

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD
Regular Meeting
Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall
July 5, 2022

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

ALSO PRESENT: Steven Rheaume, Sue Johnson, Stu Johnson, Jon Isham, Mary Dodge,
Ian Phair

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm

QUORUM—established

AGENDA - John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as posted.
Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

General Fund and Highway Orders - orders will be circulated for signing.

Reconciled Bank Statement - will be circulated for review

MINUTES

- **June 7, 2022** - John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. *Motion passed* - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **June 20, 2022 Special Meeting** - Ben M. is in the process of preparing these minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- A number residents contacted the Town to object to a notice in the Cornwall listserv regarding the showing of a film, complaining that it was politically charged and edgy, and that taxpayer funds should not be used to advertise such events.
- Request to Cater Malt, Vinous and/or Spiritous Liquors - July 1, DeLong Road. This request was received June 19 and signed. The Board agreed to authorize Sue J. to sign alcohol beverage catering requests that are not received in time for approval at the next regular meeting. Sue J. will consult the Board if she has questions about a particular request.
- Message from Jordan Young advocating raise in compensation for Listers. After discussion John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to raise the Listers compensation to \$12.55/hour retroactive to FY 2021, and to revisit the issue of sufficient compensation for the Listers during the next budget review. *Motion passed* - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.
- A copy of the Emerald Ash Borer plan of the Town of Richmond, sent by Andrea Landsberg.
- Save the Date card, October 6-7, 2022, Town Fair, Killington, sponsored by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns
- Request from Andrew L'Roe, the Coordinator of Emergency Management Coordinators, at Addison County Regional Planning Commission - that Cornwall Town Hall be listed as a cooling site in the event of a heat related emergency. It was agreed that the Town Hall has the capacity to be a cooling site. Ben M. will fill out the form in the affirmative.
- Message from a town resident interested in having a bike path from Cornwall to Middlebury, something safer than the narrow bike lane on Route 30. There may be grant money for a feasibility study.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Jon Isham praised the tremendous job that Sue Johnson does as Town Clerk. He feels that the Town should have a policy about what can and cannot be published in the Town listserv, so that the Town Clerk is not in the position of being the gatekeeper for articles and notices. Tanya B. and John R. agreed to be on a subcommittee to draft this policy.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- **The fiscal year** is now closed. The General Fund has a surplus of \$92,000+. The Highway Department Fund has a deficit of \$72,000 because of the timing of the payment of the paving bill.
- **Education tax rates** have gone down, most likely due to State surplus. The Homestead rate is down .1158, last year's number was 1.7443. The Non Homestead rate is down .0771, last year's number was 1.7056.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp and Steven Rheaume

- Paving is complete.
- Crack sealing was done on 4 miles of road. Steve R. commented that the crack sealer machine has paid for itself already.
- Gravel was put down on driveways on West Street
- Second bidder is still needed for tree work on Swamp Road
- Steve R. met with Mike Winslow about ditching and culvert work on Cutting Hill Road and about having a traffic counter on West Street to see if this road is classified correctly and on Evergreen regarding the option of closing the road in winter.
- Quote from alarm company for a new system of \$1,928. Stu J. said that a safety grant might be available - Steve R. will look into it.
- It was suggested that Craig's list might be a good place to advertise the opening in the road department.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Swamp Road Bridge Replacement** - status update - Sue J. presented information about the insurance payout on the covered bridge that burned, and the Board discussed.
- **Cornwall Solar Project** - contract discussion and possible vote - Ben M. reported that the contract has been updated to address concerns raised at the special meeting on June 20. A notice regarding the proposed solar project was published in the paper of record on June 30. By Statute, 30 days must be allowed for objections and the Town is still in that 30 day period. The Board agreed on the deadline of July 19 for internal review of the contract, with the vote on the agenda for the August 2 meeting.
- **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Ash Tree Survey Results** - Stu Johnson

Stu J. and Sue J. drove each Town road in both directions, to survey how many ash trees of at least 4 inches in diameter are in the right of way. Stu J. reported that the tally of these ash trees is 353 trees. Concentrations of ash trees are located in the Cornwall Swamp, on the east end of Park Road, the east end of Peet Road, midway on Morse Road, and on Robbins Road Extension. Stu said that the ash trees on Robbins Road Extension, Park Hill Road, and Peet Road are in bad shape, which he does not think is the result of EAB infestation. There are many hazard trees in the right of way that have nothing to do with EAB. Stu noticed that the roadside brush has grown back and should be cut down, in spite of the likelihood of complaints from residents. Stu added that Green Mountain Power has begun to set aside funds for EAB mitigation.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion and possible vote on Spiritous Liquor Permit request policy** - see

Correspondence review above.

- **Discussion and vote on Attorney representation of Cornwall clients in regard to a Cornwall zoning/subdivision matter** - after discussion, John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to authorize Ben M. to sign a conflict waiver letter allowing Benj Putnam to represent the Martins in the zoning/subdivision matter. ***Motion passed***—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Don B. asked about the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds and where the Town is now in the process of decided how they will be spent. It was agreed that discussion/decisions regarding ARPA funds need to be on the agenda of a meeting in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board