

**TOWN OF CORNWALL  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, November 16, 2010**

**PRESENT:** Bruce Hiland, Joe Severy, Nancy Kemp, Judy Watts

**Absent:** Mike Quesnel

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sue Johnson; CVFD Executive Committee; Jim Duclos, Zoning Admin.

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

### **MINUTES**

**October 19 Minutes** —Judy MOVED, Nancy SECONDED, to accept, with date correction. *Motion passed.* **October 5 Minutes** also *passed* on voice vote.

### **CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- **Abram Foote Estate**—Letter from estate counsel advised estate taxes will be paid.
- **VLCT**—outreach inquiry regarding feedback on recent VAOT projects—Board will respond in a letter regarding cost-overruns on bike path project
- **Proposed Budget Hearing**—Assistant Judges holding a preliminary proposed 2011 budget hearing, December 16, 9:00 AM, Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury.

### **ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson, for Stu**

- **Brush Clearing**—Safety issue when ice storms cause trees/bushes to fall into path of travel. Annual roadside brush clearing had fallen behind resulting in unsightly limb/stump remains from this year's catch-up work. This is anticipated to be a one-time issue as ongoing maintenance will prevent such unsightliness from recurring. Board will look into clean-up issues

### **TOWN CLERK/TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT – Sue Johnson**

- Remaining unpaid taxes are lowest in recent years
- Outside light-fixture shade has blown off, needs to be fixed
- Middlebury has paid their matching funds invoice for the bike path
- An overseas conference call will be needed at the Auditor's meeting as one of the two Auditors is in France. This is acceptable, legally. Sue has requested a quote for an annual records review by a professional firm as ensuring enough town auditors is difficult. There is no budget for such this year, but she will pursue for future info.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **LaValley Project Timeline**—Committee has a deadline of their first meeting in December for their report, plan, and budget
- **Foote Farm Update**—[Jim Duclos] Private covenants govern what can/cannot be done on the parcels; own cannot enforce, parcel owners must work out any disagreements among themselves, and with the Middlebury Area Land Trust on issues affecting common land.
- Dena Greenman has agreed to be the 2011 **Green Up Day Coordinator**; Board voted by voice to appoint her as such.
- **ACRPC Delegate**—Planning Commission needs to present SB with candidate name
- **Emergency Generator Grant**—Grant has been received; Board signed the necessary documents

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Route 30 Bike Path Cost Overrun**—October 20 meeting at Town Hall with RPC, Bike Path Steering Committee, VAOT accountant, and others was not satisfactory from Board's point of view. Cost nearly doubled, town given no notice, no updates, no opportunity to mitigate the issue—should not be liable for overrun expense. Bruce presented a letter to be

sent to AOT officials, requesting a readjustment of the town's assigned portion from 20% to 10%, with 10% allotted to the state, and 8th the federal share placed at 80%; Board discussed, will review prior to mailing.

- **Town Plan Reoption**—Town is seeking a planning grant, A hearing is required which the Board will schedule.
- **Fence Viewer**—Joe MOVED, Judy SECONDED to appoint Chuck Burdick as fence-viewer. Subsequent discussion revealed that Mickey Heinicken had already been appointed. Joe MOVED, Judy SECONDED that their previous motion be rescinded. *Motion passed.*
- **Lemon Fair Insect Control District**—Chair of LFICD seeks level funding from the state and is asking for suggestions as to how best to do this. Joe may attend their next meeting on December 7.
- **Planning Commission Proposal**—[Jim] Habitat for Humanity has submitted a proposal to build four affordable housing units on a parcel on Delong Road. Financing would be from funds generated by the Foote Farm sale; funds are under the control of the Trustees of Public Funds. PC needs to pursue the issue with the Trustees.
- Jim also reported on current status of the ongoing public health issue proceedings. SB can expect considerable expense when taking case to environmental court. Bruce will look into “step one” and associated costs.

#### **Cornwall Volunteer Fire Dept**—7:45pm

Informal discussion regarding various issues affecting, or of concern to, the VFD. Of particular note:

- SB and residents need to be mindful of all the hidden hours donated by volunteers to maintain and repair buildings, equipment, and vehicles; budget does not reflect these hours.
- Need for proponents of volunteers to be on the state boards; all state trainings currently tend to lean toward professionals, volunteers have difficulty accessing trainings at the tax-funded Fire Academy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Conway  
Substitute Minute-Taker