

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Cornwall Town Hall
November 3, 2015

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Dave Anderson, Bobbie Carnwath, Rene Langis

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

Quorum—*established*

General Fund and Highway Orders—*signed*

AGENDA—Ben W. proposed adding two items under Old Business (Accounting Policies, DRB) and one under New Business (solar installations). John MOVED /Magna SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES—*October 20, 2015* John MOVED /Brian SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Reports from CVFD and State Fire Marshal regarding elementary school inspections; several corrective actions are required (e.g. need for a secure location to store a FD key, lack of audible tones in kitchen area, lack of fire suppression device near kitchen stove,...) for the building to be in compliance. Ben M will send a note to the School Board indicating receipt of these reports and requesting that the Selectboard be kept apprised of progress with the upgrades.
- ACRPC—Board received and reviewed the Regional Planning's suggested solar siting wording. Ben M noted a lack of set-back references.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT – Sue reported that tax payments are still coming in; about \$120,000 remains out-standing.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – No report

OLD BUSINESS

- **Update— SunCommon solar project on West Street** – SunCommon has responded to Cornwall's comments; in their opinion, 150Kw will be handled by current power lines just fine.
 - Benj Putnam, Town Counsel, suggests not responding at this time. Applicant (Sun Common) bears the burden of proof of facts.
 - It is likely the PSB will schedule a hearing.
- **Update—Jenne solar project on Rte 30**– Ben W and Ben M visited the proposed site; they found boundary stakes, but no indication of height of the project. A request to Peck Electric for height markers was refused. Site appears well-screened from most vantages. Discussion whether the Board should write to the PSB requesting a more definitive explanation of the project's compliance with regulations as—to-date— the town has received only unsubstantiated assertions. It was suggested that perhaps town bylaws should include a list of specific documents required.

- **Conflict of Interest Policy**—Magna suggested adding several words to Article IV §E: “...purposes, unless previously discussed with the Selectboard.” Magna D. MOVED /Ben M. SECONDED, to add the words as suggested to §E of Article IV of the Conflict of Interest Policy, and to approve the policy as amended. Motion passed; 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **Update— Conservation Fund**—It appears that the Conservation Fund (one of three funds overseen by the Trustees of Public Funds) was established by a trust. Guidelines for the handling of Fund monies can not currently be located, but it is known that the Fund’s interest was to be used for conservation projects. Guidelines are being researched. Discussion ensued about the roles of the Trustees, the Selectboard, and the Conservation Commission regarding the fiduciary responsibilities and processes involved. Ben W will draft a letter to the TPF advising them of the issues before the Board and the Board’s intended course of action.
- **Update— Accounting Policies**— Magna MOVED /John SECONDED to approve the *Cash Receipts, Petty Cash, and Returned Checks Policy* and the *Accounting, Auditing, Financial Reports Policy* as previously discussed. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed. The *Purchasing Policy* will be dealt with at another time.
- **Proposed DRB information**—After review, it was decided to remove the words “site plan” from paragraph 3, and change the response email as noted, then post to the town website to generate interest in the establishment of a DRB.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Working with CPC on solar siting applications**—after short discussion on current protocols for handling incoming applications, suggestions made to establish the following: All new incoming applications (for solar projects) to be emailed to both SB and CPC; SB and CPC will determine if joint meetings, joint site visits, etc are needed; During by-law revisions, the SB should work more closely with the CPC. Also discussed was if/how to alert those people who might be interested that a new solar application was received.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Well Testing**—Another of the quarterly testings is coming up.
- **All-night lighting**—question regarding where to find reference to all night lighting? §8.20 of the Zoning By-laws -
- **“Welcome to Cornwall” signs**—T Tall had offered to participate in repainting the signs. Ben W will contact him with some suggestions as to who else might assist.
- **Bylaws**— Dave noted that the CPC will begin addressing by-law revisions at their next meeting on November 18
- **Solar Siting Ordinance**— Sue and Ben M will word a Warning for publication in the *Independent* regarding a hearing in December on the proposed amendments to the Solar Siting Ordinance.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Robin Conway, Substitute Minute-Taker