

Approved July 6, 2021

## **CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**

Regular Meeting  
Via Zoom Teleconference  
June 1, 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, Don Burns

Recording of meeting - announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Quorum - established

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

**General Fund and Highway Orders** - signed

**Reconciled Bank Statement** - reviewed

### **MINUTES**

**May 18, 2021** - approval tabled until next meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Email from Jack Doyle asking for signage for Class 4 road. John R. said that the sign installed on that road may have been inadvertently removed and is visible from the road, in Mr. Doyle's barn.
- Notice regarding Development Review Board hearing for a Variance Application submitted by Cas Chlodnicki/Kasia LLC (Cornwall Country Store)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - inquiry from Don Burns to ask about search for technology resources/options for municipal meetings. Tanya B. said she plans to talk about options with tech support staff at Middlebury College in the coming week.

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

- June is the last month of the Town's fiscal year - Sue's main activities are related to that - otherwise a relatively quiet month
- Sue J. plans to fully open the Town Hall this month on a date to be announced. Sign on the door will request that the public wear masks inside.
- Sue J. plans to open the library in the next month or so.
- Reminded the Select Board of the deadline for articles for the June newsletter

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

- **Road Maintenance** - general spring maintenance continues
- **Salt Shed** - Brian K. and Mike Sunderland met with the Capital Committee regarding the salt shed. A follow up meeting has been scheduled to look at options for use of the space and whether or not the current shed needs to be demolished. There are 3 construction firms interested in the project.
- **Response to Gardon letter** - Brian K. has drafted a letter to Mr. Gardon to be sent by email.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Maple Broadband Update** - Magna Dodge

State funds for improving high speed internet in Vermont are anticipated, but will not be immediately available. Some funds will be available for pre-construction before December 31, by applying to the Department of Public Service. After that, a newly forming Vermont Community Broadband Board will be making decisions about allocating funds from the newly established Vermont Community Broadband Fund. Magna D. emphasized that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that are coming soon to the member Towns of Maple Broadband are the only source of funding for broadband that is available now and that will enable the non-profit organization to move forward and accelerate "the build". Negotiations with a potential operator are going well, and search for potential engineering contractors has narrowed to four. Maple Broadband has made requests for a total of 2.7 million dollars from all member Towns combined. Maple Broadband will not be needing to come back to the Towns for additional funds at a later date, because loans and other resources will be available at that time.

After discussion, John R. MOVED/ Brian K. SECONDED a motion to assign \$150,000 of expected ARPA funds to Maple Broadband to assist in meeting pre-construction costs, subject to the drafting and execution of documents acceptable in form to the Select Board in order to comply with federal auditing requirements. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Magna D.).

Ben M. said publicity about Cornwall's support of Maple Broadband is in the works.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Town Solar Options-** Don Burns and John R. met to review the proposal from ACORN Energy Coop and will meet again this Friday to consider this and two other options for investing in solar energy to power Town buildings. Key questions at this point: Does the Town wish to engage in a solar project? If so, which one? One option (ACORN project in Bristol) has a September 2021 deadline. John R. said he plans to call a Special Meeting of the Select Board to decide on this issue, later this month.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Salt Issue** - John R. said that he recently became aware that Don Burns is a geologist, and as such, a resource for the ongoing salt issue in the water at the Town Garage. He plans to follow up with Don B. on this issue.

**ADJOURNMENT**

John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board