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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

November 16, 2021

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Don Burns, Dave Berno, Steven Rheaume

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

QUORUM—established

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

Reconciled Bank Statement - has been circulated for review

AGENDA

Magna D. MOVED / Tanya B. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with the addition of an Executive Session in Other Business, and two items in New Business: Conservation Commission 2022 Funding and Request from Mary Dodge to Appoint Andrea Landsberg to the Conservation Commission. ***Motion passed***—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Email message from Douglas and Michelle Black (follows earlier message from them in July) regarding ongoing road drainage problem affecting their property on Delong Road. The approaching winter season only allows for a temporary fix that Stu Johnson may be able to do with the grader. Brian K. will follow up with Stu J. about this. A more permanent solution will be explored when weather permits.
- Message from Donna Ginnett, Administrative Services Coordinator, inviting inspection and comments regarding the recent paving of Route 125. If there are no comments by November 24, the project will be accepted at that time.
- Message from Mary Dodge recommending Andrea Landsberg to be appointed to the Conservation Commission.

MINUTES - November 2, 2021

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS— Don B. inquired as to the plan for developing a solar concept before Town Meeting in March. Ben M. replied that the next step is to wait until federal funding for such projects coming to Vermont from the Infrastructure bill just signed by President Biden is clarified before formulating Cornwall's plan. Also, if the proposed Build Back Better bill passes, there may be additional federal funding for energy projects. Ben M. added that he thinks the clarification will come in time to make a presentation at Town Meeting.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

1. The new video conferencing system is up and running and is being used for this meeting. The set up took 2 days and Sue is very pleased with the result. Ben M. thanked Tanya B. for her research on AV systems that resulted in such a good system for the Town. American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) funds are being used to pay for the system, the training and support.
2. Mike Sunderland handed in the paperwork for the grant funded work on Snake Mountain Road to Sue J. so she was able to forward it to Addison County Regional Planning Commission by the deadline.
3. The Town office will be open next Tuesday and then closed on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.
4. Addison Central School District contacted Sue for the name and contact information of the Road Foreman. Sue said she gave Brian K.'s name and contact information for now, until the new Road Foreman is in place. The School District communicates with all the highway departments in the event of inclement weather affecting school bus routes.
5. On the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers listserv, there has been some recent sharing of what towns are considering for the use of ARPA funds and Sue shared these with the Board.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp

- Steve Rheaume, Cornwall's new Road Foreman, introduced himself and was warmly welcomed by the Select Board chair and all present.
- Stop Ahead signs will be in place on Cider Mill Road and James Road before the intersection with Route 125, as soon as possible. If weather permits, the planned signs and lines on the two roads could be painted, but Brian K. thinks this will probably need to wait until spring. Sue J. mentioned that the Town Hall parking lot also needs line striping, when weather permits.
- Thanks to Stu Johnson, grading has been done, and the Town is deeply grateful to Stu for his assistance during this time between Mike S. stepping down and a new Road Foreman starting.
- Equipment and vehicles are ready for plowing.
- New truck has arrived and Ken has been installing the radio and other tasks to get the truck ready for service.
- The Agency of Transportation has completed the scoping phase of work for the Swamp Road bridge. Sue J. will post the scoping phase report on the Town website, that includes 3 options for replacing the bridge that was destroyed by fire. Next step - Brian K. will coordinate with the Select Board of Salisbury for a meeting between the two boards, prior to arranging a town wide meetings of the citizens of Cornwall and Salisbury. Of primary concern, is the weight limit of Swamp Road, on the Cornwall side of the bridge.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Update - Maple Broadband** - Magna D. reported that members of the Executive Committee had a six hour meeting with the engineering firm, Vantage Point Solutions (VPS). VPS will have teams here on the ground within a month to begin the next phase of design work - field data collection. Ben M. added that the formal agreement between Cornwall and Maple Broadband has been signed. Magna D. confirmed that Cornwall's contribution to Maple Broadband has been received and deposited.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Fire Department Command Staff Q & A** - Dave Berno, Cornwall Fire Department President, provided information about Fire Department meetings, current training activities, types of calls, and equipment. Most of the calls are medical in nature, and the department has a medical team in place to respond. Ben M., one of the Fire Department's volunteer, mentioned that he has been receiving EMT training, as part of his volunteer work for the Department. Mr. Berno said that they

have a revamped brush truck with a compressed air foam system that is very effective in putting out brush fires. Also a new pump truck has a computerized system that is expected to be a big improvement over the previous one. Mr. Berno said the Fire Department is currently working on their budget and would be provided that to the Town in a timely manner for the coming budget review process. He also remarked that he believes the new tower on the North Bingham fire station has improved coverage for radio communications.

- **Discussion of VTrans Swamp Road Bridge Information** - see Road Commissioner report above
- **Conservation Commission 2022 Funding** - In response to a question from Mary Dodge, the Board clarified that the funding for the conservation fund is separate from the \$250 in annual funding to the Conservation Commission for educational activities. In March of this year, the voters overwhelmingly approved funding in the amount of \$3,500 for the conservation fund, a reserve fund for major projects. The Conservation Commission has requested level funding of the conservation fund for the ensuing year. Ben M. said this should be budgeted as a line item, based on the strong support of the voters at the last Town Meeting. The line item for educational programming is separate, and is not to be taken out from the reserve fund, per the written policy.
- **Appointment to Conservation Commission** - After short discussion, John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to appoint Andrea Landsberg to the Conservation Commission.
Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

OTHER BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Magna D. MOVED / Tanya B. 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.***

Brian K. MOVED / John R. 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 9:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made and by general acclamation, the meeting was then adjourned with no further action taken by the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board