

Approved April 20, 2021

## **CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**

Regular Meeting  
Via Zoom Teleconference  
April 6, 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, Tanya Byker, Magna Dodge, Ben Marks, John Roberts  
**ALSO PRESENT:** Sue Johnson, Don Burns, Steve Huffaker, Al Thalen, Conor Stinson

Recording of meeting - announced  
The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm  
Quorum - established

**AGENDA** - Magna D. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as modified, by moving the Maple Broadband presentation to the top of the agenda. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

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

**MAPLE BROADBAND PRESENTATION** - Steve Huffaker, Chair of Maple Broadband  
Mr. Huffaker presented information on the purpose, organization, governance, status, and planned operational activities of Maple Broadband, also known as Addison County Communications Union District (CUD). 18 towns in Addison County (including Cornwall) are members and each member Town has a delegate on the governing board. There is also a seven member executive board. Maple Broadband has no paid staff, all the work is done by volunteers. The website for Maple Broadband is [www.maplebroadband.net](http://www.maplebroadband.net).

The purpose of Maple Broadband is to bring a high-speed, reliable, affordable fiber internet network to all unserved and underserved households and businesses in its member towns. The feasibility study concluded that Maple Broadband is viable if it can form an operational partnership with a neighboring CUD or form a public-private partnership with an existing provider in the region.

Mr. Huffaker provided information about grants received, grants applied for, and expenditures to date. The organization is currently seeking funds for the pre-construction phase, and is asking each member town to allocate a portion of the funds that each Town is expected to receive from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The portion being asked from each member town is based on highway miles and population. Maple Broadband is asking the Town of Cornwall to allocate \$150,000, out of the \$350,000 that Cornwall is expected to receive in American Rescue funds over a two year period.

See NEW BUSINESS item for further discussion on American Rescue funds and options for use.

## **MINUTES**

• **March 16, 2021**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW** - none (other than Reconciled Bank Statement, above)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Al Thalen would like to set up a Returnable Bottle Bin to benefit the Boy Scouts, next to the dumpsters at the School, on land that belongs to the Town. He assured that Board that the bin would not be allowed to overflow, and if it presented a problem, would be removed. After discussion, the Board said Al should check with the School Principal and if it is OK with her, it is OK with the Town.

**TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT** - Sue Johnson

- **Mowing Bids** - legal notice has been sent. Bids are due by 5 pm, April 20.
- **Current focus for Town Clerk** - receiving and processing tax payments and issuing dog licenses

**ROAD COMMISSIONER / ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT** - Brian Kemp

- **Gravel budget** - went over budget this year
- **Grading** - plans underway to do town-wide grading while weather is good
- **Brush work** - best to do before leaves emerge. Commissioner has directed the road crew to clean up after brush work in front of houses
- **Plow sold** - to a Cornwall resident for \$4,000.
- **Follow up with Mr. Gardon** - not yet, but Brian K. said he will do, as soon as possible.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Update on Sheriff's Contract** - Ben M. contacted the Sheriff for clarification of the letter from the Sheriff's Department. It was explained that the change explained in the letter was internal to the Sheriff's Department and not an amendment to the contract with Cornwall, or any other town.
- **Update on Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)**- the State requires that each Town update, sign, and submit their LEMP by May 1 annually. Vote tabled until the next meeting, giving Board members time to review the document.

**NEW BUSINESS**

• **First Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act Funds**

Based on population, Cornwall is expected to receive \$350,000 over a two year period, half this year and the other half next year. Sue J. will set up a separate account to receive and manage the funds. The rules for spending these funds are still being formulated. They may not be used to offset taxes. The Board agreed that one worthy use is to support broadband development. Other possible uses were discussed, such as renovating the Town Garage and Town Shed. Conor S. said he will bring the matter to the Planning Commission for their first discussion. All agreed that it is best to wait and see what the rules will say, before options are further discussed.

**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 8:30 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board