

Approved February 19, 2019

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Capital Fund Program and Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting, Cornwall Town
Hall
February 5, 2019

CAPITAL FUND PROGRAM AND BUDGET HEARING

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Mary Conlon

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

Members of the Cornwall Capital Budget and Planning Committee presented and discussed with the Select Board the proposed capital fund plan and budget for 2019-2010, including the equipment budget for the highway department and fire department and the buildings budget. The Capital Budget and Planning Committee recommends that the Select Board approve the plan and that a capital equipment line item of \$130,000, capital building line item of \$100,000 and capital paving line item of \$25,000 be added to the proposed Cornwall town budget for 2019-2020.

Sue J. mentioned that the Committee intends to meet more frequently in the coming year. The Board thanked the Committee for their work on the Capital Budget and Plan, especially Mary Conlon for her work in maintaining the detailed spreadsheet.

John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the hearing. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

REGULAR MEETING

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.
Quorum- established

AGENDA - John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended: Under Old Business, add *Response to letter from Vermont*

Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding Route 125. Under New Business, add Discuss Neighboring Towns Fire Department Budgets and Discuss Dog Running at Large in Town. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

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

MINUTES – January 15, 2019 - John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as amended with addition of the following phrase in the motion regarding reason for Executive Session: “and that confidential employee information would be discussed.” Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES - February 1, 2019 - Ben W. MOVED / Magna D SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Ben M).

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Notice from Vermont Department of Transportation regarding site visit and hearing on February 21 at 9am on proposed helicopter landing site.
- Letter from Select Board chairs in Waterbury and Strafford advocating an increase in the gas tax to fund maintenance of transportation infrastructure.
- Letter from Vermont Department of Taxes acknowledging Cornwall’s petition for a redetermination of tax values and informing the Town of the process to follow.
- Notice of Middlebury Little League fundraiser
- Letter of Resignation from Larry Clark, as Fire Warden

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER’S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- Cybersecurity consultant is scheduled come to the February 19 Select Board meeting. Newly elected county sheriff also plans to attend that meeting.
- Vergennes Police Department will be providing additional patrols of State highways in the area, so we may see them in Cornwall, in addition to patrols by the Sheriff’s Department.
- Marg Drexler is concerned about the fact that her neighbor’s home has been targeted again.
- Sue J. informed the Board that the State Department of Watershed Management requires the Town to fill out an annual report. The Board authorized Sue J. to complete the form. Sue J. will call the Road Foreman to obtain relevant information for the report.
- Town Report is almost complete and plan is to send to the printers by the end of this week.

ROAD COMMISSIONER’S REPORT - Brian Kemp

- **Road Maintenance** - plan to haul more sand to prepare for rest of the winter
- **Bridge** - extension on agreement with Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) PACIF needs to be renewed. The Town keeps VLCT PACIF well informed as to progress on bridge replacement, so renewal should not be a problem.
- **Grants**- State aid grants are coming out, and have April deadline. Town plans to apply for applicable grants.
- **Highway Department Spending** - Brian K. plans to meet with the Road Foreman to discuss spending in the department. The Board plans to review the purchasing policy, as should be done regularly.
- **Potholes** - Weather has created more potholes, which grow much bigger if vehicles move speedily through them. Complaints about potholes continue to be received. Grading is not a solution, would only make the problem worse.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Discussion of Response to Letter from Vermont DOT about Route 125** - it was agreed that the Town wishes to advocate for more immediate action by the DOT to address the dangerous section of Route 125. Magna D. is going to inquire as to whether Middlebury College wants to sign on to this next letter to the DOT.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Vote on Capital Fund Budget Recommendations** - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the recommendations (as detailed in hearing minutes, above) of the Capital Budget and Planning Committee for fiscal year 2019- 2010. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **Appointment of Thomas Frankovic as Cornwall Fire Warden** - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to recommend that the Vermont Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation appoint Thomas Frankovic as Cornwall Fire Warden. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **Discuss purchase of mower for Highway Department** - one bid has been received. It was agreed that more information, and at least one more bid is needed. Sue J. pointed out that the Capital Committee does not manage purchasing processes, but only provides a fiscal planning tool for capital purchases.
- **Discuss neighboring town's fire department purchases** - Ben M. presented information about the budgets of fire departments in neighboring towns and the Board discussed this information as compared with the fire department budget in Cornwall.
- **Dog Running at Large** - a dog belonging to Cornwall residents has been running at large in the road on multiple occasions over a long period of time, presenting a threat to public safety. Ben M. will contact the dog's owners as the first step to solving this problem.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Executive Session regarding Peet Tax Appeal**

John R. 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 – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to enter into executive session to discuss attorney-client privileged information in the matter of the Peet Tax Appeal, under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a)(1) of the Vermont Statutes. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

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

The Select Board came out of executive session at 8:59 pm.

No actions were taken.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board