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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

January 18, 2022

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Don Burns, Steven Rheaume, Stu Johnson, Mary Condon

Recording of meeting—announced

QUORUM - established

CAPITAL COMMITTEE BUDGET AND PLANNING HEARING

The hearing was opened at 7:00 pm.

Sue J. reported that the Capital Committee met and level-funded the three capital line items on the proposed 2022-23 Town budget. (for Equipment \$130,000, for Buildings \$100,000, and for Paving \$25,000). Members of the Capital Committee presented their annual report and discussed the Capital Budget with the Select Board. It was noted that the presentation by Breadloaf regarding the Town Garage will be scheduled for the 2nd Select Board meeting in February.

The hearing was closed at 7:14 pm.

REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm

QUORUM—established

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

AGENDA

John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with addition of approval of December 21 minutes and ARPA Funding in OLD BUSINESS. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES

- **December 21, 2021** - Magna D. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **January 4, 2022** - tabled until next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Letter from Robert Burton regarding the tax appeal

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- W-2s and 1099s are out;
- Town newsletter was sent out today;
- Work on the Town Report is Sue's current focus - still waiting for some committee reports;
- Bill regarding Town Meeting and elections in 2022 was passed by the Legislature and awaits the Governor's signature. This bill authorizes Vermont towns to hold elections by Australian ballot, waives the signature requirement for candidates who wish to run for elected positions, and also removes the requirement that there be at least one person physically present at public meetings.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp and Steven Rheaume

- **Road maintenance** - Steve R. reported that there are 8-10 trees on Swamp Road that are at high risk of falling down onto the road. They need to be pulled down and cut up when ground is sufficiently frozen.
- The pay-loader is in need of a critical major repair in the cooler system / computer system. CR Woods has the parts available and repair will be done right away - cost will be \$6,185 plus labor.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Discussion and Vote on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Shared Crack Sealing Machine** - After discussion, John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the signing of the MOU. ***Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.***
- **Maple Broadband** - Magna D. reported that the Vermont Community Broad Band Board has approved the RFP for the construction grant and Maple Broadband is prepared to apply.
- **Update - Swamp Road Bridge replacement status** - Brian K. followed up again with the Chair of the Select Board in Salisbury, and the date for an evening meeting via Zoom between the Boards of Cornwall and Salisbury is still in the process of being scheduled.
- **Discussion of 2022-2023 Budget Line Items** - The Board and Town Clerk/Town Treasurer discussed the proposed budget. Magna D. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the General Fund budget in the amount of \$503,375 and the Highway budget in the amount of \$471,100, as discussed tonight, pending salary discussions that will be made in Executive Session. ***Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.***
- **Continuation of Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department 911 Sign Discussion** - the recent "eyes-on" assessment of E-911 signs in Cornwall indicates that only 25% of addresses have reflective signs. Ben M. will talk with the Town Attorney about legal options, such as an ordinance. It was pointed out that the standard green E-911 sign is only one option, and that reflective numbers that can be purchased at hardware stores, would also be effective.
- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Update**
- Ben M. reported that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission recently shared the news that ARPA funds of less than 1 million dollars that have been granted to small cities and towns are no longer restricted. In other words, small towns like Cornwall can decide how to spend the money as they see fit.
- Tanya B. spoke about an opportunity to invest in the children of Cornwall, by using ARPA funds to support need-based scholarships for children to attend a weekly aftercare program sponsored by the Friends of Cornwall School. (FOCS) Tanya B. will follow up with Chris Kramer from FOCS and with the school Principal and report back to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Town Meeting Format** - after discussion on options, it was agreed to conduct Town Meeting and the elections process the same way the Town did last year - with a virtual information meeting on Monday, February 28 and voting on Tuesday, March 1 by Australian ballot, with the polls open at the Town Hall from 7 am - 7 pm. Sue J. said she hoped to have helpers again, to

manage Zoom functions, as their help was critical last year in the success of the virtual informational meeting.

- **Town Meeting Warning** - Sue J. discussed the Articles in the drafted Town Meeting Warning with the Board. Sue will make the changes discussed tonight and will send out to the Board for review. A Special Meeting will need to be scheduled to approve the Warning.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION made that premature general public knowledge regarding employee compensation matters would clearly put the Town at a disadvantage. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MOTION made to go into Executive Session to discuss employee compensation matters. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:20 pm.
The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:36 pm.

Magna D. MOVED / Tanya B. SECONDED a motion to raise the salaries of town employees as follows for the fiscal year beginning in July 2023:

Sue Johnson: 6%
Ken Manchester: 6%
Steve Rheaume: 3%

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm.
Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board