

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
November 7, 2017
Cornwall Town Hall, Route 30

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

ALSO PRESENT: Pat Dunn, Paul Vaczy (Salisbury Selectmen); Sue Johnson, Mike Sunderland, Holly Nordsy

CALL TO ORDER—7:00pm by Ben Marks.

Quorum—*established*.

General Fund and Highway Orders—*signed*.

Report on Reconciled Bank Statement—*reviewed*.

AGENDA

Ben M. proposed amending the Agenda to add Holly regarding the Planning Commission's Solar Siting Ordinance. Magna MOVED/Ben W.. SECONDED, to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES—October 17, 2017

Ben W. MOVED/Ben M. SECONDED a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. **Motion passed**—3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained due to absence October 17 (John, Magna).

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- ARC-GIS news, Municipal Road Mangers' Workshop notice

PUBLIC COMMENTS—*None*

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT—Sue Johnson

- All appears to have gone well while she was on vacation;
- Many residents have paid property taxes early;
- A review of road funds shows that with grant money received, and sale of the truck, there are funds available for some road equipment purchases.

ROAD REPORT—Brian Kemp, Mike Sunderland

- **West Street Curb-cut**—Road Foreman Mike Sunderland met with DRB members to discuss a curb-cut on West Street. In answer to the question received about driveway standards, he noted that the Town is not required to follow State standards, and he finds nothing in Town regulations to prevent authorizing a permit for the curb-cut in question
- **Equipment Purchases**—Discussion ensued regarding purchase of two pieces of road equipment: a pto-powered blower and a compressor.
 - The blower would facilitate grading by removing road-side debris and leaves allowing grader to provide a smoother surface prep; blower would also facilitate clearing of culverts and ditches. Cost to purchase: \$5,000, or if shared with the town of Addison (per interest expressed by Addison's Road foreman), Cornwall's share would drop to \$2,500
 - The compressor in the shop is very old and is severely under-powered for tools in use today. Replacement cost: \$2,750.

Ben W. MOVED/Magna SECONDED, to authorize the purchase of a new shop compressor for \$2,750 *Motion passed*—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Brian MOVED/Magna SECONDED, to authorize purchase of a new pto-powered blower provided that the town of Addison purchases half (\$2,500 each town for a total purchase price of \$5,000). *Motion passed*—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

- A notice from the ACRPC encouraging towns to participate in one of their programs was aimed at those towns—unlike Cornwall—who have yet to participate.
- *Sand and Salt Shed*—Cornwall does not qualify for funding from this program

OLD BUSINESS

- **DRB**—Barbara Greenwood attended the last meeting and noted that the DRB has lost three knowledgeable members in the past year, with another leaving in March. She has since been in touch with Ben M and presented him with two persons the DRB recommends for appointments to that Board. John MOVED/Ben W. SECONDED, to appoint Magna Dodge to the DRB as a regular member, and Randy LaFramboise to the DRB as an Alternate, to fill open positions until after Town Meeting in 2018. Appointments effective immediately. *Motion passed*—4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Magna).
- **Swamp Road Bridge**—Ben M. welcomed the two Salisbury Selectmen—Paul Vaczy and Pat Dunn—to the table to discuss the Towns' mutual interest in replacing the Swamp Road bridge.
 - Paul indicated that Salisbury's thoughts are long-term, as they are currently paying a 30-year \$900,000 bond for replacement of another bridge and are looking at the much-needed purchase of a fire truck (Salisbury FD has none, currently), in addition to costs associated with closing their landfill.
 - Pat suggested that a joint letter be drawn up by the towns and delivered to all residents to update all on the proceedings to-date. He suggested several items to include, among which were a copy of the Fire Inspector's report on the cause of the fire; he noted that many are unaware of the findings.
 - Both spoke about the \$25,000 grant Salisbury received to pay for a site evaluation. The results of the evaluation, it is hoped, will indicate options for access, best options for bridge type, presence of any endangered species which would require site alterations.
 - Cornwall SB members spoke to the need for disseminating information to the public and to the need for establishing good communications between the Selectboards of the two towns. It was also noted that, despite various expenses currently incurred by both towns, moving ahead is critical as every year costs to rebuild can be expected to increase and the purchasing power of the insurance funds to decrease. It is unknown exactly how long AOT will continue rental of the temporary bridge.
 - **Specific Issues:**
 - **Access**—Cornwall's access via Swamp Road will not be able to handle heavy trucking. It is built on swamp land. Keeping a one-lane bridge, and not upgrading it beyond the road's traffic support capability, might help mitigate any increased traffic a new bridge might encourage. Salisbury also has concerns for their access road, and noted they fully support Cornwall's stance on its access road to the bridge.
 - **Funding**—Each town has different insurance reimbursement amounts—Cornwall increased the insurance amount after the bridge was rehabbed in 2006, Salisbury did not. An equitable agreement for construction funding needs to be in place, and needs to include how any costs in excess of the insurance money will be apportioned to each town. There is the possibility of private fundraising as well. However, fundraising cannot begin until the construction project can be solidly defined.
 - **Timeline**—Salisbury is looking at a 3-year, more likely a 5-year timeline. Cornwall prefers not longer than three. The site evaluation is expected to give some time-line insight.

- **Information Dissemination**—Selectboards have a fiscal responsibility to determine possible options that are within the means of their towns to support. Once feasible options are identified and estimated costs are obtained, the options should be presented to residents for getting feedback on what residents are looking for. It was noted that surveys typically have a low response rate. Nonetheless, there needs to be an effort to elicit feedback based on a defined project plan and options., and that this be done giving residents sufficient time to absorb and discuss the information.
- **Immediate Steps**—1) begin creation of a joint letter informing residents of what has been done to-date and what is coming up in the near future;
2) collect site evaluation and access-road information particularly regarding construction timeline, costs, and options;
3) present information to the public and get feedback;
- Salisbury SB meets next week and will select a firm to handle the site evaluation; results should be available by Town Meeting

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Planning Commission**—Holly
 - **Solar Siting**—The current Solar Siting Ordinance expires in December. It can be adopted permanently, extended, or allowed to expire. The PC would like to renew it with modifications, including :
 - That, in order to meet Cornwall's energy reduction goals, only those solar projects be permitted where the owner is prohibited from selling the RECs out-of-state. The State regulations require that any solar site whose credits are sold out-of-state can not be counted toward a town's reduction goals. To count that production toward its goals, a town must set aside and develop another solar site equal to the one selling credits out-of-state. This doubles the amount of land used for solar, but yields only half the credits toward the reduction goals.
 - The section on plantings needs to be changed to allow plantings to be done in the first season appropriate to the particular vegetation planted.
 - In the plantings section, the PC would like to include encourage the use of pollinator plants.
 - **Zoning ByLaws**—PC has sought and received input from town groups. They have received some feedback from the consultants and are looking for a report to come out this winter.
 - **Other PC Updates**—Plans are moving ahead with the small park by the Town Hall. Progress was stopped during the Town Hall's improvement construction. Douglas Pond—The PC has been informed that there is some forward movement with that project, no specific details. The PC looks for them to include public involvement, public meetings, etc.
 - **Appointments**—Holly, on behalf of the PC, has recommended Andrea Landsberg for appointment to the Planning Commission. Ben W. MOVED/Magna. SECONDED, to appoint Andrea Landsberg to the Planning Commission to fill an open position until Town Elections in 2018, when she or her successor is duly elected. Appointment effective immediately. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed,

ADJOURNMENT—Ben W. MOVED/Magna SECONDED, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by Robin Conway, Substitute Minute-taker