

Approved September 15, 2020

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Via Zoom Teleconference
September 1, 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, David Dodge, Don Burns, Jack Doyle, Barbara Greenwood, David Anderson, Bastiaan Phair, Mary Dodge, Mark Kushner

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

AGENDA - John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as modified, with the Development Review Board presentation first, Broadband Options presentation second, and Zoning Regulations Revisions Update at the end. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

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

MINUTES

- **August 4, 2020** - Ben W. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

PRESENTATION BY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB) - Barbara Greenwood
Barbara Greenwood gave an overview of the work of the DRB, including what is working well, where the DRB needs help, and plans for the near future.

Working well - Barbara G. stated that the 5 member DRB, and two alternates are working very well. Joan Lynch is a new alternate. The forms revised in 2019 are also working well. Meetings and hearings via Zoom have gone well, except when internet connections become unstable at times. Recording of hearings stored in i Cloud have proved very helpful. The DRB has been careful not to exceed their quota for free storing of recordings in the Cloud.

Where the DRB needs help from the Select Board is with the capacity to make clear recordings of hearings on site. The recording equipment in the Town Office is functioning poorly. The DRB also needs help with what they call the ZA Gap. The Zoning Administrator (ZA) is responsible for reviewing applications, but during part of the year, is absent from Cornwall, without the ability to review them remotely. Sometimes the DRB is not even aware that the ZA is out of town. The job description for the Assistant ZA precludes reviewing the applications.

Looking ahead, the DRB does transition planning to keep the membership full and functioning well, hearings on Zoom will continue indefinitely, and the DRB wants a chance to comment on the content and the process of revisions to Town regulations.

Responses to DRB Requests

- Sue Johnson said that if someone would like to research recording equipment, she would be happy to have them do so. Barbara G. replied that the DRB will work with their recording secretary Robin Conway to research options and will report back to Ben Marks and Sue J.
- John R. said that the Select Board needs to talk with the ZA about the ZA gap.
- Ben M. assured Barbara G. that the DRB will have every opportunity to review and comment on the draft of revisions to Town regs before a public hearing.

PRESENTATION ABOUT BROADBAND OPTIONS FOR CORNWALL - Jeremy Grip

Jeremy Grip, Ripton representative to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC), gave a presentation about the Addison County Communication Union District (CUD) (also known as Addison Fiber) and the initiative to implement “Fiber to the Home” throughout Addison County within 4 years. ACRPC has a \$60,000 six month grant to study and do basic design for this initiative. Vermont enacted legislation creating and defining CUDs in Vermont. More than half the towns in Addison County have joined Addison Fiber. Towns can vote to join and also can vote to leave a CUD. CUDs are non-profit entities, and are not allowed to accept funds raised by taxes nor allowed to levy taxes. The money to implement Fiber to the Home is raised by selling bonds on Wall Street. Member towns elect a representative to the governing board of the CUD. Each CUD makes a business plan with benchmarks. Jeremy Grip discussed other technologies to achieve high speed internet, but stated that none come close to the capacity of fiber. He added that within the next two months, he expects that all Addison County towns will have joined Addison Fiber, as there is no risk to Towns. Because Vermont is currently under an emergency declaration, the Select Board can represent the Town in voting to join. Once the emergency declaration is lifted by the Governor, the whole town would need to vote.

After discussion, the Select Board agreed to defer voting until the next meeting, after Select Board members have the opportunity to read more written materials. Jeremy G. will send the link to the legislation. Also the Department of Public Service has a prototype resolution for towns resolving to join.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- **Request for line stripping on Lemon Fair Road** - second request. Mike Sunderland will get bids. Public outreach will be needed, as it is possible line stripping may meet with some opposition.
- **Request to throw up a portion of Audet Road** - Jack Doyle is present to advocate for his request. He would like the Town to throw up the Class 4 portion of Audet Road and would also like the name of the road changed to Hibernia Farm Road, and provided the reasons why. The Board explained the process involved in consideration and decision to throw up Town roads, including fact gathering, consideration of public hardships, public visit, public hearing. The Statute that governs roads in Vermont is Title 19. First step: fact gathering.
- **Request for pedestrian crossing sign** at corner of Abernathy Place and Bourdeaux Road. Magna D. will find out if house is currently rented. Mattered tabled until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Marc Kushner, new resident, introduced himself and said he is attending the meeting for general interest. Bastiaan Phair said he is attending the meeting because of his interest in the Planning Commission.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER’S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- **Digitization Grant** - Sue J. applied for this grant (about \$16,000), made available as part of the Cares Act, to provide a system that allows scanning of records and storing online.
- **LGER Grant** - also as part of the Care Act. Sue will apply for the Town to be reimbursed for \$1,350 in expenses as result of the pandemic.

- **Board of Civil Authority** - Ed Peet tax appeal hearing has been requested for the week of September 15 or the following week.
- **Vacation** - Sue J. will be on vacation September 3-11 and will not be present at the next Select Board meeting on September 15. She will be checking messages during her vacation, and can respond to any very urgent needs.
- **Annual insurance inspection** was done on the Town Hall. Heat pump filters were overdue for replacement, and will be checked annually from now on. Another issue is that the handicap ramp in front no longer meets the sidewalk.
- New **Land Records Book** ordered.
- **General Election** - Secretary of State Jim Condos has announced that the State will send a mail-in ballot to every active registered voter in the November 3, 2020, general election. However, if a person decides to vote in person instead, they must bring this ballot with them, or sign an affidavit attesting they have not voted by mail prior to voting in person.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp and Michael Sunderland
Mike S. and Brian K. met to discuss recent work on Morse Road. Brian K. said the work looks great and the neighbors have been supportive.

NEW BUSINESS

Overview 2020-2021 Tax Rate - Sue J. reported that the municipal rates have gone down and the local agreement rate went up slightly.

1. **Set General Fund Tax Rate** - John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to set the general fund tax rate at 0.2732. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
2. **Set Highway Fund Tax Rate** - Ben W. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to set the highway fund tax rate at 0.1786. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
3. **Set Local Agreement Rate** - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to set the local agreement tax rate at 0.0010. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

- **Symquest Copier Lease** - After discussion comparing options, Magna D. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to authorize Sue Johnson to enter into a new 5 year lease on a new copier. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on revisions to zoning regulations - Don Burns

Don B. said that, most unfortunately, Cornwall does not currently have a functioning Planning Commission, and as a result, he is unable to provide a response from the Commission to the latest draft of an update to Cornwall regulations. Brian K. thanked Don B. for his efforts. Ben M. will draft a memo for Don B., Barbara G. and the Board to review. Ben M. will follow up with Don B. about talking with the rest of the CPC members about their commitment to continue.

ADJOURNMENT

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 9:51 pm

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board