

Approved May 17, 2022

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD
Regular Meeting
Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall
MAY 3, 2022

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

ALSO PRESENT: Steven Rheaume, Ian Phair, Sue Johnson, Paul Vaczy, Douglas Black,
Magna Dodge

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

QUORUM—established

AGENDA - Don B. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as posted.

Motion passed—3 in favor, 0 opposed.

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

Reconciled Bank Statement - has been circulated for review.

REPORT ON MAPLE BROADBAND - Magna Dodge

- Maple Broadband has received from Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB), grants of \$1.3 million and \$3.8 million for pre-construction costs, capacity building, and materials ordered after April 15. On April 18, Maple Broadband submitted a construction grant application to VCBB for 7.2 million, and has been answering all the follow up questions from VCBB about that application. At the end of this week, Maple Broadband will be sending out a Request for Proposals for construction work. Construction of the fiber network is planned to begin in August of 2022 in the Phase I area, with the first subscribers being able to sign up beginning in October.
- Act 71 established the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB), charged with overseeing the build out of high speed internet throughout Vermont. Eligible providers can apply for grants from VCBB. Section 8082 of Act 71 defines an eligible provider as either “a Communication Union District (CUD), a small communications provider, or an internet service provider working in conjunction with a communications union district to expand broadband service to unserved and underserved locations as part of a plan to achieve universal broadband coverage in the district.”
- OTELCO may be an eligible provider as defined above, however VCBB “ shall not award a grant to an eligible provider who is not a communications union district unless the Board determines that the provider’s universal service plan does not conflict with or undermine the universal service plan of an existing communications union district.” Magna added that Maple Broadband will be making the case to VCBB that a grant should not be awarded to OTELCO for that reason, with evidence of how it would undermine the universal service plan of Maple Broadband.
- Magna D. advised that people take speed tests of their internet service and send them to VCBB, as the self-reporting of an internet provider on households that are served or underserved, may or may not be correct.

MINUTES

April 19, 2022 - Brian K. MOVED / Tanya B. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as

posted. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (John R.).

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Request to Cater Malt , Vinous, and/or Spirituous Liquors at a graduation party for 75 people, on May 29, 2022 at the Pink Farmhouse, 299 Ridge Road, from 4-9 pm. John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the request. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- Latest correspondence from Robert Burton concerning his tax appeal.
- Recent sodium test report, continuing to be high, 3 times what it should be. Steve R. said that the pump had been in operation again only for a week and a half when this test was done.
- Notice from the Cornwall Development Review Board of a public hearing scheduled for June 1 at 7 pm, to hear a request by Cas Chlodnicki for a waiver and or/variance of the requirements related to parking as they might apply to the Cornwall Country Store property at 2513 Route 30.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- Green Up Day is May 7. Sue J. will be at the Town Hall from 8 am -12 noon with supplies for the volunteers.
- At the Capital Committee meeting on May 10 at 7pm, Breadloaf will make a presentation about a a modified plan to replace the salt and sand shed.
- Tax payments are still coming in.
- The Town Office will be closed tomorrow, as Sue J. is teaching a class in Rutland for municipal treasurers.
- Interest in Town Clerk and Town Treasurer positions - Sue J. has been contacted by a Cornwall resident who is interested and who would like to shadow Sue to learn more.
- Cott Systems contract for historical land records services - was reviewed and discussed by the Board, as an appropriate use for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Contracted services from Cott Systems would add more 40 years (1981-2013) to the Cornwall land records now available online. John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to authorize the signing of the contract with Cott Systems for a total of \$32,666 for historical land records services, using ARPA funds. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp and Steven Rheaume

- Stu Johnson has been helping with road grading and will now be training Steven R. on the grader.
- Road maintenance focused on gravel roads, hauling gravel.
- Steve R. is getting bids for the tree work on Swamp Road. Ben M. added that the shoulders on Swamp Road seem to be holding up well.
- Steve R. has been gathering information about options for solar speed signs and will bring brochures to the next meeting.
- Brian K. said that Mary Dodge contacted him with her concerns about debris in the large culvert on Route 74 that is preventing amphibians from traveling through it as part of their life cycle. Brian contacted the State to learn that no project is planned for Route 74 for the next 5 years.
- Several road signs in Cornwall have been stolen. Steve R. has contacted with State Police. Ben M. said Steven should repair and replace as needed.
- There have been issues with the alarm system at the Town Garage - false alarms. Sue J. said that system is very old.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Swamp Road Bridge Replacement - discussion of polling to date**

- Sue J. reported that there has been an almost 50% rate of return on the postcards so far, with only 2 cards that were returned as undeliverable, one card with nothing marked, and one card with 2 choices marked. Of the remaining cards returned to date, there were 47 voters who prefer a steel truss bridge, 140 voters who prefer a concrete span, and 261 who prefer a covered bridge. Sue also read the comments on the cards, which included concerns about vandalism or another fire, if a covered bridge was chosen.
- Paul Vaczy said that the Salisbury Select Board will be meeting on May 10 to discuss the results of polling in that town. Ben M. suggested that the next Cornwall Select Board meeting on May 17 be a joint meeting with the Salisbury Board. Paul V. will call Ben M. next week to confirm. Ben M. also offered to attend the Salisbury meeting on May 10, if that would be helpful.

- **Discussion of and Possible Vote on Vermont Solar Fund Cornwall Solar Project Proposal**

After discussion, John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to approve in principal an agreement and move forward with Ian Phair for a 23.25 Kw solar array to be financed by Mr. Phair that has a buy-out option anytime after 6.5 years. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Tanya Byker).

NEW BUSINESS - none

EXECUTIVE SESSION

John R. MOVED / Tanya B. SECONDED a motion that premature general public knowledge of an discussion of Town employee matters would place Cornwall at substantial disadvantage by disclosing confidential personnel matters. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

John R. MOVED / Tanya B. SECONDED a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Town employee matters. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:35 pm.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board