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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

February 1, 2022

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Don Burns, Steven Rheaume, Jim Taplin

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

QUORUM—established

General Fund and Highway Orders - tabled until bank statement is available. Orders will be circulated for signing, either by email or in person.

Reconciled Bank Statement - approval tabled until available

AGENDA

Brian K. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as posted ***Motion passed***—4 in favor, 0 opposed. (Ben M. not yet present via Zoom due to technical difficulties)

MINUTES

- **January 4, 2022**
- **January 18, 2022**
- **January 26, 2022**

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

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Latest letter from Robert Burton regarding the tax appeal and Rule 68. Ben M. will discuss this letter with Benj Putnam.
- Highway mileage certificate - circulating for Select Board signatures
- 2021 outside audit report and letters - circulation for Board review. Sue J. has hard copies at the office for all Board members.
- Letter from resident Karen Kevra regarding poor internet service from OTELCO
- Request for American Recovery Act Plan (ARPA) funds from Cornwall to benefit the Turning Point Center of Addison County's capital campaign. Discussed, took no action at this time.
- Letters from the State regarding the reapportionment process and proposed change. Ben M. has discussed the reapportionment with Peter Conlon and Ruth Hardy. If the change is approved, it would not mean a change in Cornwall's representation. The Board was in agreement that a response from Cornwall is not needed.
- Notice of Act 250 filing by Beaver Brook
- OTELCO pole permit discussion and vote. Jim Taplin, representing OTELCO, is present to request a permit for pole placement at the intersection of West Street and Route 74, for a pole that was recently placed at this location. He stated that the arial cable crossing the road will be attached at the height of 22 feet. John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve

said permit. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- Sue J.'s work this month is focused on preparing for Town Meeting. She has not yet heard back from Jordan to see if he can help with the informational meeting.
- Ballots have been sent out for printing.
- Sue thanked Steve R. for rebuilding the notice sign that is outside the Town Hall. This was a 50 year old sign that, thanks to the work of the highway crew, is now expected to last another 50 years.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp and Steven Rheaume

- **Road maintenance** - Steve R. said the crew has been preparing for the coming storm, with sand and chains on the vehicles. Steve added that he hopes to get out to Swamp Road next week to fell the trees that are in danger of falling down across the road.
- **Equipment** - the crack sealer arrived last week and is being stored in Panton. 7 towns jointly purchased this crack sealer. Hands on training for all the road crews will be held in the spring. Steve R. added that repairs on the pay-loader have been completed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Maple Broadband - Update** - Magna D. reported that 7 towns have now contributed to the initiative. Current focus is the preparation of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for electronics, and preparation of the construction grant application. The contracted engineering firm is planning the build-out of Phase I. Magna D. added that feedback to the Public Utilities Commission from residents in member towns regarding their current internet service or lack thereof would be helpful in demonstrating the need for high speed internet in homes that are now unserved or underserved.
- **Swamp Road Bridge replacement status** - the Select Boards of Cornwall and Salisbury held a recent joint meeting, that was also attended by Laura Stone from the Agency of Transportation. It was agreed that a unified plan (with 2 Select Board members from each town working to draft this plan) be presented to both towns at Town Meeting. John R. offered to work on the unified plan. It was also proposed to hold a joint informational meeting on the 7th of April and a special vote by Australian ballot on April 12, to give the voters a choice in the type of bridge to be built. The State would like to know within the next two months what type of bridge the towns want. Both towns agreed that it is acceptable to close the road during construction. Brian K. will follow up with Laura Stone to see if the choices can be narrowed down to two options, as the third option identified by the State is not acceptable, because of the weight limits on Swamp Road.
- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Update** - Tanya B. said there is no need for scholarship funds from Cornwall for the specific after school program she was researching, but funding should be considered for future projects.

NEW BUSINESS - none

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 8:48 pm.
Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board