

Approved January 19, 2020

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Via Zoom Teleconference
January 5, 2021

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, Katherine Branch, Bas Phair, Tanya Byker, Conor Stinson

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

AGENDA - Brian K. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as modified - delete signing of General Fund and highway orders, delete Review Report on Reconciled Bank Statement, delete approval of January 1 Special Meeting minutes, delete Town Clerk / Town Treasurer's Report. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES

- **December 15, 2020** - John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as thus amended - delete last sentence in Maple Broadband update. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Draft of Common Level of Appraisal (CLA). The Board discussed recent CLA issues. Taxes are going up in Cornwall because a small number of recent high-end dollar home sales have had a disproportionate effect on the CLA. The appraised values of these few high end value homes in Cornwall are coming in significantly below the sale value, because the tools available to the Listers are not able to effectively assess these homes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Conor Stinson**, Chair of the Planning Commission (CPC), reported that CPC's application for a municipal planning grant was successful and the Town will receive the first round (40%) of funding shortly. The contract with Addison County Regional Planning Commission needs to be signed. Next steps include a meeting (via zoom) of the Steering Committee. John R. and Ben M. represent the Select Board on that committee, and Conor S. will be in touch with them to schedule. Ben M. said that a public notice should be posted about that meeting, and members of the public can attend this public meeting via zoom.
- **Tanya Byker**, resident of Cornwall, introduced herself and expressed her interest in the work of local governance.

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

- **Road Maintenance** - the crew has had no trouble in getting the roads cleared after recent storms, and no equipment breakdowns.
- **Guardrail** at the Swamp Road bridge has been repaired.

- **Equipment** - The trailer discussed in the special meeting on January 1 will be purchased this week.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Status of Maple Broadband (Addison County Communications Union District)** - Magna Dodge reported that wifi hot spots signage is ready to be installed at locations county-wide. The Maple Broadband website is expected to be up and running mid-January. Potential operators for the system are being interviewed. A presentation is scheduled with the Select Board of Middlebury, Middlebury being a potential funding source through the Vermont revolving loan fund. There is an association of Communications Union Districts (CUD) in Vermont. The only CUD in Vermont that is operational is EC Fiber, and they have been for a few years.
- **Discussion of Town Budgets for 2021-22** - the Board reviewed the proposed Municipal and Highway budgets for 2021-22, line by line. Ben M. took notes and made a list of questions for the Town Clerk/Town Treasurer, for the next meeting with her. Line items regarding Town employees salaries will need to be discussed in Executive Session at the end of this meeting.
- **Discussion of Informational Meeting(s) preceding Town Meeting Australian Balloting** The State requires at that least one informational meeting precede voting by Australian ballot. After discussion it was agreed that just one informational meeting, rather than multiple meetings, would be the best approach. Ben M. will contact the Moderator to discuss procedures and technical issues in conducting a virtual informational meeting. Katherine Branch said that the decision to have just one informational meeting answers the question she came to the meeting to ask.

NEW BUSINESS -none

OTHER BUSINESS

Cas Clodnicki, the current owner of the building that used to be a store (non- operational for over 20 years), contacted John Roberts to say that work will begin this week on the installation of a new septic system behind the building. Clodnicki added that 90% of the collapsing building will be demolished and a new building will be constructed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED, that because discussion of compensation of Town employees for the coming fiscal year potentially involves discussion of confidential personnel job performance information. that it was advisable that the Select Board move into executive session. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

John R. MOVED/,Ben W. SECONDED, that the Select Board go into executive session at 8:50 PM. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Select Board came out of executive session at 9:00 PM

John R. MOVED and Magna D. SECONDED, that in recognition of their exemplary service during the past year that the three full-time town employees be given raises of 2.5% each in the coming fiscal year and that, in addition, Mike Sunderland's compensation be increased by \$1.50 per hour to compensate him for mileage and wear and tear of driving his personal vehicle, once the Town pickup truck is sold.

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 9:02 pm

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board