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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

November 2, 2021

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

ALSO PRESENT: Kate Gieges, Todd Kincaid, Ian Gill, Jordan Young, Bill Johnson

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm

QUORUM—established

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

AGENDA

Magna D. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with the addition of meeting with Kate Gieges, 911 Coordinator, and an update from Tanya B. on Childcare Issues. ***Motion passed***—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Several emails about road safety issues on State Route 125 at the the intersection of James Road and Cider Mill Road and on State Route 74 near the Town Hall. See discussion, in NEW BUSINESS below.

MINUTES - October 5, 2021

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS— none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT

Sue J. is not present tonight. She did convey the message that tax receipts have been normal, to date.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp

- Sand shed was filled in two days, using contract labor.
- Grant funded work at Snake Mountain Road is complete, with mutual aid from Shoreham. Mike S. is taking responsibility for submitting the required paperwork to Addison County Regional Planning Commission.
- New truck is ready to be picked up.
- Plow frame is on the 2018 truck, ready for the winter season.
- Dodge 1 ton truck is back in service, ready for winter.
- Stu Johnson assisted in grading Sperry Road.

- Mike S. graded Peet Road and Clark Road.
- Vincent Gardon called again. Brian K. will visit him to inspect the damage he claims was done by the Town several years ago.
- Road Foreman applications will be discussed during Executive Session.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Update - Maple Broadband** - Magna D. reported that the Maple Broadband Executive Committee opened bids for cable purchases. At this time, there is general uncertainty in the industry regarding pricing and delivery of cable materials.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Vote on Ian Gill's Request to Fill Town Auditor or Trustee of Public Funds position** - Ian Gill introduced himself, and described his background and interest in serving the Town either as an Auditor or Trustee of Public Funds. After discussion about the two roles (and the advocacy for a third Auditor, by Auditor Kate Gieges) Magna D. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to appoint Ian Gill to the open position as a Town Auditor. Ben M. explained to Mr. Gill that the term of the appointment is until Town Meeting in March of 2022. He can run to be elected in March, if he is interested in continuing as an Auditor. **Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- **Vote on Cornwall Listers' request for NEMRC to conduct town-wide reappraisal** - Listers Todd Kincaid, Jordan Young and Bill Johnson discussed the need for a town-wide appraisal and the urgency of having a signed agreement or contract for appraisal services at this time, to assure the Town's place in the appraiser's queue. The Listers recommend contracting with the New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) for this appraisal and the Select Board agreed that an agreement should be drafted, specifying an amount subject to the price of doing business, at the time of the appraisal. Ben M. will work with the Listers to talk with NEMRC and to draft an agreement. Todd K. informed the Select Board, that the Common Level of Appraisal will have an adverse effect on taxes this year.
- **Discussion of Cider Mill Road / James Road / Route 125 intersection** - The Board discussed the concerns expressed by several Cornwall residents, following recent accidents at the intersection of Route 125, Cider Mill Road, and James Road. The stop sign on James Road was knocked down during one of the accidents, and the highway department will be putting that up again. Even though there are stop signs and a blinking red light at the intersection, and the speed limit on the section of Route 125 near the intersection is posted at 40 mph, it remains a dangerous spot. It was agreed that something the Town could do to increase safety that could be done right away at minimal cost, would be to paint "STOP AHEAD" on James Road and Cider Mill Road about 100 feet from the intersection and white lines where cars should stop, before entering the intersection. John R. MOVED / Tanya B. SECONDED a motion to authorize the road painting of STOP AHEAD and white lines on Cider Mill Road and James Road, if the cost is reasonable, as assessed by the Road Commissioner. **Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.** Regarding concerns about traffic violations on Route 74 near the Town Hall, there no intervention the Town can take, as this is a State highway.
- **Discuss and Decide if a BCA meeting is desired to comment on the reapportionment proposed map.** Ben M. said that he discussed the issue with Representative Peter Conlon, who is of the opinion that reapportionment will not have much impact on Cornwall. After discussion, it was agreed that a Board of Civil Authority meeting was not needed, and no comments were put forth.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Meeting with Kate Gieges, 911 Coordinator** - Kate G. discussed her work as 911 Coordinator for the Town, a volunteer position. In this role, she deals with 5-7 new residential properties each year, does site visits, takes measurements, and uses electronic

tools to identify the new 911 address to be entered into the statewide 911 database. At this point, no fee is assessed to the property owner for the 911 address and no compensation given to the 911 Coordinator for any expenses. The Board asked Katie to research how other towns do in regard to compensation for the work of 911 coordinators. Kate G. said she will do that, and report back.

- **Update - Childcare Issues** - Tanya B. said that she has spoken again with Ruth Hardy, who let her know about the Addison Childcare Group and their advocacy work. Tanya B. said that the Friends of the Cornwall School are doing a survey to assess current needs for school age child care (after school, school vacation, etc). Tanya anticipated that Chris Kramer might be available to meet with the Board this evening, but he did not appear, so it is hoped he can speak with the Board at another meeting. Tanya added that she has heard in her conversations, that broadband is also very important to families in Cornwall.

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.

John R. 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 8:32 pm.
The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:05 pm.

Magna D. MOVED/ Tanya B. SECONDED a motion to make an offer to one of its Road Foreman applicants, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations with the applicant by Brian K. and John R. ***Motion passed*** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed

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 9:06 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board