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**CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**

Regular Meeting  
Cornwall Town Hall  
March 17, 2020

NOTE: Due to the current novel corona virus pandemic, the Town is following advice of state and national public health authorities to practice social distancing to “flatten the curve” of infection from Covid-19. Therefore, a very small number of participants were present at the Town Hall, and the rest were present via conference call, for all or part of the meeting. Technical difficulties delayed the start of the meeting, caused conference call connections to be dropped several times during the meeting, and prevented some members of the public from participating remotely, as they had hoped to do. Due to the overall poor results provided by the free conference call technology tested for this meeting, the Town will make arrangements to use a different technology for conference calls for subsequent meetings.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sue Johnson, David Anderson, Don Burns, Conor Stinson

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by Sue Johnson, Town Clerk.  
Quorum - established

**AGENDA** - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with deletion of Consideration and Approval of the Cornwall 2020 Local Emergency Management Plan and the addition of Discussion of a Dog Issue and Discussion of the Well at the Town Garage, under NEW BUSINESS.

**ORGANIZATION**

- **Elect Chair** - Ben W. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to elect Ben Marks as Chair of the Select Board. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Ben M.)
- **Elect Vice Chair** - Ben W. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to elect John Roberts as Vice- Chair of the Select Board. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (John R.)
- **Elect Secretary of the Board** - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to elect Sharon Tierra Secretary of the Select Board, until her resignation is effective. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **Appoint Officials** - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to appoint the appointment and reappointment list slate of officials to one year terms. Motion

passed -5 in favor, 0 opposed. Sue J. noted that there are still some vacancies and efforts should continue to recruit Cornwall citizens to fill those roles.

- **Set Meeting Schedule** - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to set the meeting schedule for 2020/21 as follows: Regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Exceptions are June, July and August when the Board will meet on the first Tuesday only and the months of March and November when the Board will meet on the second Tuesday instead of the first Tuesday, due to elections. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **Approve Robert rules of Order for Use at Select Board Meetings** - Ben W. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the use of Roberts Rules for Select Board meetings. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **Designate Newspaper of Record** - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to designate the Addison County Independent as the newspaper of record. Motion passed- 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

**General Fund and Highway Orders** - signed by those present. The rest of the Board will come to the office later in the week to sign.

**Report on Reconciled Bank Statement** - reviewed

## **MINUTES**

- **February 18, 2020** - Ben W. MOVED / Magna. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **2020 Town Meeting Minutes** - Ben W. MOVED / Magna. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Email from Michael Sheriden regarding joint meetings between the Conservation Commission and the Select Board, and message that Fire Department would be glad to help citizens who need things during the novel corona virus pandemic. Regarding joint meetings, Ben M. will follow up with Michael Sheriden and also with the chairs of other Cornwall boards and committees. The Select Board plans to make a bigger effort than last year to hold joint meetings, for improved communication.
- Email from T Tall with suggestion to move Town Meeting Day to Saturday, to promote increased attendance. Discussion tabled until the Board can meet face to face.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

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

- Election processes went smoothly and Sue J. feels that the trainings for workers that she conducted paid off.
- Addison County has created a mutual aid site for those who need help and those who can offer help. <https://sites.google.com/view/acvtmutualaid/home>
- Sue said she knows most people in town, and is willing to make some calls to folks who may be especially vulnerable now, to let them know that the Fire Department

stands ready to help, if needed. Sue advised that in two weeks, there may be increased needs.

- Sue J. and the Board discussed the advisability of closing the Town office to the public. Other towns have already done so, including Middlebury and Shoreham. It was agreed that the office should be closed to the public until April 6, at which time the situation will be reassessed. Sue J. will continue to work at the Town office, and will still be able to get citizens needed documents and answer questions by phone and email.

#### **ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp**

- After a winter with challenging conditions, the roads are in rough shape. Road crew have been busy maintaining roads. Stu Johnson recently assisted the road crew by doing some grading.
- Brian K. received a complaint that a contractor was recently driving on soft roads with a heavily loaded dump truck. Brian K. will follow up with this contractor.
- Town of Weybridge has inquired if they could borrow the excavator for a couple of days. They have been unable to secure contracted excavator services for a job that needs immediate attention. They will reciprocate by hauling gravel for Cornwall. The Board told the Road Commissioner that this decision is up to him to use his best judgment to make. Brian K. replied that he will say yes, as he is confident Cornwall's equipment will be in good hands in Weybridge.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Consideration and possible approval of proposed Town Plan Flood Resiliency language.** Don Burns, member of the Planning Commission, discussed with the Select Board the current draft (with red line revisions) of the Flood Resiliency section, proposed to be added to the Town Plan. Next steps: the Planning Commission will post the draft for public review, schedule a hearing, make any changes, and then send to the Select Board for approval. It was noted, that due to the novel corona virus pandemic, it is unclear when the the required hearing can be scheduled.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Dog Issue** - South Bingham resident called with a complaint that a Rottweiler dog attacked her dog when she was out walking, and the dog knocked her over as well, resulting in some bruising. Her dog was injured and required treatment from a vet. The owner of the Rottweiler, who was out of town at the time, was contacted and will pay the vet bills. The owner's farm help was charged with control of the dog, who apparently broke out of his chain before the attack. John R. will follow up with the owner, and will send him a copy of the dog ordinance.
- **Well at Town Garage** - The water at the Town Garage has been changing in color and texture and clogging filters every 3 days. John R. advised that it may be manganese and iron and might need a different filter. Sue J. suggested that the former Road Commissioner Stu Johnson be contacted, as he had this problem before.

- **Consideration of possible Cornwall Continuity of Operations Plan** - tabled until next meeting.
- **Set schedule for meetings with other Town commissions / boards-** tabled until next meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board