

Approved April 21, 2020

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Cornwall Town Hall
April 7, 2020

NOTE: Today's meeting Select Board meeting was held by teleconference and all Cornwall meetings will be via teleconference until further notice.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Don Burns, Conor Stinson, Peter Conlon, T Tall, Ollie Cultrara

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm, once technical difficulties were resolved.

Quorum - established

AGENDA - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with addition of the following items: legislative update from Peter Conlon, update on Zoning Administrator investigation, update on dog issue, and Discussion with T Tall regarding Town Meeting. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

General Fund and Highway Orders - have been circulated electronically by Sue J. to the Board members to review, sign and return.

Report on Reconciled Bank Statement - have been circulated electronically by Sue J. for Board members to review.

MINUTES

- **March 17, 2020** - Ben W. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as amended with correction to the meeting schedule for 2020/21 - Board is scheduled to meet on the third Tuesday only in March and November, due to elections (not the second Tuesday as drafted). Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Notice from our computer software company regarding increased level of cybersecurity - no action needed.
- Annual renewal contract for services from Homeward Bound. Magna D. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to select the same contract terms as last year (\$450 to house up to 3 stray dogs during the year, plus \$75 per dog for each additional dog). Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- Letter from T Tall advocating for a change in the day/time of Town Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Representative Peter Conlon shared information about the initial financial impacts in Vermont of the global corona virus pandemic. The Education Fund is expected to lose 90 million dollars in revenue. The budget for FY20 will need to be adjusted and an FY21 budget for just three months made, due to economic uncertainties. Rep. Conlon also reported on a new unemployment program for independent contractors and people who are self-employed. For advice for municipalities, he suggested that towns would be relying on the Vermont League of Cities and Towns more than ever. He will keep the Town informed, as the situation progresses, and is available to hear concerns and answer questions from citizens.
- T Tall expressed his concern about the decline in attendance at Town Meeting. He would like to see Town Meeting re-energized by changing the date from the first Tuesday in March

to the prior Saturday. T Tall asked the Select Board to change the date. Sue J. said that she would check, but believed that, by Statute, the date of Town Meeting could only be changed by the voters. After discussion, it was generally agreed that one next step that could be taken by citizens concerned about attendance, would be to find out why attendance was declining, perhaps through a study group. Discovering the reason(s) for the decline, would inform any action.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- **Town Office** - Sue J. reported that she is going into the office and functioning well to provide basic services, while the Town Hall building is closed to the public. The building will be closed to the public for the foreseeable future, until the Governor lifts the State of Emergency.
- **Taxes** - the deadline will remain the same. Taxpayers may have the opportunity to pay through automatic checking account withdrawals (ACH) or credit cards. Sue J. is exploring these options.
- **Lawn Mowing** - after discussion, the Board agreed to solicit bids, as the Town has in the past.
- **Dog Licenses** - after discussion, the Board agreed that the focus should be on maximizing the number of dogs who are licensed and rabies shot verified, not on late fees, during this time of economic stress due to the pandemic.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp

- Crew has been hauling large amount of gravel, and has mixed coarser material in with fine to improve results on roads.
- Weather conditions have helped crew maintain the roads, and Stu Johnson has provided assistance with grading.
- Town Garage has signs posted that the building is closed to the public, the same as the Town Hall.
- Stu Johnson identified a need for grader parts, that Brian K. has ordered already. The Board agreed that was a wise action to take, because even a short delay could result in the lack of availability.
- When conditions allow, harrowing will begin.
- Regarding the possible need for weight limits on Class III roads in mud season, Brian K. reported that he spoke with the contractor about whom a complaint was received. Brian K. is assured that this contractor was in fact being careful not to create damage. Brian K. asked this contractor to call the Road Foreman or the Road Commissioner in the future before he plans to drive a load over a Class III road in mud season again.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Consideration and possible approval of proposed Town Plan Flood Resiliency language.** Don Burns and Conor Stinson of the Planning Commission discussed the latest draft with the Board. Regarding limits to development next to small streams, Magna D. asked if the Planning Commission could specify properties affected. Conor S. will consult with Andrew from Addison County Regional Planning Commission to find the answer. The Planning Commission will make some further changes to the draft so that the map and narrative are clear regarding small streams.
- **Update from Zoning Administrator (ZA) - ZA Gary Barnett** is conducting an investigation of potential zoning violations. He met with the property owner. The next step for the ZA is to consult with the Town Attorney.
- **Update on Dog Issue** - John R. spoke with the owner on South Bingham, whose dog broke its' leash and injured another dog and owner. A cage or run is planned. Sue J. reported that this dog is not yet licensed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion of Cornwall 2020 Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)** - After discussion, John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to adopt the latest draft LEMP. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed. Ben Marks is serving as the Emergency Management Director by default. He suggested that the Town would be better served by someone more experienced in directing emergencies, such as a member of the Fire Department.
- **Consideration of possible Cornwall Continuity of Operations Plan** - tabled until next meeting.
- **Discussion of Cornwall Covid - 19 Volunteer Assistance Efforts**

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>. Ollie Cultrara, AmeriCorps volunteer working in Addison County, spoke about their recent work in coordinating this mutual aid site. Ollie C. said that while many people from Cornwall have offered to provide help, people who may need help have not yet requested help through this website. It may be that informal networks (neighbors watching out for one another) in these past few weeks, have been sufficient to meet needs in Cornwall. Sue J. did send out a letter and a notice in the electronic newsletter that the Fire Department stands ready to help Cornwall citizens in any way they need. Ben M. said he would introduce Ollie C. to the Fire Chief.

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 9:30 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board