

Approved January 7, 2014

TOWN OF CORNWALL  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
Cornwall Town Office  
Tuesday, December 17, 2013

**Present:** Bruce Hiland, Ben Wood, Abi Sessions, Dave Sears, Ben Marks

**Guests:** Lt. Michael Manley, VSP New Haven Barracks Commander; Don Keeler, Addison County Sheriff; Bruce Byers, Katherine Branch, Magna Dodge, Jim Duclos, and Stan Grzyb

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.  
General Fund and Highway Orders - *signed*

**DISCUSSION WITH LT. MANLEY AND SHERIFF KEELER**

Lt. Manley and Sheriff Keeler talked about the different services their organizations provide for Cornwall and how they work together. Lt Manley took over as Commander at the New Haven Barracks when Lt. Gary Genova retired.

Lt Manley said that the number of Cornwall incidents requiring a police response is very low (173 incidents to date in 2013) compared to other towns in the region and the incidents themselves are “run of the mill” (accidents, burglaries, 911 hang-ups, etc.). “People in Addison County speak highly of Cornwall as a low crime town with a good school,” Lt. Manley said.

The Vermont State Police New Haven Barracks provides police services for Cornwall and 18 other towns. The Town of Cornwall contracts with the Addison County Sheriff’s Department for traffic enforcement, for a specific number of hours of patrolling weekly.

Sheriff Keeler said that his department has hired a certified school resource officer with a grant from the Children’s Alliance. This school resource officer, Jill Grant, will be working with all the elementary schools in the district. Primary purpose of her job is to connect with troubled kids, and to address the problem of truancy in the elementary schools. Ms. Grant is visiting the schools now to introduce herself.

Currently, heroin is a big problem in Addison County, along with the abuse of prescription drugs. Prescription drug abuse is occurring in all sections of society regardless of income or education. While heroin and pills are not big problems in Cornwall, they are a problem county-wide and therefore increase the risk of burglaries in Cornwall.

Police advice for residents: Lock your cars, even when parked in your driveway. Lock your homes. A game camera that costs \$100-\$200 can be used as an inexpensive home security system. Residents should tell their neighbors when they will be away. Neighbors looking out for neighbors can be very effective. Bruce Hiland suggested that the Town newsletter would be a great place for a piece from the VSP on home security. Lt. Manley said he would be glad to write up a few paragraphs.

When asked about mistakes that towns commonly make, both officers talked about passing ordinances that can't be enforced. For example, dog officers without training and certification have no statutory authority and cannot issue tickets. A constable cannot enforce law in Vermont unless he/she has been trained and has at least part time certification and works under the direct supervision and control of fully certified law enforcement officers. Bruce Hiland wondered if a regional animal control officer would be possible.

Dave Sears said that as a fire fighter, he has high praise for the work of the Vermont State Police and Addison County Sheriff's Department and how they work together with Town officials and fire departments.

#### **“DOG COMMITTEE” INTERIM REPORT**

Katherine Branch, Magna Dodge, and Bruce Byers presented progress in the work of the “dog committee” in reviewing the current ordinance and researching options for the revision or replacement of this ordinance. They have looked into how other Vermont towns are handling animal control issues, and presented some examples of interest to the committee.

Bruce Hiland suggested that the committee go back to VLCT to get clarification of the information about constables that Lt. Manley and Sheriff Keeler just presented. No fully certified law enforcement officer is supervising or has signed off on the credentials of Barry Forbes, who has offered to contract to provide animal control for Cornwall.

The committee feels that the Town should replace, not revise the current ordinance. However, concerns about enforcement remain. Dog complaints are rare, but they do occur. Katherine said that if the committee gets to the point where they are ready to replace the ordinance, they will come back to get some direction from the board.

#### **MINUTES**

***December 3 meeting:*** Ben MOVED / Abi SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion passed.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Notice that VTrans will participate in PSB 248 process

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

**TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT**

Sue J. is not present tonight. Bruce Hiland confirmed that the Town Office will be closed December 23-27.

**ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT** – Stu J. is not present tonight.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- ***Pipeline Update*** – Cornwall ACRPC representatives and alternates have continued to attend ACRPC general meetings and committee meetings. On Friday December 20, the ACRPC will provide Eileen Simollardes with questions for which she will provide written answers by January 8. At the January 8 ACRPC meeting, the commissioners will have the opportunity to ask clarifying questions of Eileen. Dave Sears would like the question that he has asked repeatedly about what happens to land values when a new pipeline is constructed (with no answer forthcoming from Vermont Gas) to be presented as one of the questions. At the February meeting the body will vote regarding the question of how it will intervene in the PSB 248 process. It has been of great concern to some ACRPC member that at least two ACRPC commissioners have conflicts of interest regarding the Vermont Gas petition and yet continue to be allowed to participate in deliberations.
- ***Pipeline Update for Cornwall Citizens*** - letter to public will go out in early January

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Cornwall Conservation Commission (CCC) recommends Bethany Barry be appointed to the CCC. Abi MOVED /Ben SECONDED a motion to appoint Bethany Barry to the CCC. Motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The board went into executive session at 9:10 pm to discuss personnel matters in the budget. The board came out of executive session at 9:27 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Selectboard