

Approved December 16 2014

TOWN OF CORNWALL  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
Cornwall Town Office  
Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Present: Bruce Hiland, Ben Wood, Ben Marks, Magna Dodge

Absent: Dave Sears

Also Present: Bobbie Carnwath, Jack Carter, John Burton, David Pistilli

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

AGENDA - *approved*

Ben Marks added Community Solar Project under New Business. CPC member Bobbie Carnwath would like to discuss with the board

Fund and Highway Orders - *signed*

Report on Reconciled Bank Statement - *reviewed*

**MINUTES** – November 18, 2014

Magna MOVED/ Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Notice from VLCT that the annual fee will be \$1.07 per citizen x 1185 Cornwall citizens

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Burton asked for agenda for this meeting, said he could not locate on the website. Sue J. replied that it has been posted on the board outside and was posted today on the website, one day late because of the holiday. Mr. Burton was given a written copy of the agenda. Mr. Burton expressed his concerns about Town record keeping. He also believes the Town should put out to bid jobs that are currently being done by Town employees, such as culvert installation. Bruce Hiland thanked Mr. Burton for his comments and said that an agenda item regarding recording keeping will be added to a future Select Board meeting.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT – Sue Johnson

- Sue will be at a payroll meeting December 4 and Joan will cover the office.
- Letters requesting annual reports for Town Meeting will be going out soon
- The Capital Plan and Budget Committee will meet December 11 – to start the process for the annual hearing in January.

**ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT** - Stu Johnson

- No major problems during the storm in late November. Salt was needed for the roads.
- As discussed in the last meeting of the Capital Plan and Budget Committee, the Town will purchase a pickup truck instead of a mower. Stu has pricing for Ford pickup available locally. Money for this purchase is in the capital fund. The truck, plus the plow equipment that comes with it, is priced well under budget.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Pipeline update**
  - Bruce and Magna met with VT Gas representatives, who have committed to come back with a specific proposal tomorrow afternoon (December 4). Pipeline discussion with attorney Ben Marks will continue later in the meeting in Executive Session.
  - Management changes continue at VT Gas.
  - PSB process continues – estimated time for the board decision is the middle of March.
- **Road Ordinance Discussion**
  - At the last meeting, the board reviewed the Middlebury road ordinance, and decided it was more than what Cornwall needs. Ben Marks will create a concise summary of the key protections that the Middlebury ordinance conveys for discussion on December 16.
- **General and Highway Budget Discussion** – Town Treasurer Sue Johnson and the Select Board continued review of the proposed general fund and highway budgets for 2015-16. Salaries for Town employees will be discussed in Executive Session later in the meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Middlebury Regional EMS** – Vice President David Pistilli presented information on the current services, leadership changes, and financial status of the organization and submitted a request to the Town for an annual allocation of \$2.50 per citizen (1185 Cornwall citizens) for 2015-16. The organization is making the same request to all 10 towns it serves. Mr. Pistilli said that while the students at Middlebury College do not count in the allocation census in Middlebury, the college is well informed, very supportive and also very involved with the organization. Dave Sears, who had invited David Pistilli to the meeting, could not be present tonight. Mr. Pistilli said if Dave Sears has other questions, he would be glad to answer them by phone or email.
- **Community solar project** – Bobbie Carnwath is here on behalf of the Cornwall Planning Commission. The CPC is currently assessing progress made in implementing the goals of the Town Plan and Bobbie is following up on recent CPC discussions on implementing Town Plan energy goals. Bobbie Carnwath asked, “Would the Town be interested in exploring the idea of a solar array on Town land, to benefit Town buildings? If so, what would be the procedure?” Ben Marks suggested Bobbie C. contact ACORN and Sun Commons to get more information and then to compare the models for solar array projects that these organizations have developed. The next step would be to talk with the Capital Plan and Budget Committee to see what can be folded into the capital program. The board members agreed that the Planning Commission should develop the idea further and then come to the Select Board for discussion. Ben Marks added

that the CPC does not need to develop a project from scratch as there are several operating solar array projects nearby to study, view and compare.

Bobbie also asked about increasing energy efficiency in Town buildings. Ben Wood said that plans for an addition to the Town Hall are in the very initial stages and that energy issues are an important part of the planning.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Ben W. MOVED / Magna SECONDED a motion to find that premature general public knowledge of negotiations with Vermont Gas Systems will clearly place Cornwall at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing Cornwall's negotiation strategy. *Motion passed.*
- Ben W. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the Town's negotiations with Vermont Gas Systems under provision of Title I, Section 313(a) (1) of the Vermont Statutes. *Motion passed.*
- Magna MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to find that general public knowledge of salaries of Town employees will clearly place Cornwall at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing confidential information about employees salaries. *Motion passed.*
- Magna MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the Town employees' salaries under provision of Title I, Section 313(a) (1) of the Vermont Statutes. *Motion passed.*
- 8:35 pm – Board went into executive session.
- 8:57 pm – Board came out of executive session.

#### **Budget Discussion continued - Town Employee's Salaries**

Ben Marks MOVED / Ben Wood SECONDED a motion to increase the annual salary of the Cornwall employees by 2.5%, commencing July 1, 2015. *Motion passed.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Select Board