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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

October 5, 2021

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson,

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 - have been circulated for signing, either by email or in person.

Reconciled Bank Statement - reviewed

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW:

- Letter from United Way regarding petition requirements. Sue J. reminded the Board that Cornwall does not have a petition requirement for organizations that received funds from the Town the previous year. If new organizations approach the Town for funding in 2022, they will be considered individually.

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- **MINUTES** - September 21, 2021

John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes (version 2) as posted. ***Motion passed*** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- **3 Year Audit** - Sue J. is continuing to gather information for the audit.
- **Internet Speeds** - At the request of the Listers, Sue contacted OTELCO to inquire the Town Hall could obtain broadband service via the fiber cable close by. She was told that the answer is "no" because this is a transmission line and not a distribution line. The only other option for better download/upload speeds is to increase service from 10mg to 25mg at a cost of \$50 more per month. Sue J. said that she is able to perform her work

well with the current internet service, but the Listers have been having difficulty with downloading/ uploading large files and would like more capacity. The Listers typically work at the Town Hall two hours per week. Ben M. will follow up with Todd Kincaid, Chair of Listers.

- **AV System** - equipment for the new system has been ordered. Bracket has been delivered and needs to be installed. Tanya B. has the information on the height and John R. offered to install the bracket.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp

- Wooster Road has been graded and has had chloride put down.
- Ken Manchester has been hauling gravel.
- List of fall projects has not yet been received from Mike Sunderland.
- The grant funded project on Snake Mountain Road (replace culvert and add rip rap stone to prevent erosion) is 90% complete. The Town of Shoreham will be providing mutual aid to complete the project by the deadline of October 31. Shoreham and Cornwall share equipment that is needed to complete the project. Shoreham had an urgent need for this equipment early in the season, resulting in the delay for completion on the Snake Mountain Road project. Paperwork for the grant needs to be submitted to Mike at Addison County Regional Planning Commission by October 31.
- Discussion of Road Foreman job posting - appropriate for Executive Session

OLD BUSINESS

- **Maple Broadband Update** - Magna D. reported that Maple Broadband's application for funding for pre-construction and capacity building, has been approved by the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB), in the amount of 2.3 million dollars. Maple Broadband was the first Communication Union District in Vermont to submit and application to VCBB and to be awarded funding. High level design work has been completed and the business plan is expected to be finalized next week. The telecommunications industry, along with many other industries, has been impacted by supply chain issues during the pandemic. Currently there is a 6-12 month lead time for obtaining materials such as cable. Maple Broadband continues to seek funding from member towns, for pre-buying of materials. VCBB has not yet released a Request for Proposals for construction funds. Maple Broadband does not expect to be able to apply for construction funds until December or January.
- **Discussion and possible vote on Maple Broadband / Cornwall ARPA funding agreement** - Ben M. reported that he has been in discussions with the lawyer for Maple Broadband and is comfortable with the agreement as drafted. The agreement specifies broad categories of anticipated expenditures in the next two years. Magna D. added that monthly reports will be sent to member towns who made grants to Maple Broadband and that each grant will be reported on separately, with specific expenditures documented. The reporting format for the towns is the same that is used by Maple Broadband to report to the State. The vote to approve the agreement will be on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting.
- **Continuing discussion of potential ARPA projects and decision making process /**

updated US Treasury Guidelines - the US Treasury has sent out an updated list of categories of projects that are allowed to be funded with American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Magna D. has a copy of a survey that the Town of Ferrisburgh sent to all residents, to gather information about what citizens think is important concerning how ARPA funds are spent. Ferrisburgh plans on holding a public meeting in November on this issue. Tanya B. spoke briefly about the issue of the lack of childcare in the area, including that Addison County was one of the worst hit areas in Vermont, losing a significant number of childcare slots during the pandemic.

- **Discussion of speed limit reduction requests** - recent requests to lower the speed limit have been sent to the Select Board by residents of Bourdeau Road and Audet Road. The Board discussed the issue, noting that the Town has no ability to enforce posted speed limits and experience shows that lowering the speed limit does not change driving behavior. The most effective way to change driving behavior is to talk to your neighbors, including everyone.
- **Update of status of South Bingham Street trailer in public right of way** - Brian K. said that he spoke with the owner of the trailer, who promised it would be dismantled and totally removed within two weeks. The owner has been working on the inside by himself, but realized he needed more help to dismantle the outside.

NEW BUSINESS - none

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Magna D. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion that premature general public knowledge of confidential employee matters would clearly put the Town at a disadvantage. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Magna D. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential employee matters. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:15 pm.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:52 pm.

No actions were taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board