

Approved February 1, 2022

**CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**  
Regular Meeting  
Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall  
January 4, 2022

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sue Johnson, Don Burns, Steven Rheame, Dave Berno, Sean Stearns,  
Kristina Sargent, Alex Umbhau

**Recording of meeting**—announced

**The meeting was called to order** at 7:00 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 / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with addition of Review of Reconciled Bank Statement. **Motion passed**—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

**MINUTES** - December 21, 2021 - tabled until next meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Letter from Vermont Department of Taxes about Cornwall's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) - see discussion in NEW BUSINESS below.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Dave Berno and Sean Stearns discussed the problem of missing 911 signs with the Board. Currently there are 623 911 addresses in Cornwall. Approximately 80% have a 911 sign installed. The Fire Department is having problems finding the driveways and homes of the other 20%, due to the missing signs. In case of emergency, this could make the difference between life and death for a person at one of these locations. Mr. Berno and Mr. Stearns also discussed options for reaching 100% coverage with 911 signs in Cornwall, and agreed to drive around town in the next two weeks to get a ball part figure of just how many signs are missing and report back to the Board at the next meeting on January 18.
- Don Burns followed up on the request for comments on working drafts to the Town Plan that was sent to the Board by Conor Stinson in December. Don B. said that the Planning Commission has made a similar request for review and comments to the Conservation Commission, the Development Review Board, and Addison County Regional Planning Commission. The Board agreed to review the draft documents, and send comments. Ben M. expressed appreciation to the Planning Commission for including the Board, at this stage in the process.

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

- The \$1,800 check from Shoreham has arrived and these funds, along with the \$4,500 grant, will cover the cost of the new Leaf and Debris Blower. The bill for the Leaf Blower will be paid now with equipment funds, and the money from Shoreham and from the grant will be deposited into the equipment fund.
- The next installment of billing for the pump housing for the new Fire Engine #1 has been paid out of the Capital Fund.
- Audit report is expected later this month.

- All delinquent taxes over \$35,000 have been paid.
- Capital Committee met on December 28 and will hold a hearing at the next Select Board meeting in January.
- The Legislature is back in session as of today and one of the first items of business is expected to be a bill regarding Town Meeting and elections during 2022, as we are still in the middle of a pandemic.

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

- **Road maintenance** - Steve R. said that the back-to-back ice storms during the past two weekends required the use of significant sand. Steve reported that he got a load of white salt from Shoreham and has made arrangements for reimbursing them with white salt in return.
- **Equipment Sharing Possibility** - a meeting was recently held in Shoreham regarding the joint purchase of a crack sealer. Steve said there are 5 towns committed so far. If 6 towns want to share in the cost, it would be \$8,750 per town and the cost of one pallet of sealer material costs \$967. The season for use is May - October, allowing plenty of time for all the towns to use it for a week or more. This machine would pay for itself in a relatively short time, possibly in only one year, 2.5 years at the most. The mutual aid among the towns has been working very well, Shoreham has agreed to handle the administration and coordination of the use of the machine (including registration). Jason, Road Foreman in Shoreham, is drafting an MOU for towns to sign. Three persons are needed to operate the machine. During use, it will be a "rolling work zone" and flaggers will generally not be needed (just signs), unless there are blind spots. The mutual aid system will provide the amount of persons needed for each use, including extra persons for directing traffic, if needed. Minor repairs will be covered by the town using the machine at that time. Major repairs will be shared by all the towns. The machine is a 14' trailer that can be pulled by a truck. Where it will be stored for the winter has not been decided yet. The Road Commissioner spoke in favor of Cornwall signing up to purchase and share this equipment. Next step: The Board will review the MOU.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Maple Broadband** - Magna D. said there is nothing new to report tonight.
- **Update - Swamp Road Bridge replacement status** - Brian K. said the date for an evening meeting via Zoom between the Boards of Cornwall and Salisbury is in the process of being scheduled.
- **Discussion of 2022-2023 Budget Line Items** - The Board and Town Clerk/Town Treasurer engaged in a long discussion of the 2022-2033 municipal and highway budgets line item by line item. The vote to approve these budgets will be at the next meeting in January.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Discussion of Prospective Contract with NEMRC** - Ben M. agreed to be part of the contract negotiations and process with the New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC). The cost for this Reappraisal will need to be warned as a separate Article at Town Meeting. Many towns in Vermont are facing the same urgent need for a reappraisal as Cornwall is, so it is important to get on NEMRC's list of towns for reappraisal.

#### **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 9:56 pm.  
Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board