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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting, Cornwall Town Office
December 4, 2018

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Sunderland, Sue Johnson, Holly Noordsy

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.
Quorum - established

AGENDA - John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended with addition of two items: an update on zoning enforcement issues and update on role of Fire Warden. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

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

MINUTES - November 20, 2018 - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Brian K.)

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Notice that Marshall's Alarm Service is merging with The Royal Group.
- EMS World publication - to forward to the fire department
- Annual Report of the Addison County Solid Waster Management District
- Vermont League of Cities and Towns newsletter

PUBLIC COMMENTS -Holly Noordsy, co-chair of the Cornwall Planning Commission (CPC), discussed the following issues with the Board:

- **Date for the CPC hearing on proposed new zoning and subdivision by-laws.**
Holly N. reported that the CPC voted to schedule their hearing for the proposed new regulations on January 9 at 7 pm. The Select Board encouraged Holly N. to set a later date in January, giving the public more time to read and digest the document, as 3 weeks over the holidays may not be sufficient time. Holly N. said she would bring this recommendation back to the CPC Board for consideration.
- **Availability of Final Draft of Proposed Regulations** - The CPC will be voting on the final draft of this document on December 12, then can warn the hearing and make the final draft available to the public. The most recent draft is available now for

review by the Development Review Board and the Select Board, as the CPC does not anticipate on making substantive changes at the meeting on December 12.

- **Upcoming work of the CPC** - If substantive changes need to be made after the January CPC hearing on the proposed regulations, the CPC will have to hold another hearing. If no substantive changes are made, the document will be passed on to the Select Board to continue the process according to State statute. The CPC will focus next on an update to the Town Plan. The current Town Plan does not include some newly required sections, and those sections must be added before the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) will approve it. Members of the CPC are also part of a group planning the proposed park next to the Town Hall, and a group planning recreational trails.
- **Budget issues** - CPC does not anticipate extraordinary expenses in the coming fiscal year, so requests the standard operating budget. Holly N. reported that the CPC recommends additional funding in the general budget for traffic enforcement, Ben M. said he will be talking with the newly elected Sheriff, as the Town needs an updated contract with the Sheriff's department. Mike S. offered that there are grants available to help purchase speed reporting equipment.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- Sue J. passed out the updated list of Delinquent Taxes - to be reviewed again in May and action taken as appropriate.
- Sue J. assisted in the recount in the race for State's Attorney. The recount took all day on Monday the 26th and extended into the following day. Sue's role involved the running and resetting the tabulator, so many times that she now considers herself an expert in tabulator-running.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Mike Sunderland, Road Foreman

- Climate change of 2 degrees makes a significant negative impact on the work of the road department. Methods must change in response to the new reality.
- Mike S. would like to grade roads with potholes, but weather may prevent that. Other towns have been filling in potholes with gravel, as a last resort.
- Sand is all in, more salt is coming. Salt shortage not anticipated this year.
- New welder and toolbox have been purchased.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Zoning Enforcement Issues** -update - John R. reported that he has gathered the historical evidence relevant to one case discussed at the last meeting. He will show the evidence to the Town Attorney, before a decision on next steps. Regarding the second case, the Town Attorney will write a letter to that business owner informing him that he is not in compliance with Town regulations and instructing him in what he must do, to come into compliance.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion of re-authorizing Cornwall's Solar Screening Ordinance** - Holly N. said that the CPC recommends that the Select Board re-authorizes the current

ordinance, so as to have an ordinance in place as protection, but that the CPC has long-term concerns about said ordinance, because the by-law not only applies to new solar installations but also to all new business construction in Cornwall, and the screening requirements would be onerous for a business, for example, such as a general store and in conflict with the Town Plan. Holly N. provided the Board with copies of relevant sections of the proposed new regulations, that have been reviewed by the Town Attorney. Ben M. said that he was told that a solar ordinance should be a stand alone document, and not part of the zoning regulations. He will ask the Town Attorney to clarify. Ben M. asked if new construction of large buildings such as barns, could be required to have solar panels on their roofs. Holly N. will ask the Town Attorney about it.

John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to schedule a hearing on re-adopting the Solar Screening Ordinance for January 3 at 7 pm. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

- **Discussion of Addison County Solid Waste District alternate representative** - there is a need for an alternate. No name(s) have been brought forth yet. The Board asked Sue J. to post the opening on the website, in the newsletter, and on Front Porch Forum.
- **Discussion of Appointment of Assistant Zoning Administrator (ZA)**- the Zoning Administrator has been without an assistant for some time and as the workload has changed, the need is more critical. Ben M. will ask the ZA if he has someone to recommend.
- **Budget FY 2019-2020** - Sue J. passed out the budget sheets. She will send some more information on proposed budget figures for 2019-2020, to be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Fire Warden** - Ben M. plans to talk with the Fire Warden about the changing role of the position. The Board agreed that more information needs to get out to the public about rules on burning in backyards.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board