

Approved December 4, 2012

TOWN OF CORNWALL
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Cornwall Town Office
Tuesday, November 20, 2012

Present: Judy Watts, Bruce Hilland, Abi Sessions, Ben Wood, Sue Johnson, Stu Johnson, Dave Sears

Guests: Steve Wark, Marc Tiexeira, Vermont Gas; Donna Wadsworth, International Paper; Holly Noordsy, Jim Bolton, Cornwall Planning Commission

Meeting called to order—7:00 pm

General fund and highway orders—*signed*

MINUTES

October 16 Meeting—Judy MOVED / Ben SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as revised with the correct spelling for “Raph Worrick”

Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Invitation from Association of Judges of Addison County to participate in a meeting on December 7 to discuss the proposed county budget.
- ACSWMD annual report
- 2nd review of letter from Sheriffs’ Department – it was suggested that Cornwall’s response mention Lemon Fair Road as one where speeding is a concern.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER’S REPORT – Sue Johnson

- Town Office is closed for rest of Thanksgiving week
- Sue provided copies of current budgets for SB reference in upcoming budget planning process
- Because of a serious mice infestation in Town Hall, poison was deemed necessary. Bad smell from dead mice in the walls will be temporary.
- Sue said she is distressed and saddened by what has transpired with in Weybridge, with the Town Clerk confessing to embezzlement of Town funds. Sue assured the board that there is nothing like that going on here. However, this should serve as a wake up call for all towns in Vermont. Cornwall has very old accounting software. Sue is going to get new accounting software so that there is more oversight of Town accounts.

Current accounting program will stop June 30, and the new one will start July 1, on a new computer.

- Taxes came in pretty well, with typical amount of delinquent taxes

ROAD COMMISSIONERS'S REPORT – Stu Johnson

- Stu would like to hire Terry again to assist with brush cutting
- Stu would like to rent a man-lift for tree trimming, using excavator rental income funds. Ben trusts Stu's judgment that he can safely do this. All the board expressed their concern that nothing harm our Road Commissioner.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes - Board of Civil Authority, Board of Abatement - Judy MOVED / Ben SECONDED a motion to approve the October 16 minutes of the BCA and BOA.

Motion passed.

- **Foote Estate / MALT sale update** –Sale is proceeding. The Town has a letter from their attorney for Foote Estate that affirms that the back taxes will be paid at the closing. Jim Duclos showed some photos of the non-compliant structures on the property currently being used as hunting camps – Dick Foote is aware.
- **Lavalley progress report and ratify/authorize budgeted expenditures** On November 13, Clay Point Associates performed an asbestos inspection of Lavalley building and have submitted the results to the Town, Ben reported that Todd Hobson of Clay Point Associates has offered to manage the rest of the process, including the bidding process for asbestos removal, controlling the work timetable and monitoring the selected abatement contractor, for a fee of \$458. Ben said that if the Town hires him, the State (as well as Cornwall citizens) will be assured that the asbestos is being removed properly. The Town would select the contractor. Abi MOVED / Judy SECONDED a motion to employ Todd Hobson to manage the asbestos removal process. *Motion passed.*
- **LFICD update** – Bruce Hiland attended the LFICD annual meeting. Nuisance mosquitos will continue to be handled by LFICD. The State will handle the EEE and West Nile mosquitos. Public meetings are being held this month.
- **Town Plan Update** – CPC held it's hearing on November 14. Some wording is now being added. The final draft will come to the SB, for discussion and hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

- **CCC vacancy** – Abi MOVED / Dave SECONDED a motion to approve Michael Sheridan to fill the vacancy on the Cornwall Conservation Commission. *Motion passed.*

- **Cornwall Natural Resource Inventory** - Abi attended the CCC meeting. \$15,000 estimated for the natural resources inventory. The CCC has a list of potential funding sources, and are pursuing. Would like to approach the town to ask for \$5,000, and will be soliciting private donations for the inventory. Bruce will be in touch with Marc regarding the proposed article.
- **Efficiency Vermont - Energy Challenge** – no one present had sufficient information to discuss - more information is needed.
- **Vermont Gas presentation** – Steve Wark and Marc Tiexeira from Vermont Gas and Donna Wadsworth from International Paper presented information and answered questions about the Addison Natural Gas Project, including a transmission project to pipe gas to the Ticonderoga Paper Mill with route options that would pass through part of Cornwall. The route is yet undetermined. The group is here to introduce themselves and introduce the concept. Ideally the project requires a 50 foot permanent right of way and an additional 25 foot temporary right of way for the transmission line. Cornwall residents will not have access to the natural gas being transmitted through the Town, as it is only economically feasible to supply the gas to areas that are dense in population, such as parts of Middlebury and Vergennes.

Q & A

Dave Sears: How will this project benefit Cornwall?

Steve Wark: Easements will be paid for in one-time payments. Town will tax the transmission lines annually.

Holly Noordsy: What will the impact on Cornwall be?

Steve Wark and Marc Teixeira: The system will be monitored 24/7. Patrols are done by air monthly, by foot annually, trucks will drive by with sniffers for methane. Education/coordination with local fire departments and adjacent landowners is part of their safety standards.

Steve Wark: Army Corp of Engineers and Agency of Natural Resources want us to look at many route alternatives. We want to have planners from VT Trans, Middlebury college and the towns to be on an advisory committee.

Bruce Hiland suggested and Jim Bolton and Holly Noordsy agreed that the CPC could be approached to send a representative for the advisory board (meet no more than 4 times, no more than 3 hours – total commitment of 12 hours.) Jan – Feb of 2013.

Bruce said that he would get advice of Town Attorney regarding the proposed project and tax issues.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Joint Meeting with Cemetery Commission** – postponed
- **Cornwall resident Ann Knowles** recognized in article in Smithsonian Magazine.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.
Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Selectboard