

Approved July 7, 2020

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Via Zoom Teleconference
June 2, 2020

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Roberts, , Brian Kemp, Ben Wood, Magna Dodge, Ben Marks
ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Lorraine B. Paquette, Frances Paquette

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
Recording of meeting - announced
Quorum - established

AGENDA - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as posted. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

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

MINUTES

- **May 19, 2020** - Ben W. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Brian K).

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- **Letter from the Hamiltons** with request for "Slow, Children at Play" road sign(s) at the junction of DeLong, Douglas, and Gavin roads. Road Commissioner Brian K. expressed support for this request and added that 4 signs would be needed, one for each approach to the intersection. Brian K. will bring a list of proposed road signs currently needed (including the replacement of the stolen stop sign at the Swamp Road bridge) for Board approval, at the next meeting. Brian K. will also reach out to the Hamiltons to inform them of the response to their letter.
- **Letter from Addison County Sheriff's Department**, notifying the Town of increase in hourly rate for patrol services to \$31.00/ hour, effective July 1, 2020, and further increases in 2021 and 2022. John R. suggested that the key question here is - does police presence in Cornwall increase road safety? The Board asked Sue J. to bring the relevant data to the July meeting for Board review. Ben M. will invite the Sheriff to the August meeting to discuss the matter.
- Signed agreement from Mr. and Ms. Melish regarding licensing and controlling their dogs. Ben M. will forward a copy of this agreement to the Paquettes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- **Taxes** - List of delinquent taxpayers has been sent to Tax Collector Rodney Caderet.
- **Office Limited Opening** - Sue J. re-opened the office today, allowing professional title searchers to make appointments (2 per day) to come to the office. Face coverings, gloves, own writing materials, and social distancing are required. Sue J. is waiting for guidance from the Governor to plan next steps for opening the office.

- **Current Budget** - Board members agreed that reviewing actual income and expenses as cumulative line items in the current budget is very helpful and thanked the Town Treasurer for providing these numbers each month.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp

- Road crew continues to follow Covid-19 requirements while working.
- Wooster Road project continues. Next step is to spread the RAS.
- Brian K. received correspondence from Ridge Road residents asking about the different colors/compositions of road materials. Brian K. drove the road to see for himself, and then followed up with the residents to address their concerns.
- Brian K. attended (virtually) an asphalt and road maintenance workshop. Has spreadsheet handouts to share with anyone who is interested. The main take-away from the workshop is that keeping up with preventative maintenance of roads saves a lot of money "down the road". Brian K. said he plans on following up with the presenter to get information comparing the costs of gravel vs paved roads.
- Bridport, Shoreham and Weybridge have been assisting in hauling gravel for Cornwall as part of the informal mutual assistance that the highway departments of neighboring towns engage in.
- Most of the roads in Cornwall are in need of gravel. John R. remarked that South Bingham is in high need of gravel. Brian K. confirmed that South Bingham is high on the list for gravel.
- Brian K. has suggested to the Road Foreman Michael Sunderland that Cornwall employ a successful strategy used recently by Shoreham - mowing first followed immediately by discing.

OLD BUSINESS- Update on Dog Incident

- South Bingham resident Lorraine Paquette described in detail the March 14 incident in which she and her dog were attacked by a dog owned by Carolyn and Ramsey Melish on the road in front of the Melish home on South Bingham Street. This was the second time their dog Bo attacked her while she was walking by their home. Both she and her dog (a service dog) were injured during the incident on March 14.
- Lorraine and Frances Paquette also described the 4-year history of cows and horses belonging to the Melish family, repeatedly coming onto the Paquette property and doing damage to lawn, leach field and gardens.
- The Board (with John R. wearing his citizen hat and not in his role as Select Board member, for reasons of conflict of interest) discussed with the Paquettes, the actions the Town has taken thus far to enforce the dog ordinance, in response to their complaint to the Town that was made soon after the March 14 incident. Ben M. will forward a copy of the signed agreement with the Melish family, that specifies July 1 as the date by which the fence must be built.
- Ben M. will have the animal control officer contact the Melish family this week and ask to see a copy of the quote to build the fence, to make sure the agreement they signed is being carried out.
- Regarding the problem with cows and horses coming onto the Paquette property, Ben M. explained that the Town does not have any authority to address the control of farm animals. Ben M. said he would make some calls and get back to the Paquettes about which agency to call to lodge their complaint.

NEW BUSINESS - none

OTHER BUSINESS

Town Meeting Amendments - Having researched the Select Board's ability to limit floor motions at Town Meeting to amend charitable contributions by the Town, the Select Board came to the conclusion that they had no direct power to prohibit such motions, although

individual Select Board members were free to speak for or against any proposed floor amendment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board