

**TOWN OF CORNWALL
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 18, 2011**

PRESENT: Bruce Hiland, Dave Sears, Nancy Kemp, Judy Watts, Ben Wood
Sue Johnson

GUESTS: Cornwall Listers: Susan Burdick, Paul Viko Stephanie Pyne

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

MINUTES

October 4 Minutes—Judy MOVED, Ben SECONDED, to accept as presented.
Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Board of Education wishes to reschedule joint meeting; no new date determined

PUBLIC COMMENT—None

TOWN CLERK/TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT—Sue Johnson

- **Dogs**---Tina Ellison called Clerk's Office; As Tina walked her dogs on South Bingham, a neighbor's (Ann deHaven) dogs attacked them. Sue suggested she contact Bruce Payne, Dog Warden, about the event; this is not the first complaint concerning the deHaven dogs. Board agreed with Sue's recommendation.
- **Water Test**— 3rd Quarter testing showed any chemicals/ contaminants as being under allowed amounts.
- **Clerk/Treasurer Meetings**—Sue advised she will be attending the following:
 - the GFOA annual meeting in Stowe, October 20,
 - the Municipal Budget seminar in Montpelier, Oct 26,
 - the PACE info meeting at the RPC, October 27.
- **VLCT Insurance**—VLCT will be offering a choice of carriers in 2012: Blue Cross or MVP.
- **History of Town Buildings**—Sue would like to reprint, pending further investigation, a small paper-back book on the history of Cornwall homes. It has always been a good seller and the supply is nearly gone. Queen City has quoted pricing at several tiers, the least expensive being \$1625 for 200 copies. Per-copy cost decreases at higher quantities.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT—None

OLD BUSINESS

- **LaValley Property Survey**—Board reviewed and made final alterations to the survey. Sue will mail to households
- **Sodium Control at Town Shed**—Dave Anderson is researching the issue

[continued below Listers]

JOINT MEETING WITH LISTERS—7:30

Listers offered some background on their responsibilities and work. The group originally was focused primarily on appraisals, but over time has necessarily become more involved with land-use issues, regulation changes, verification of "arms-length" transactions (affects CLA), and grievances.

- Dave asked if there were any indication from the State of a move toward lowering CLA?
Sue Burdick responded there was none.

- Sue noted there is no *requirement* that appraisals be based on market-value, that being only 1 of 3 criteria.
- Listers would like to arrange for a workshop for the BCA, a repeat of one they'd attended that clarified many of the grievance regulations and procedures. E.G. Listers are allowed to visit properties with the BCA and can participate in deliberations prior to (but not after) the site visit.
- Board agreed this would be very useful and would put members of both groups on the same page. Stephanie offered to coordinate the workshop with Jim Barlow (VLCT)
- Listers work with residents, prior to the spring grievance period, to resolve issues where possible. In general, they have a very good resolution rate, as few with whom they work go on to pursue the grievance process.
- Regarding appraisals/reappraisals—
 - A partial reappraisal uses randomly selected properties (5–10% of GL) then makes adjustments across the board accordingly.
 - Due to current market conditions, a reappraisal at this time is not being recommended
 - Use of a professional appraiser, though carrying a cost, would have a number of significant benefits to all—such a person would bring broader experience and a more objective mind set to the table; same person could also do the necessary sketches.
 - A professional might also be employed to make an annual sweep to review new construction and make sure all are on an even footing (no pun intended)

OLD BUSINESS [*continued after Listers Meeting*]

- **Route 30 Speed Limit**—*Next steps:*
 - several differing opinions have been received as to what may be done and how.
 - per Statute, towns can set limit on sections of a State highway, pending an *engineering and traffic investigation*
 - per RPC, town must petition Traffic Committee (VTRANS)
 - per VTRANS, state posts limits based on within 5mph of average speed used
 - Questions: Who enforces? What is the scope and cost of an *engineering and traffic investigation*?
 - Bruce will check on statute with Town Counsel, and with RPC for other options
- **Compensation Study**—[Ben] *Update:* Board reviewed Ben's report and recommendations, decided to take into the budget process and make changes were possible
- **Other**—
 - [Judy] **Insect Control Board**—A list of seven applicants is being vetted.
 - [Bruce] **Groves Appeal**—Court hearing rescheduled; direct negotiations continuing. Grievance and BCA Hearing have been concluded, Mr Groves finds the result unsatisfactory. Board and Listers looking for an equitable solution. Listers will be invited back to discuss in 2 weeks. Bruce will review options with Town Counsel.

NEW BUSINESS—None

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Conway
Substitute Minute-Taker

