

Approved December 20, 2016

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD
Regular Meeting, December 6, 2016
Cornwall Route 30 Fire Station

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Burdick, Sue Johnson, Rodney Cadoret, Mike Sunderland

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.
Quorum – established.
General Fund and Highway Orders – signed.
Report on Reconciled Bank Statement – reviewed.

AGENDA - Brian K. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as posted, with addition of one item (Secretary's role in the agenda). Motion approved – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES

- November 1 – John R. MOVED, Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the revised minutes as most recently posted. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- November 15 – John R. MOVED, Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as amended: change first sentence under Assessor Funding to read, "Ben M noted that prior research indicated that surrounding towns use a part time Assessor." and correct typos. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) notices of dues set at \$1.14/capita (increase of .04 per capita).
- VLCT letter regarding credit on insurance
- Request for funding from Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force
- Notice of upcoming training by Addison County Regional Planning Commission CRPC, on Act 146

PUBLIC COMMENTS – none.

DISCUSSION WITH DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

Rodney Cadoret consulted with the Board regarding delinquent taxes on one property. Owners agreed to pay current tax bill and make regular payments on back bill, but have not done so. The Board asked Rodney C. to write a letter letting them know the Town is prepared to move toward a tax sale in 6 months unless current taxes are paid.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT – Sue Johnson

- Budget will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Sue J. will send materials to the Board before that meeting. Final approval of budget will take place at the end of January.
- Received a letter from States Attorney office regarding the fine assessed to Mr. Pouliot for damage to the Swamp Road Bridge.

- Sue J. will be out of the office 1-2 weeks from end of January - beginning of February to assist family member after surgery.
- Heat challenges in the temporary office are minimal as far as Sue J. is concerned. Phone issues have been resolved.
- Renovation to the Town Hall is scheduled to be complete at the end of February.
- Capital committee will meet on December 22.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Brian Kemp and Mike Sunderland

- Mike S. reported that the crew has been grading and attempting to resolve issues with potholes. However, recent weather has not been conducive to pothole repair. Hoping for another window of opportunity to fix potholes before ground freezes. Brian K suggested using gravel to fill in as a “band-aid” solution.
- Road crew identified problem with water flow at Town Garage. Problem source was found to be at a gate. Once gate was opened up, the water flowed normally again.
- Wooster Road still a problem in terms of traffic speed. The Board agreed to re-allocate the hours of traffic enforcement to Wooster Road.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Status Lister Search/Assessor Search/Lister Succession Planning** – report by and discussion with Sue Burdick
 Sue said it is the responsibility of the Board to make sure the Town has 3 listers. The two current Listers have tried to recruit, with no results. If Cornwall has an Assessor, the Town would not need lister positions. The decision to take away the responsibility of the listers must be made by the voters at Town Meeting.

 Assessor and Lister Clerk are positions hired by the Select Board. The two current Listers recommend that the Board hire an Assessor and appoint a lister clerk to support the work of the Assessor. The Clerk could do computer work, mundane work. Assessor must care about grand list, but does not need to be a resident of Cornwall. Sue B. said she can ease the transition by working during the transition. The Board asked when the next town-wide reassessment will be. Sue B. replied it occurs every 10 years and she believes that 2019 is the 10th year.
- **School wind power allocation** – Magna D. and Ben M. went to the opening celebration of the school wind turbine. The School Principal asked if the Town wants to partner with the School and receive 1% of the allocation of net metering. This arrangement would preclude Town participation in another net metering project. The Board discussed and decided not to pursue the idea.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Swamp Road Bridge** – update- Brian K. reported that the removal is going well and is on schedule within a day or so. 95% of decking has been removed, center section is gone. The company will be out of Cornwall side December 7 and will then move to the Salisbury side to take out another section and a tree. Once the removal is complete, the Agency of Natural Resources will do a final inspection. Dick L. from VTrans and Brian K. have been discussing the temporary bridge.

Construction of the temporary bridge will be staged from the Cornwall side, with an estimated 3-4 weeks to complete. Start date is yet to be determined.

- Harper Act 250 Hearing – John R. provided information on the recent hearing (including a site visit) he attended. None of the Cornwall residents of Wooster Road were able to attend the hearing, but John R. read a statement that the residents signed. John R. testified at the hearing regarding the impact on Cornwall roads. John R. noted that this hearing was only on the issue of traffic. Other issues on the matter will be addressed in other forums.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Meeting Agenda Procedure** - The Secretary/Clerk of the Select Board asked the Board for a modification in the procedure for compiling and posting meeting agendas, to give the Board more flexibility while still being in compliance with Open Meeting laws. It was agreed that the Secretary will send the meeting template (with date of next meeting) by email to the Board Chair on Wednesday of the week before the meeting. The Board Chair will add agenda items. The reminder will be copied to all who need to receive the agenda, so the Board Chair can reply to all to post the completed agenda by Friday. Sue J. will need the agenda on Friday in order to post on the Town website.
- **Capital Committee Participation** - Brian K. asked if the Capital Committee would like him to be involved with the committee regarding road department needs. Capital Committee members present replied that yes, Brian K. is welcome and Mike S. needs to be involved too.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Select Board