

Approved December 1, 2020

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Via Zoom Teleconference
November 17, 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, John Roberts

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Sunderland, Don Burns, Mary Dodge, Sue Johnson, Elizabeth Karnes Keefe, Katherine Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Recording of meeting - announced

Quorum - established

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

AGENDA - Brian K. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as thus amended - deleting consideration of the minutes of the Special Meeting on October 30. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES

- **October 20, 2020** - Ben W. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as thus amended - in the Road Commissioner's / Road Foreman's Report the correct model for the truck is a 5500 Dodge (not a 550 Dodge). Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- From Elderly Services, a letter stating that the agency plans on refraining from requesting funds from Cornwall this year, in consideration of the strain on town budgets during the pandemic, and would like to know if they can apply again next year without having to submit a petition with signatures. After discussion, it was agreed that under these circumstances, Elderly Services can apply again next year without needing a petition.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- **Election** - a total of 863 people voted - 756 by absentee ballot and 107 in person. It was a smooth process. Many people who came in person, brought in their ballot already filled out.
- **Reconciliation of tax payments** - not yet complete, but will be soon.
- **Online records** - election tasks took priority, but when time allows, will return to this project.
- **Town Hall status** - Sue plans to stay open for the time being, and said she feels fairly safe and quite confident in procedures that make the Town Hall a safe place for staff and citizens.

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

- **Road Work** - all roads have been graded.
- **School Parking Lot** - road crew fixed the school parking lot so that there is a turn around for buses. School is considering installing some barriers to channel traffic - these could present difficulty for plowing.

- **Feedback about Line Striping** - 4 comments in favor of line stripping and 3 opposed were received. Mike S. will check with the Agency of Transportation to verify the policy on which class of roads the State does line stripping. Issue tabled for a later meeting.
- **Large Tree Leaning Over Parkhill Road** - tree on private property is scheduled for removal this Friday. Mike is doing the work as an independent contractor, on his own time.
- **Request to run a buried power line in the Town right of way for a new house being built on DeLong Road** - the homeowners currently plan to bury the power line on the shoulder of the road, as their other option fell through. The Board agreed there is no need for further updates as long as the line is buried only on the shoulder and not on the traveled portion of the road.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation by Conservation Commission (CCC)

CCC member Katherine Branch presented the results of their investigations into funding sources for a conservation fund for Cornwall. Cornwall has a designated conservation fund and checking account, and now needs to obtain funds. The CCC investigation involved interviewing area towns and polling conservation commissions in Vermont. Towns use one of two different methods for funding - either cents on the tax rate or an annual appropriation. Most use the annual appropriation, with the average appropriation being \$5,000. A conservation fund supported by a town can leverage grant funds. Organizations that make grants to municipalities for conservation want to see town-wide support, not just donations from a few citizens. The benefit to a town of having a conservation fund, is that when an opportunity arises, the town is ready. Ben M. asked if per capita numbers could be added for Board review - Katherine said she can gather this information. John R. is concerned that the guidelines for the conservation fund may be too restrictive and he would like to revisit them. After discussion, the Board agreed that discussions on funding options for the conservation fund should move forward, and will add this as an agenda item for a meeting in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Status of planning speed limit on Route 74** - the ad hoc committee (Ben Marks, Conor Stinson, Don Burns, Sarah Pelkey, and Beth Karnes Keefe) has been in conversation with the traffic planner at the Addison County Regional Planning Commission and with a representative of the Vermont Traffic Committee. They learned that a request for an engineering study could be initiated by the Select Board. One initial outcome of the study might be installation of caution signs. John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to submit a formal request to the State to do an engineering study of the areas in Cornwall that have been identified as problematic - namely the intersection of Route 74 and South/North Bingham (and surrounding area) and the stretch of Route 30 between the Town Hall and Cider Mill Road. Route 125 at the Middlebury line is also problematic, but a study by the State is already underway there.
- **Status of Addison County Communications Union District (ACCUD)** - Magna Dodge reported that the ACCUD initiative has a new name - Maple Broadband. The feasibility study is being vetted at this time. Creative Place has been chosen as the marketing partner. Next steps include third party review, review by the State, market analysis, and the creation of the business plan. Construction is targeted for the fall of 2021. Magna added that Maple Broadband is too small and too disbursed to go it alone and will either merge with another CUD or find a public/private partnership.
- **Status of Zoning Bylaw Amendments** - Don Burns said that the Planning Commission will be reviewing the draft, but not immediately. The CPC has several new members, will be receiving a large volume of information and targeted training, for the next few months, and is not ready yet to thoughtfully consider the document.

OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda item for next meeting - Options for Town Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board