

Approved March 19, 2019

**CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**  
Regular Meeting, Cornwall Town Hall  
February 19, 2019

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ben Marks, John Roberts, Magna Dodge, Ben Wood  
**ALSO PRESENT:** Sue Johnson, Camryn Kluetmeier, Katie Aman, Dave Berno, Katie Kramer, Ken Manchester, Jordan Young, Sean Stearns, Bill Johnson, Peter Newton, Jim Carroll

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

**AGENDA** - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended: Under New Business, add *Discussion of recent incident of dog bite*. Under Other Business, add Discussion of Fire Department Budget. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed  
Report on Reconciled Bank Statement - reviewed

**MINUTES** – February 5 2019 - John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as amended with addition of “PACIF” to clarify item about the bridge insurance agreement and to insert the underlined words in the following sentence “Magna D. is going to inquire as to whether Middlebury College wants to sign on to this next letter to the DOT.” Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Notice of Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) Spring Select Board Institute on March 30.
- Animal Bite Report from the Town Health Officer.
- Fire Survey - passed on to Fire Chief
- Town Meeting Q & A from VLCT

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

**TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER’S REPORT** - Sue Johnson

- Cybersecurity consultant is willing to talk on the phone but not able to attend a meeting. Sue J. will investigate other options for Board edification on this topic.
- Recruitment for help at the polls on March 5 is underway.
- Heat pump needs yearly examination. The company that installed the unit will be doing this job.

- Family owing back taxes would like to meet with the Board of Abatement. Meeting will be scheduled.

#### **ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Michael Sunderland, Road Foreman**

- **Road Maintenance** - 300 tons of sand was hauled to prepare for rest of the winter.
- **Incident on Sperry Road, February 8** - There was an incident with a school bus on Sperry Road on February 8. The bus carrying children to school slid on an icy patch of the road. One of the wheels went slightly off the road. The bus needed to be pulled back onto the road by the highway department. No one was hurt. See discussion under New Business below.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Discussion of dog running at large** - Ben M. spoke with the owner to recommend a physical barrier. Owner said electric fence was now in use. Dog has been seen in the road again since then. Next step - Ben M. will send the dog owners a letter.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Discussion of 2/8 School Bus Incident on Sperry Road** - Katie Kramer discussed the school bus incident with the Board and Road Foreman. Her son was one of the students on the bus on February 8. Katie wanted to know if there was anything the Town could do to improve safety on Sperry Road to prevent such incidents from happening again. Sperry Road has a section that is problematic in winter, with problems created by the combination of a hill, a curve, and a shaded area. It was agreed that the road crew would endeavor to monitor the problem area more closely, and that the Town would review that section of Sperry Road in the spring to see if anything could be done to improve it.
- **Addison County Sheriff's Department Discussion of Services** - Sheriff Peter Newton and Officer Brent Newton discussed the the services that the Sheriff's Department provides to Cornwall with the Board. Sheriff Newton said he will draft an updated contract for the Select Board to review. He also suggested that anytime the Town has an issue they want the Sheriff's Department to be aware of, the Town Clerk can send an email to him or Brent Newton.
- **Consideration of Middlebury bike race on Route 125** - Middlebury College students Katie Anan and Camryn Kluetmeier from the Middlebury Cycling Club, presented plans for the Middlebury College Bike Race, on April 7, 8am-4pm and asked for approval from the Town. The course will begin on Route 125 from the College and then will proceed to James Road headed north. Riders will not begin to race until James Road. Plans include staggered starts and law enforcement traffic control. Ben W. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the use of James Road in Cornwall for this event, contingent on permit approval. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

- **Discussion of Dog Bite this weekend** - Town Health Officer Bill Johnson discussed with the Board an incident that happened over the weekend where a dog (different dog than the one mentioned above) bit a person who was jogging. Mr. Johnson said that the dog has no history of aggression, the owners (new residents in Cornwall) are very sorry and want to prevent this from happening again, and the victim just wants prevention as well. She wants to feel free to walk or run safely on this road again. Next steps - Ben M. will send the dog owners a letter with the dog ordinance attached.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Discussion of Fire Department Budget** - The Board discussed the Fire Department budget with the new Fire Chief Dave Berno. Chief Berno said he would like to bring the budget numbers down and described some specific plans he has to do so, for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The Board suggested that the Fire Department develop a capital plan. Chief Berno said he would like to have 1-2 people from the Fire Department join the Capital Committee. He added that he and others on the Fire Department will be at Town Meeting to answer questions.
- **Executive Session - Meet with Town Attorney regarding Peet Tax Appeal**  
Ben W. MOVED/Magna D. SECONDED a motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the Peet Tax Appeal would clearly place Cornwall at substantial disadvantage by disclosing attorney-client privileged information. Motion passed – 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ben W. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to enter into executive session to meet with the Town Attorney in the matter of the Peet Tax Appeal, under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a)(1) of the Vermont Statutes. Motion passed – 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Select Board went into executive session at 8:45 pm.

The Select Board came out of executive session at 9:27 pm.

John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to sign the Mediation Agreement in the Peet Tax Appeal. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed – 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board