

Approved February 21, 2023

**CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**

Special Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at the

Town Hall

January 24, 2023

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sue Johnson, Liz Marino, Christopher Kramer, Annie Wilson, Sharon Cram, Gail Isenberg, Stan Grzyb, Meg Harris, Amanda Van Dellen, Woody Jackson, Elizabeth Toder

**Recording of meeting**—announced

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

**QUORUM**—established

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

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

**Public Comment re: Proposals to spend the Town of Cornwall's federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds**

Ben M. thanked the citizens for coming to this special meeting and said that the purpose of the meeting was to hear from Cornwall residents how they feel the Town should spend the remaining ARPA funds. The following residents expressed their thoughts:

1. Holly and Jeff Noordsy (via email) - replace the trees on the Town Green that recently had to be removed. Install the planned park on the south side of the Town Hall.
2. Julie Baranzeva (via email) - expressed her thanks for the ARPA funds allocated to the Friends of Cornwall School for after-school programming. Her daughter participated in this programming. She would like to see this programming continue/expand and requests that some of the remaining ARPA funds be used for this.
3. Megan Allen (in an email read by neighbor Amanda Van Dellen via Zoom) - would like to see some remaining ARPA funds spent on continuing the after-school programming, that was of great benefit to their family.
4. Amanda Van Dellen (via Zoom) - expressed appreciation for the after school programs supported by the Town with ARPA funds. She and her husband Chet have two children who participated in several of the programs. Would like to see remaining ARPA funds spent this one to support children and families in Cornwall. She added that "families love it!"

5. Elizabeth Toder - would like to see ARPA funds used for after school programming. Her children got a lot out of it.
  6. Chris Kramer, co-chair of Friends of Cornwall School (FOCS) - reported that FOCS is now a 501(c)(3) organization. Previously, the Town allocated FOCS \$24,000 for after school programming so that the programs would be open to all children at no cost and that about 1/2 of those funds have been spent during this school year to date (on an accrual basis). Several fundraisers through businesses are being planned for the spring, including a Town Meeting breakfast fundraiser. Chris K. said that parents come to him and say that having these programs for their children after school "makes life work."
  7. Stan Grzyb - member of the Pickleball Committee, a subcommittee of the Recreation Committee, that is working on getting grants to build a Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area that would include a pickleball court. They plan to use the piece of land next to the school that is owned by the Town. Their application for technical assistance from a national organization has been approved and they will be receiving up to 80 hours of free planning, help with applying for grants, doing surveys, and other such types of assistance. The State of Vermont has a Home Places grant that the Recreation Committee wants to apply for. The Home Places grant provides \$40,000 and requires a 30% match. AARP has a grant called the 2023 Community Challenge that does not require a match. The Committee believes that a good use for ARPA funds would be to support this type of recreational infrastructure that would be of benefit to everyone in Cornwall of all ages and abilities.
  8. Annie Wilson, chair of the Cornwall Recreation Committee expressed her support of ARPA funds being used for the creation of the Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area described by Stan G.
  9. Woody Jackson - spoke in support of the Pickleball Committee receiving ARPA funds and the use of the land just south of the school that belongs to the Town for an outdoor recreation area. Woody J. added that there are local contractors ready to help on this project.
  10. Meg Harris - she wants to see a safer trail between the school and the Town Hall. She added that there is a big demand for Pickleball in the region. People of all ages and abilities can easily learn, easily play, and find community in this sport.
  11. Liz Marino - spoke about the benefit of having such a recreation area in Cornwall. She found that once her kids graduated from the school, she lost her main connection to her community.
- Ben M. asked that FOCS and the Pickleball Committee come back with requests for a specific dollar amount for the Select Board to consider.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Sue Johnson reported:

- Annual certificate of highway mileage is ready for the Select Board to sign.
- Capital Committee met last Thursday and agreed upon a level funded budget. Hearing on the Capital Plan and Budget is scheduled for the second Select Board

meeting in February.

- 2023-24 General Fund and Highway budgets need to be finalized. The Board agreed to hold a Special Meeting to finalize the budgets on January 30 at 7:30.

### **Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board