

Approved May 18, 2021

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Via Zoom Teleconference
May 4, 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: Magna Dodge, Tanya Byker, Ben Marks, John Roberts, Brian Kemp

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Conor Stinson

Recording of meeting - announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Quorum - established

AGENDA - Magna D. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as modified, with two items added in Old Business - an update on the Vermont Traffic Safety meeting, and an update on the DeLong Road Zoning Complaint. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

Reconciled Bank Statement - reviewed

MINUTES

April 20, 2021

John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as amended with the addition (in Old Business) of the traffic safety concerns regarding the intersection of Morse Road and Route 30, that were included in discussion of the matter during this meeting. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- **Department of Education Meeting** - Ben M. read aloud the letter from Donna Russo-Savage, Staff Attorney, at the Department of Education, regarding the May 19 meeting, during which the State Board will consider whether to conditionally approve the withdrawal of Ripton from the Addison Central School District. The Board agreed that Ben M., in his role as Chair of the Select Board, will represent Cornwall at this meeting.
- **Request to Cater Malt, Vinous, and/or Spirituous Liquors** on August 14, 2021 at Pink House Farm on Ridge Road, with 200 persons expected. Magna D. will contact Karyn Jacobs (contact person on the form) to confirm that the caterer is aware of restrictions mandated by the Development Review Board regarding events at this location. The Board would like this verified before the Town indicates approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- **Jim Gill** - Sue J. shared the news that Jim Gill has died and added that his passing is very sad and a big loss for our town.
- **Office will be closed on May 5**, while Sue J. participates in training.
- **Tax Collection** - Sue J. worked 9am-5pm on Saturday, May 1, Tax Day and Green Up Day. When the morning was not as busy as anticipated, she sent out a reminder email, and then had a busy afternoon with people coming in to pay their taxes. It was a typical year for tax collection.
- **Reimbursement from Secretary of State's Office** - was approved and the Town received \$2,722.00 for covid-related expenses.
- **Highway Department Buildings Improvement** - The Capital Committee has sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) to 6-7 businesses in the area.
- **Musical Events** - Dan Whittemore is intending to resume musical Saturday night events, with plans to start and end sooner. Sue J. will send out information through the Cornwall Connection.

ROAD COMMISSIONER / ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT - Brian Kemp

- **Road Maintenance** - focus has been on general spring maintenance. More grading is needed. Brush work with the mower continues.
- **Equipment** - The truck that Ken drives had to have minor repair work done. Warrantee has expired.
- **Gravel for Fire Department** - Ben Marks said that the Fire Department has decided to use their own budget to purchase the gravel they need around their main dry hydrant.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Update Maple Broadband** - Magna Dodge - Ongoing efforts, nothing new to report.
- **DeLong Road Zoning Complaint update** - Ben M. spoke with Zoning Administer Gary Barnett. His conclusions have not changed. Lighting from the property in question is still a major problem with the neighbors, despite some efforts to mitigate. The Select Board will be sending a letter to the neighbors, explaining next steps they can take. When the letter is drafted, the Board will further discuss the matter. Ben M. added that the Development Review Board is the body with authority to decide on zoning violation matters.
- **Vermont Traffic Safety Meeting update** - Ben M. and others from the ad hoc traffic safety committee in Cornwall, attended a meeting of the Vermont Traffic Safety Committee. As the result of a recent traffic study, the Vermont Traffic Safety Committee did order that larger caution signs be installed around the intersection of Route 74 and North/South Bingham and that the line striping approaching that intersection from the west will be changed to a solid double line. Ben M. said there was a plan to do a pedestrian and bicycle study this summer in the areas of concern in Cornwall (West Cornwall village and the section of Route 30 between the Town Office and Cider Mill Road). The ad hoc committee believes that safe speed limits on

Route 30 in Cornwall would be 25 mph in the village, 40 mph north of Morse Road, and 50 mph north of the turn off to Cider Mill Road, and would like to make these specific requests to the State.

NEW BUSINESS

Solar Proposal - Acorn Renewable Energy Coop - Ben M. provided a preliminary presentation on the Solar Net Metering Project in Bristol seeking investors. He took off his Select Board "hat" to provide this information, as he is on the board of Acorn Renewable Energy Coop. Options for solar energy for the Town Office include installing solar panels on the roof or investing in a net metering project that is located elsewhere but would make direct payments to the power company to offset the Town of Cornwall's electricity costs. Or, the Town could decide to do nothing, staying the current course in which electric rates are increasing about 4% annually. The Board agreed that they would like to have a full presentation from another representative from the Acorn Energy Renewable Coop, at the next meeting on May 18. Ben M. will follow up with this invitation.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Planned Retirement** - Sue Johnson plans to retire from her positions as Town Clerk and Town Treasurer in three years. She noted that if the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer are elected, the person(s) must reside in Cornwall. If these positions are to be appointed instead of elected, the candidate(s) may live outside of Cornwall. To change these positions from elected to appointed positions would require approval from the voters at Town Meeting. The job of Town Clerk encompasses many diverse responsibilities and activities, including those required by State Statute. Sue J. is willing to stay on as Assistant Town Clerk / Town Treasurer, to maximize opportunities for training a new Clerk/Treasurer.

ADJOURNMENT

Magna D. 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