

Approved February 2, 2021

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Special Meeting
Via Zoom Teleconference
January 26, 2021

Note: Today's Select Board meeting was held by teleconference and all Cornwall Select Board meetings will be held by teleconference until further notice.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ben Wood, Magna Dodge, John Roberts, Ben Marks, Brian Kemp
ALSO PRESENT: Don Burns, Sue Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
Recording of the meeting – announced
Quorum – established

MINUTES

The special meeting was called for the purpose of approving Cornwall's municipal and highway budgets for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and approving the warning for Cornwall's 2021 Australian Ballot in lieu of Town Meeting, as authorized by Act 162.

John R. moved, Ben W. seconded, a motion that the proposed 2021/2022 Cornwall Highway Budget be set at \$451,713 be adopted and warned for voter approval by Australian ballot on March 2, 2021. The Select Board examined the proposed highway department budget, which was level funded, except for salary and related line items, which had been voted modest increases at a previous Select Board meeting. The motion passed: 5 in favor; none opposed.

John R. moved, Brian K.. seconded a motion that the town's 2021/2022 General Fund Budget be set at \$499,608 be adopted and warned for voter approval by Australian ballot on March 2, 2021. The General Fund budget represents a slight decrease from the budget for the current fiscal year. Motion passed -- 5 in favor; none opposed.

John R. moved, Magna D. seconded, a motion that the Select Board accept the wording of its 2021 warning as presented below, which because of Covid-19 safety-related measures for the present year only related issues to be put to the voters by Australian ballot, rather than at Cornwall's traditional town meeting. The Select Board added language to the warning, indicating the reason for this year's change and altered the wording of warning items as appropriate to an Australian ballot vote. The Select Board also discussed the probability of a town-wide property reappraisal being required in the next 3-5 years. The Select Board has been advised by the town Listers that the estimated cost of such a reappraisal is on the order of

\$60,000. The Select Board decided to raise the funds for reappraisal over several years to lessen the tax rate shock of facing the entire reappraisal cost in a single year. Given the other expected tax rate increases in the coming year, the Select Board decided to include a \$10,000 line item as a separately warned question for this purpose. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

There followed a short discussion of possible Zoom controls to retain good order at the informational meeting that the town will hold on February 22, 2021

Adjournment: Magna D. moved/Ben W. seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 PM.