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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Via Zoom Teleconference
October 6, 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: Brian Kemp, Ben Wood, Magna Dodge, Ben Marks, and John Roberts
ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Stu Johnson, Mike Sunderland, Don Burns, Conor Stinson, Jack Doyle, Sarah Pelkey, Elizabeth Napier, Elizabeth Karnes

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 amended, by adding Planning Commission members recommendations to New Business. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

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

MINUTES

- **September 15, 2020** - John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **September 28, 2020** - tabled until next meeting, Ben M. drafting

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Letter from United Way asking the Town to waive requirement for signed petitions on requests from services organizations. Cornwall already waives the signature requirement, unless a new organization is requesting funds. No action needed at this time.
- Letter from Robert Burton with list of concerns about climate change being a hoax.
- Letter from Jim Payne regarding unwanted public traffic in his private driveway. After a long discussion, it was agreed that this is a long standing legal dispute between Foote Farm and the Paynes. However, the Town could provide a Private Drive sign, by way of support. Ben M. will contact the Paynes and suggest that they also contact the Foote Farm Home Owners Association about this problem.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Jack Doyle is checking on the status of his two requests regarding Audet Road, and to express additional concerns about the road being blocked, increased foot traffic and unwanted entry into his barn recently. Doyle's neighbors, the Martins, attended the last Board meeting to discuss their concerns about Mr. Doyle's request to throw up a portion of the road. Ben M. will follow up regarding the concerns about the road being blocked. It was also suggested that Mr. Doyle have a conversation with the neighbors hosting the concerts in their yard. John R. suggested that the matter of the two requests be put on the agenda for the next Board meeting, and a decision made.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT

- Sue J. reported that election work is consuming much of her time. She is hoping to receive at least 600 ballots by mail so that there will be fewer voting in person, and they will not have to wait very long to get in the building to vote.
- She has attended training sessions for the new online land records system. The go-live date for this system is October 15.

ROAD COMMISSIONER / ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT - Brian Kemp and Michael Sunderland

- **Road Work** - Crew has been working on Robbins Road project, Swamp Road, and hopes to have time for a Town-wide grade.
- It is time for the annual review and signing in acceptance of the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) **Road and Bridge Standards**. Mike S. will get the paperwork to Sue J. who will distribute to the Board.
- **Update on AOT progress on Swamp Road Bridge**. State is still in the scoping phase, have done surveying and environmental study. In the spring of 2021, AOT will present a proposal to Cornwall and Salisbury. Bridge construction is in the proposed State budget for 2025 construction.
- **Paving** - Mike S. reported that the paving work done by Pike was not complete as ordered, but they are not still working in Cornwall
- **South Bingham request** - John R. requested additional gravel for South Bingham. Mike S. said he would do what he can now, but it may be next spring until a full job is done.
- **Discussion of changes in Town Highway Department choice of capital equipment** in the coming year - the Road Foreman and Road Commissioner are proposing a change in the capital plan for road equipment. They state that the change will not increase the capital budget for highway equipment, and are advocating that the next truck that is purchased be a tandem model that would have a dump body, sander, and plow. Having a tandem truck would provide benefits both in summer and winter. The proposal involves trading in the 2009 and the 2014 in the spring for the new tandem. After discussion, it was decided to review the written financial information first (Sue J. will distribute to the Board) and table the decision until the next meeting. It was also noted that contract for Mike S. will need to be modified, as currently he is allowed to use a Town truck for getting back and forth to work, which would not be practical/advisable with the new tandem truck.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Board discussed with concerned West Cornwall residents the issue of traffic speed on Route 74, in their neighborhood, at the intersection with North and South Bingham and in the surrounding area, including the dangerous intersection of Route 74 where traffic emerges from Clarke Road. Discussion included ideas for alternates to lowering the speed limit. It was noted that previous speed studies failed to make a case for action from AOT. Ben M. said that the AOT view is focused on the rights of the traveling public.
- Ben M. has been in touch with Mike Winslow, traffic planner at Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) and conveyed key points and suggestions made by Mr. Winslow, including the advisability of having an integrated approach. Stu Johnson suggested getting AOT Bike / Ped involved, and also mentioned Integrated Road Safety Plan, a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) major initiative. Stu J. advised the Board be in touch with Ashley Bishop in District 5 for more information on this.
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- Brian K. suggested that through the Transportation Advisory Committee at ACRPC, the Town might apply for a small grant to do a bike/pedestrian study.

- Ben M. will go back to Mike Winslow and ask him for a list of options for what kind of help the Town could get in the short term that would not break the budget. As this matter is a planning opportunity, it is hoped that members of the Planning Commission will be involved. Sarah Pelkey also said she wants to remain involved and can assist with writing grants.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Recommendation from the Planning Commission for two new members** - Christiana (Chris) Hodges spoke of her background and interest in joining the Planning Commission (CPC). Lauren Ringey is not present tonight but also comes recommended by the CPC as a new member. John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to appoint Chris Hodges and Lauren Ringey to the Cornwall Planning Commission, filling two empty seats until the next election in March 2021. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **Discussion/Appointment of ACCUD first alternate - William Johnson**
After short discussion, John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to appoint William Johnson as the first alternate representative to the ACCUD. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **Discussion of request to run a buried power line in the Town right of way for a new house being built on Delong Road** - the Board discussed the situation, and learned that multiple options are being considered by the homeowners. No action needed at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

Magna D. reported that she attended her first meeting of the Addison County Communication Union District (ACCUD). Development is moving along quickly. She suggested that we have a ACCUD section on the Town website, to keep citizens informed of developments. Increased access to high speed internet is of great interest to many.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board