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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

September 21, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Magna Dodge, Tanya Byker, Ben Marks, John Roberts, Brian Kemp

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Don Burns, Craig Zontag, Christine Chapline, David Dodge, Bill Johnson, Jim Carroll

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—3 in favor, 0 opposed.

General Fund and Highway Orders - have been circulated for signing, either by email or in person.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW:

- **Application for a Caterer's permit** for event on October 16, 4pm-10pm at 339 Park Hill Road - after review, John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the application. ***Motion passed*** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **Email from Jack Doyle** - requesting that the Town lower the speed limit on Audet Road from 35 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour - Board discussed. Audet Road is a Class 4 road over which the Town has jurisdiction. The State Police do not monitor Audet Road to enforce speed limits. It was suggested that communication between Mr. Doyle and the farmer who leases the field adjacent to Audet Road could best resolve the issue. John R. will ask the farmer if he has had any contact with Mr. Doyle.
- **Email from Don Marcus** - regarding trailer home stuck in public right of way on South Bingham Street - Brian K. will follow up with the owner of the trailer home. Bill Johnson offered that he has an email for the owner, if needed.

MINUTES

- August 3, 2021
- August 30, 2021, Special Meeting
- September 7, 2021

John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve all 3 sets of minutes as posted. ***Motion passed*** - 3 in favor, 0 opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- **3 Year Audit** - is underway. Sue J. completed the fraud inquiry document and distributed to the Board for review.
- **Annual Meeting of Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers** - Sue J. will be attending September 22-24. Office will be closed.
- Sue J. will be having a medical procedure on Monday, October 11 and expects to be at work, as usual, the following day.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT (Mike S. not present, Brian K. not yet present)

- Sue J. said she has received one application already for the position of Road Foreman.
- Magna D. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to authorize Sue J. to post the position of Road Foreman to the Addison Independent and Front Porch Forum, in the form circulated. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed. Assuming publication deadlines are met, the deadline for applications will be October 5.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Maple Broadband Update** - Magna D. reported that Maple Broadband (MB) has filed an application for Act 71 funding for pre-construction and capacity building, in the amount of 2.3 million dollars. The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) will be voting on the application from MB on September 28. This is the first application the VCBB has received from any of the Communications Union Districts (CUDs). High level design is currently focused on the preliminary build sequence, which has implications for marketing. The business plan is due to the State on October 5. Information packets have gone out to the delegates from each member town, to be shared with their respective governing bodies. Because of the lag time in obtaining materials such as fiber cable, if MB is not the recipient of sufficient funds to pre-buy materials in 2021, the concern is that material will not arrive in time to start construction in 2022, resulting in delay until the construction season in 2023. Magna D. added that the organization has no official word on what for-profit competitors are planning in Addison County.
- **Audio-visual System update** - Tanya B. reported that she has spoken with Scott Witt to confirm his bid to procure, set up, and offer support services for an audio-visual system for the Town Hall. It will take 30-60 days for delivery of the components, including a 75" screen.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Report from the Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD)** - Craig Zontag, Field Coordinator and Field Biologist, along with other members of the LFICD - David Dodge, Christine Chapline, and Bill Johnson, presented an overview of the LFICD, and a report on the 2021 mosquito season, including current and future strategies for managing mosquitos in the LFICD. Highlights include:

- LFICD uses an Integrated Pest Management (IMM) approach, focusing on long-term prevention.
- 2021 was a difficult mosquito season, the worst since 2017.
- Mosquito season usually peaks in late June and early July after the June rains. But this year's drought, followed by with rains in July led to large numbers of upland mosquitos in August and September.
- Typical mosquitoes seen in the area, aedes vexans, breed in the Lemon Fair River floodplains and Cornwall Swamp and can be treated with aerial larvicide.
- The upland mosquitoes — ochlerotatus trivittatus and aedes cinereus species — lay their eggs in small woodland puddles and pools out of reach of the insect control district's field staff. These upland mosquitos are aggressive daytime/ nighttime biters. Upland mosquitos are multivoltine, meaning that the females can lay egg multiple times and needs more blood meals before she lays each round of eggs, and each meal provides more of an opportunity to build up sufficient viral load to transmit to humans.
- So far, mosquitos tested by LFICD in 2021 have been negative for West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).
- Recent work by LFIDC has included a mapping project in collaboration with Middlebury College of the Lemon Fair between Route 74 and Route 125, that identified specific areas for treatment next year.
- The LFICD helpline fielded 43 complaint calls about mosquitos, followed up by site visits to help residents with mosquito problems.
- Craig Zontag suggested the innovative idea of a sidewall cutter to the State, so that tires used by farmers for holding down large piles of silage, will not become breeding grounds for mosquitos.
- IMM in the future might include the use of drones that could treat 200 acres a day. Vermont does not allow the use of drones for this purpose at this time.
- Residents should continue to protect themselves from biting mosquitos and can use pollinator friendly products, bat boxes, and bluebird boxes to decrease the numbers of mosquitos on their property. Even the bite of one mosquito, if carrying sufficient virus, can transmit disease.
- Craig Z. reminded everyone that while mosquitos can and should be managed, they do play an important role in the eco-system.
- **Discussion of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds public outreach process** - After a short discussion, Ben M. said he would draft something for the newsletter and for Front Porch Forum, asking Cornwall residents to weigh in on the question "What does Cornwall need?" Tanya B. also suggested that the Town Plan be reviewed as another resource to identify the needs of the Town that are appropriate for ARPA funds.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion that premature general public

knowledge of pending civil litigation strategies and confidential attorney - client communications would clearly put the Town at a disadvantage. ***Motion passed*** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending civil litigation with the Town Attorney. ***Motion passed*** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:42 pm.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:33 pm.

No actions were taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Tanya B. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. ***Motion passed*** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board