

Approved January 16, 2021

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Via Zoom Teleconference
February 2, 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: Sue Johnson, Don Burns, Mary Dodge, Todd Kincaid, Jordan Young

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
Recording of meeting - announced
Quorum - established
General Fund and Highway Orders - signed
Report on Reconciled Bank Statement - reviewed

AGENDA - Ben W. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as modified - adding update from Mary Dodge in Public Comments and review of Mutual Aid Agreement in Old Business. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES

- **January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting**
- **January 26, 2021 Special Meeting**

Magna D. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve January 19 and January 26 minutes as posted. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Acknowledgement from Department of Property Evaluation and Review that tax appeal paperwork from Cornwall has been received and that appeal process will commence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Update from Mary Dodge** - work group reviewing conservation fund procedures from other towns has met and will meet again mid-February. Work group includes Magna Dodge and John Roberts from Select Board, Don Burns from Planning Commission and Katherine Branch and Mary Dodge from the Conservation Commission (CCC). The group agreed that the Town of Craftsbury has a good model with detailed procedures that will provide a good starting place to draft suitable procedures for Cornwall. Target for a draft document is March, after Town Meeting. The CCC would like to show a brief Power Point at the informational meeting on February 22.
- **Don Burns** - mentioned that the Planning Commission would also like to show a brief Power Point at the information meeting on February 22.
- **Jordan Young** - offered his technical experience with presenting Power Point slides over Zoom. Ben M. will follow up with Jordan Y.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- **Town Report** in process - waiting for a couple more reports. Expected to go off to printer this Friday or early next week.
- **Ballots** have gone off to be printed.

- **Main furnace** was not working. Jackman's Fuel came and did a temporary fix. New motor is needed. Sue J. plans to add furnace maintenance to regular maintenance schedule.
- **Next Select Board meeting** will begin with the Capital Plan and Budget hearing.

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

- **Road Maintenance** - high winds and light snow resulted in blowing and drifting snow today - crew began today around 3 am for road maintenance.
- **Equipment** - crew has an inside project working on the trailer for times when they are not out on the roads. New truck is being readied and is about 50% complete.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Status of Maple Broadband - Addison County Communications Union District (CUD)** - Magna Dodge reported that interviewing of vendors continues. Meetings are scheduled with the Bristol Select Board and the Addison County Economic Development Corporation. Magna has been observing hearings at the Vermont House Committee on Energy and Technology. Maple Broadband, along with the other communication union districts in development in Vermont, will need significant start-up capital to implement their business plans. The Maple Broadband website is not yet up and running. Magna is also serving on the Finance Sub-Committee for the statewide Vermont Communication Union District Association.
- **Presentation from Cornwall Listers - effect of recent high-end sales on Cornwall** - Listers Todd Kincaid and Jordan Young explained how the current State system of determining the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) results in an unfair disadvantage in raising taxes in Cornwall because of the wide spread between the median home price and the average home price. Just one sale of a high end value home that was under-appraised for the purpose of taxes, has a big influence on the CLA. Cornwall is unique among other area towns, in this regard. Cornwall is appealing the recent CLA decision by the Department of Property Evaluation and Review.
- **Addison County Highway Mutual Aid Agreement** - 7 towns have signed on, 3 are considering, and 2 have abstained to date. The purpose of signing is to make applying for federal aid easier after an emergency in which mutual aid was rendered by Addison County town highway departments. Ben M. said he will call Mike Winslow to ask why the document was drafted the way it was (long and complicated). He suggested that all read again, and decision will be made at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion of and possible vote on sale of Town pickup truck to Brian Kemp** - Town pickup truck is for sale and Brian Kemp has made an offer to purchase it for \$21,000 without the plow. This offer is higher than the \$18,500 trade in value including the plow, that was quoted to the Town by a local dealership. Ben W. also did research on used truck prices for comparison. The sale/trade-in of this truck was discussed as an agenda item in the public minutes of Select Board meetings of October 6, October 20 and October 30, and no one else has come forward with an offer. Ben W. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to sell the Town truck without the plow for \$21,000 to the Kemp family. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Brian K.).
- **Discussion related to Cornwall newsletter policy** - Board and Town Clerk discussed the value of the Town newsletter, how it is very worthwhile to continue to publish quarterly, and that Sue J. should not be put in the position of judge and jury of content (other than basic screening), and how the following disclaimer should be added: "The opinion's expressed here in the newsletter are those of the citizen authors, and not those of the Town of Cornwall."

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 9:13 pm

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board