

**CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**  
Regular Meeting  
Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall  
December 7, 2021

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sue Johnson, Don Burns, Steven Rheaume, David Dodge, Wendy Lynch, Barbara Greenwood, Jim Carroll, Benjamin Putnam

**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.

**Reconciled Bank Statement** - has been circulated for review

**AGENDA**

John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with Lemon Fair Insect Control District budget review moved to the front of the agenda order. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

**MINUTES** - November 16, 2021

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

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Invitation from the Addison County judges to observe their annual budget process
- Marketing materials from Textmygov

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Discussion of Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD) draft budget**

David Dodge, LFICD Board Chair, presented the draft budget for 2022 and explained the basis for the numbers. Board member Wendy Lynch was also present via Zoom. The three member towns are each being asked to contribute \$6,000, an amount that has remained unchanged since 2012. The State of Vermont provides most of the annual funding for the LFICD - \$70,000. The Board agreed to continue to include \$6,000 for the LFICD as a line item in the municipal budget.

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

1. Sue J. has been working on end of the year matters, including the audit.
2. The Board has reviewed information from Textmygov and agrees with Sue J. that the Town has sufficient effective methods to communication with citizens and does not need to incur the cost of the smart texting service that this company provides.
3. The recent book sale was the best ever, with proceeds of \$2,300 to benefit the library.

## **ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp and Steven Rheaume**

- **Road maintenance** - Stu Johnson has been assisting with grading Town roads. Brian K. said that the Town is extremely grateful to Stu. The highway department was kept busy on the roads last week, with multiple little storms. Cold spots on roads now have extra sand in place.
- **Equipment** - the new plow truck is set up and department staff have been trained in how to get the plow on and off most efficiently.
- **Steven Rheaume** - as new Road Foreman, Steve R. said he is learning the ropes and has met with Sue J. on procedures and processes.
- **Laptop** - Steve R. asked if he could purchase a laptop for his work at Road Foreman. It was suggested that he consult with Brian K. and Sue J. about options.

## **OLD BUSINESS continued**

- **Update - Maple Broadband** - Magna D. reported that the engineering firm is now (or will be in the next couple of days) on the ground doing the pole survey and pole application. Supply chain issues and delivery times are now the biggest obstacle to surmount. None of the cable vendors can guarantee price or delivery times in their contracts. Maple Broadband is still waiting to receive the pre-construction funds approved by the Vermont Community Broadband Board over a month ago.
- **Update - Swamp Road Bridge replacement status** - Brian K. said that a scoping meeting with Salisbury has been scheduled for December 16 as the first step in discussing options.
- **Update - Cornwall Reappraisal Discussion with NEMRC** - verbal agreement has been made with New England Municipal Resource Center for reappraisal work at a reasonable price. No paperwork has been signed yet. Typically, the reappraisal process takes about one year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Discussion and possible vote on Cornwall mask mandate** - after discussion, the Board agreed that, while mask wearing in public spaces in Cornwall should be encouraged, a mask mandate is not needed and would be impossible to enforce. It was agreed that each board or committee should be able to make their own procedures about masks. Requirements about masks can be added to meeting notices, and signs on doors can inform the public. The chair of any board or committee can signal that masks are to be worn or not, and has the power to adjourn a meeting, if an issue arises. If someone wants to attend a meeting and does not want to wear a mask, they can attend the meeting on Zoom. Sue J. will make a sign about masks to be placed on the door at the Town Garage with the same message as the sign at the Town Hall.
- **Discussion of voter request to change Town Meeting date to a Saturday** - The Board discussed the request. Any decision to change the date would need to be made by the voters at Town Meeting in 2022.
- **Possible first discussion of 2022-2023 budget** - Brian K. cautioned that 2021 was not a typical year in terms of the expenses of the highway department because of the unexpected changes in the schedule of the Road Foreman and his subsequent resignation. The Board will continue to review the budget in the next two weeks and discuss at the next meeting.
- **Appointments to the county regional emergency management committee** - John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to appoint Ben Marks and Peter Conlon as Cornwall's representatives to the Addison County Regional Emergency Management Committee. **Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Ben M.).**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Brian K. said that the Addison Central School District (ACSD) told another town that they cannot use the school for Town Meeting, Ben M. will follow up with ACSD.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Magna D. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion that premature general public knowledge regarding representation on the Burton Tax Appeal, would clearly put the Town at a disadvantage. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Magna D. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Burton tax appeal matter with Town Attorney Jim Carroll. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:30 pm.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:11pm and took no further action.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board