

Approved March 17, 2020

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Cornwall Town Hall
February 18, 2020

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Brenda Fleming, Michelle Black, Douglas Black, Adam Brightman

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

Quorum - established

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

Report on Reconciled Bank Statement - reviewed

AGENDA - Magna D. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with the addition of two items: in NEW BUSINESS - Development Review Board (DRB) Appointments and in OTHER BUSINESS - Proposed Bill in Vermont Legislature pertaining to trees in the public right-of way. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES

- **February 4, 2020** - John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as amended - with one correction in the last sentence of NEW BUSINESS - Discussion with Gary Barnett - strike the word "elections" and replace with "appointments." Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from Adam Brightman (see public comments)

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Neighbors Adam Brightman, Brenda Fleming, Douglas Black and Michelle Black are present to state their ongoing concerns about a neighboring property that they have been unable to resolve directly with the owner, and that may be in violation of Town zoning regulations. The Select Board expects the new Zoning Administrator (ZA) to be officially in place in one more day. The new ZA, Gary Barnett, is already aware of this situation, will review relevant documents and conduct an investigation in a timely manner, once he officially starts his position. Ben M. told Mr. Brightman, Ms. Fleming and Mr. and Ms. Black that the Select Board does not meet again until mid-March and that Gary Barnett will contact them and that they can communicate directly with him.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- Sue J. remains focused on preparing for Town Meeting Day and March 3 elections.

- Sue has been holding training sessions for workers on voting day, as new rules allow young adults 17 years of age to vote in the presidential primary if they will turn 18 before the general election in November.
- Sue received a letter from Jen Woodward regarding insurance coverage for the bridge. The coverage period needs to be renewed, which Sue has facilitated. Ms. Woodward asked if there was updated information from the Agency of Transportation regarding the scoping phase. Brian K. stated that no new information has been received. John R. suggested that the Town be in touch with our Congressmen, to see what can be done to move the process along.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp

- Due to snow storms and icy conditions in the past two week, the crew has spent considerable time maintaining roads. Brian K. assisted the road crew in their work last weekend. Sand hauled two weeks ago is gone and more will need to be hauled and treated with salt, due to current weather conditions. They have also been hauling a large quantities of gravel, in anticipation of milder weather.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Discussion Related to Appointment of Zoning Administrator (ZA)** - Ben M. said that he has been in touch with Conor Stinson regarding the candidate for Zoning Administrator, Gary Barnett. The Planning Commission will meet on February 19 to vote on recommending Gary Barnett as ZA. In light of the need for the Town to have a Zoning Administrator in place, and in anticipation of the anticipated recommendation of Gary Barnett by the Planning Commission, John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to appoint Gary Barnett as Zoning Administrator, subject to nomination by the Planning Commission. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

- **Status of Section of Zoning / By-law Revisions and Section II**

John R. and Ben M. met again with Planning Commissioners Conor Stinson and Don Burns. It was agreed that Ben M. will compose the next draft of Section II, to be reviewed by the Select Board, and to be used as the basis of conversations between the Planning Commission and Select Board as the next step of the process. Meanwhile, the Town is not without zoning and subdivision regulations, as the current regulations remain in place.

NEW BUSINESS

- **DRB Appointments** - Ben M. reported that the DRB has recommended that Joan Lynch be appointed and that Cheryl Cesario be re-appointed as DRB alternates, each for a 3-year term.

John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to appoint Joan Lynch for a 3 year term as DRB alternate and to re-appoint Cheryl Cesario for a 3-year term as DRB alternate. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Proposed Bill H.673** - John R. reported that there is a proposed bill in the Vermont legislature, H.673, that, if passed in current form, would increase responsibilities of the Tree Warden and would require hearings before a tree in the public right-of-way could be cut down. Sue J. said that Cornwall's Tree Warden, Stu Johnson, is aware of H.673, and is following the legislative process of this bill. She added that if this bill passes, it would also impact the Highway Department. The bill is currently being considered by the House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

Magna D MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board