

Approved September 1, 2020

## **CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**

Regular Meeting  
Via Zoom Teleconference  
August 4, 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, Mike Sunderland, Anna Burns

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.  
Recording of meeting - announced  
Quorum - established

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

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

### **MINUTES**

- **July 7, 2020** - Ben W. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **July 21, 2020** - Ben W. MOVED / MGNA D. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained (John R. and Brian K.)

### **CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Letter from Sheriff Peter Newton about ordinances
- Correspondence for John R. from David Anderson
- Letter from Skyler Wolseley regarding the 4-way intersection at west end of Cider Mill Road - Ben M. will scan and send to all Select Board members for review
- Certificate from the Census Bureau regarding confirmation of the borders of the Town of Cornwall.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

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

- **Tax rates** - the Listers are close to have the abstract ready. If there is no grievance response, the Town will use the abstract to set the tax rate, at a special Select Board meeting before the end of August.
- **August 11 State primary election** - Sue J. sent out about 400 ballots and about 200 have been received back so far. As long as the sealed ballot is received at the Town Hall and in the hands of the Town Clerk by 7 pm on August 11, it will be on time. The certificate envelope must be signed by the registered voter for the ballot inside to be valid, as the directions in the absentee voting packet clearly specify. There will be a skeleton crew at the Town Hall on election day. There will be 4 voting booths set up. Two people will be allowed in to vote at a time, with the other 2 booths being sanitized in between their use.

- **Grants available** - There is a new grant for digitizing land records. Application is due September 1. Sue will look into it, after the election, to see if the grant requirements are feasible for Cornwall.
- **Town Office copier** will be 5 years old at the end of September. Options are leasing a new copier or buying the present one. Company representative will be providing financial analysis comparing the two options for review at the Select Board meeting in September.
- **Swamp Road Bridge** - Sue J. reminded the Board that another 180 day extension of Swamp Road bridge insurance payout is coming due. Brian K. said he has heard nothing from the Agency of Transportation regarding plans to replace the bridge. Sue J. will mention that in her letter to the insurer.

#### **ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT** - Brian Kemp and Michael Sunderland

- **Grader** is back in service. Brian K. reviewed the bill for repair of the grader and concluded that it is reasonable.
- **Road work** - Road crew has been focused on hauling, spreading and grading. No major road repairs were needed recently, despite two days of heavy rain after weeks of hot, dry weather.
- **Experimental treatment of Swamp Road** results are encouraging. North side has held very well. On the south side, the position of the crack has shifted from 18 inches from the edge to 5 feet from the edge (close to road center). John R. said that he has observed up close on his frequent bike rides on Swamp Road and thinks the result of the treatment is a big improvement. John encouraged continued careful maintenance to prevent issues.
- **Stop sign replacement** - Road crew has replaced the stop sign on the Cornwall side of Swamp Road bridge, after it was stolen. Two weeks ago there was a head-on collision in the middle of the bridge, with no injuries to those involved, and no damage to the bridge.
- **Highway and Traffic Ordinance** is in need of amending, by striking the reference to a stop sign at the intersection of Cross Road and West Street. This intersection has yield signs for Cross Road traffic entering West Street, not a stop sign. Board will vote on this matter at the September meeting.
- **Paving** - Paving budget plans include paving the rest of Swamp Road, paving "aprons" on Douglas and Delong Roads, and three culvert cuts on Park Hill. Mike S. reported that the paving bids are in. After discussion to compare the two bids, John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to award the paving contract to Pike Industries. The Pike bid was \$65.98/ton. The competing bid was \$71.66/ton. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Update on revisions to zoning regulations** - as a follow up to the joint meeting of the Select Board and Planning Commission on July 21, Planning Commissioner Don Burns has made a marked draft, as a "minimalist" update to Town regulations, using the current regulations as the basis, and incorporating key changes suggested by former Zoning Administrator Jim Duclos. The DRB reported to the Select Board that the current regulations are sufficient for their work. The Board will review the draft before the September meeting, when it will be discussed. Ben M. said that the Planning Commission is experiencing a "people power crunch" and that the coming year will be a rebuilding year, as they recruit members who are willing and able to do the work required to update the Town Plan and Town regulations. Magna D. added that the Select Board needs to support the Planning Commission in recruitment efforts.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Conservation Committee - consideration of new member Anna Burns** - Anna Burns introduced herself and outlined her interest and availability to serve on the Cornwall Conservation Commission (CCC). John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to appoint Anna Burns to the CCC to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Bethany Berry. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

- **Broadband discussion** - Magna D. said there is a new initiative underway to improve internet capability in smaller Vermont towns. Addison County Regional Planning Commission has received grant funds, and the Addison County Communication Union District (CUD) has formed, with some Addison County towns as members. A CUD is an organization of two or more towns that join together as a municipal entity to build communication infrastructure together. Ben W. said that Jeremy Grip has been brought in by Adam Lougee of Addison County Regional Planning Commission to lead the initiative. Ben W. will ask Jeremy G. to come to the next Select Board meeting to provide more information.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Zoom meeting on federal funding for municipalities** is scheduled for August 6. Magna D. plans to attend.
- **Zoom format continuation** - after discussion, all agreed to continue with the zoom format for Select Board meetings as a no-risk way to conduct Town business, while allowing any number of the public to attend on digital devices or by phone.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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 8:25 pm

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board