he needs to work through the Listers.
- **Property and casualty insurance** - paperwork complete. VLCT appraised the Town buildings and covered bridge and assigned them values. Bruce suggests Sue contact Fred Greenman as the next step.

OLD BUSINESS

- **250th Birthday Celebration Report** - successful day! Kate’s driving tour and guide was excellent. 300 chicken dinners sold. Live Music was fantastic. The original charter was read, a poem and song to honor Cornwall were performed. We spent \$3,000 and took in \$2,250. Still have a few T-shirts and cookbooks available for sale.
- **LFICD vacancies** – recruitment in process by Ben.
- **Town Shed Water Pumping Issue** – Dave Anderson
Dave Anderson, Town Health Officer gave an overview of the history of the sodium and chloride issue at the Town Shed and efforts to mitigate the problem since 1989, including pumping water from the well at the Town Shed. The current discharge permit from the ANR expires on December 31, 2011. Dave A. posed an important question: will the salt be there for another 20 years? In search of an answer, he contacted Helen Mango, Professor of Geology at Castleton State College, who provided some preliminary information regarding the sodium and chloride issue and is willing to continue to discuss it with Dave A. He will keep the board informed of his findings.
- **Rt 30 Traffic Study** – While some in town would like to see the speed limit lowered, the study found no inherent problem with the speed limit. The problem is enforcement. Bruce will call Rick Kehne of ACRPC to discuss the issue further.
- **Lavalley Property Questionnaire** – draft drawn up by Judy. Plan to distribute in a separate mailing. Board will provide input to Judy by email and she will bring second draft to next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Groves Appeal** - Bruce H. talked with Jim Carroll about Groves appeal. SB authorized Bruce to talk with Mr. Groves.
- **Burton Appeal** - hearing (expected to be the final hearing) will be held on October 14th.
- **Habitat project**– Bruce expressed his opinion that a 2nd priority for Habitat homeowners (after the first priority of being residents of Cornwall) should be military service - anyone who has been deployed.
- **Listers** - Bruce met with the Listers to open the question of using professional listers. When do Listers visit? Sue stated that a proposed change in square footage leads to the need for a building permit, leads to a Lister visit.

OTHER BUSINESS

Farm Stand - Nancy reported that Al Edson from Sunset Hill Farm is operating a farm stand at the LaValley house shed for the fall season. His farm stand on Route 74 was negatively impacted by the temporary closure of the bridge just west of his farm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Selectboard