

Approved November 1, 2022

## **CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town

Hall

October 4, 2022

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Steven Rheame, Sue Johnson, Magna Dodge

**Recording of meeting**—announced

**The meeting was called to order** at 7:02 pm

**QUORUM**—established

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

**General Fund and Highway Orders** - circulated for signing.

**Reconciled Bank Statement** - reviewed

### **Maple Broadband Update / Review of ARPA Request** - Magna Dodge

Magna Dodge presented an update on Maple Broadband, the non-profit Communication Union District (CUD) of which Cornwall is a district member. Magna D. now serves as the Chief Financial Officer (unpaid). Ellie deVilliers has been selected to be hired as the Executive Director. Construction of the fiber network began yesterday in Cornwall. The projected cost to build the fiber network in Maple Broadband's 20 town district totals 38 million dollars. Projected timeline to build this network covering 595 miles is 5 years. Grant money from the State (received and anticipated) totals 22 million dollars. 13.3 million has been awarded to date. The gap will be filled by going to the long term debt market, once Maple Broadband has sufficient income from subscribers. Magna D. pointed out that every dollar that is received through funding sources does not have to be borrowed. Because Maple Broadband is a non-profit, cost savings will be passed on to the subscribers. To date, Maple Broadband has received a total of \$335,000 in ARPA funds from a total of 8 towns. The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) has just announced that all funds that municipalities allocate to CUDs will be matched by the VCBB dollar for dollar and that this match will include prior allocations from municipalities as well.

### **MINUTES**

- **September 20, 2022** - John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. ***Motion passed*** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Letter from the President of the Vermont Municipal Clerk and Treasurer's Association (VMCTA) informing the Town that Sue Johnson was named Vermont Treasurer of the Year at the annual VMCTA awards banquet. In her letter, the President of the VMCTA said, "In addition to being a model of professional excellence in your town, Susan Johnson has been involved in her treasurer profession in a number of ways including conducting workshops for the members of the VMCTA at its spring trainings and fall conference. She is dependable. As you know, she has a quietly competent demeanor, which engenders the trust of those attending her trainings. She is always willing to share her extensive knowledge with her peers. Sue is one of two mentors for Addison County.

John R. MOVED / Tanya B. SECONDED a motion to pass a resolution congratulating Sue Johnson for her award as Vermont Treasurer of the Year, a well deserved recognition.

**Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

- Sworn Statement Proof of Loss from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund, Inc. Itemized statement that the Board will sign and Sue J. will notarize.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

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

- Tax payments are coming in.
- Completed ballots are coming in. Tabulator will be tested later in the month.
- Sue J. said she is taking a few days off in the middle of the month.
- Sue J. expressed her concerns about the process of hiring for the road crew position. See Road Commissioner's Report below.

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

- 1,700 tons of sand has been hauled with assistance of mutual aid
- Crew has begun to stockpile gravel
- Stu has been assisting with grading
- Hole in front of the Town Hall has been patched
- Crew is preparing equipment for the winter season
- A bid for the tree work on Swamp Road has been received, not to exceed \$1,600, and Steve R. has accepted it. Plans are to shut Swamp Road for two days. The road crew will work together with the tree service during this time.
- A zoom meeting has been scheduled for the State to provide an update on the Swamp Road bridge to Cornwall and Salisbury. Brian K. and Paul Vaczy will attend the Zoom meeting.
- Vantage Point Solutions, engineering firm working for Maple Broadband, contacted the Town to get a signed road access form for the construction work in Cornwall. Brian K. is following up.
- A PACIF grant for \$2,500 from Vermont League of Cities and Towns was received for

the security system at the Town Garage.

- Grant paperwork has been submitted for the work done on Cutting Hill Road.
- Steve R. is recruiting back up personnel to assist with plowing this winter. He has one person in process so far, and needs more, he can call upon during storms of long duration and/or back to back storms.
- Regarding the process of hiring for the road crew position, there are two current candidates, one who has had an interview. Steve R. will schedule and conduct interview with the second candidate and any others, and consult with Brian in the decision process. Tanya B. and Ben M. offered to assist Steve R. with the interview process.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Consider Competing External ARPA Funding Requests** - discussion tabled until a master list is compiled, including external and internal use of ARPA funds.

**NEW BUSINESS** - none

**OTHER BUSINESS** - A brief discussion about planning for the new salt shed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

John R. MOVED / Tanya B. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. ***Motion passed*** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board