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**CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

April 5, 2022

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tanya Byker, Ben Marks, Brian Kemp, John Roberts, Don Burns

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sue Johnson, Steven Rheaume, Richard Clark, Shari Johnson, Bill Johnson, Barbara Greenwood, Magna Dodge, Paul Vaczy

**Recording of meeting**—announced

**The meeting was called to order** at 7:00 pm

**QUORUM**—established

**AGENDA** - John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as posted.  
***Motion passed***—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

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

**PRESENTATION BY RICHARD CLARK, PRESIDENT CEO OF OTELCO**

Richard Clark, CEO of OTELCO said his company wants to apply to the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) for a construction grant to match what the company plans to invest, in order to complete building a fiber network in Cornwall. His company, OTELCO has been purchased by a holding company called Future Fiber, along with four other companies and these five companies together will be called GoNetSpeed. He is asking the Cornwall Select Board to support their grant application to VCBB. Mr. Clark added that VCBB would not approve construction grants for two different service providers planning to bring high speed internet to the same town. He was not asking Cornwall to choose between GoNetSpeed and Maple Broadband, but rather is asking the Town to support GoNetSpeed's application to VCBB. Mr. Clark provided information about his company's capacity, and proposed timeline, and answered questions posed by the Board and others in attendance. The Board will take some time to consider this request and it is expected to be on the agenda for the next meeting on April 19.

**MINUTES**

- **March 15, 2022** - John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. ***Motion passed*** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Reminder from Addison County Solid Waste Management District that Cornwall needs to appoint a representative.
- Letter from John Derick asking for a reduction of the speed limit on Cider Mill Road, from 40 to 35 miles per hour. The Board discussed the possibility of obtaining a movable electronic speed alert system, that could be used on this and other roads to calm traffic. Steven R. will look into it. Ben M. will follow up with John Derick.
- Reminder from Nancy Cornell from Maple Broadband that a delegate and alternate representing

Cornwall on the governing board need to be appointed before the Maple Broadband annual meeting in May. Ben M. said that Magna Dodge has affirmed that she can serve again as delegate. An alternate still needs to be recruited.

- Letter from Stephanie Magnan from SEAM Solutions in Barre, VT offering services in safety, emergency, asset, and project management.
- Quote from Silloway Networks for an upgrade in cyber security. Such an upgrade would result in a large increase in the current monthly fee. It was agreed that the next step is to check with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) to learn what other towns are doing about the issue of cyber security and what VLCT recommends.

• **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

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

- Dog licenses were due April 1.
- Second installment of taxes is due May 1.
- April 15 is the target date for sending out the letter and return postcard to 950 active registered Cornwall voters regarding the replacement of the Swamp Road bridge. Ben M. suggested that members of the Board come into the office to help Sue stuff envelopes.

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

- Grader is in the shop for work on hydraulic system.
- Road maintenance focused on pothole repair.
- Ken M. picked up the new leaf blower in New Hampshire.
- Ken M. will go to Albany to pick up the rubber for the crack sealer.
- Steven R. ordered new signs, including ones for Douglas Road and Cross Street. Research on the cost of replacing all the road signs at intersections with directional numbered address road signs was done by Ben M. and Steven R. Total cost would be \$5,000 for signs that are 6 inches high. Some posts would be needed as well for additional cost.
- Stu Johnson will be providing Steven R. with training on the grader, after repairs are done.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Sand and Salt Shed Replacement** - tabled until after the Capital Committee meets on April 12 to discuss and plan.
- **Approve and Sign NEMRC Reappraisal Agreement** - the Listers fully support this agreement and its reasonable cost. John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to sign the NEMRC reappraisal agreement. ***Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.***
- **Swamp Road Replacement - discussion of April 7 public meeting** - the Board and Town Clerk discussed the April 7 public meeting with Paul Vaczy, Chair of the Salisbury Select Board. It is a public meeting via Zoom, so anyone can attend, but there will be a "bouncer" who will send anyone who is being inappropriate to the waiting room and block them from re-entering. Jordan has agreed to serve in the role of bouncer. Following the informational meeting, registered voters of both towns will receive a letter describing the 3 options for replacing the bridge, along with a pre-addressed and stamped postcard to return to indicate their preference. Postcards will need to be returned by the stated deadline to their respective Town Office. This is considered a poll. The members of the two Select Boards will make the decision regarding which type of bridge is selected.
- **Pollinator - Friendly Planting Update** - reported that she spoke with Beth Karnes Keefe about the proposal for a pollinator friendly garden outside the Town Office. The planned size is

about the size of a large table. They are planning on applying to the Middlebury Garden Club for a grant, which might also cover the cost of having an outside faucet installed at the Town Hall. Next step is for the Town to get an estimate for such a faucet. The pollinator garden volunteers will take care of the watering, whether or not an outside faucet can be installed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Discuss E-911 sign requirement/ordinance** - the Board discussed the pros and cons of passing an ordinance that would require all lots that have an E-911 address to have an E-911 sign in place. Alternatives were also discussed. No decision was made.

**OTHER BUSINESS** - Don B. would like the matter of a solar array back on the table and to have Ian Phair come back and make another presentation. Ben M. said he would put Ian on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.  
Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board