

Approved March 21, 2023

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town

Hall

February 21, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Steven Rheaume, Sue Johnson

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Ben Marks, Chair

QUORUM—established

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

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

Reconciled Bank Statement - reviewed

MINUTES

- **January 14, 2023 and February 7, 2023** - John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to approve both sets of minutes as posted. ***Motion passed***—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Appointment paperwork from the Vermont Department of Health, appointing William Johnson to a 3 year term as Cornwall's Health Officer. Sue J. said that Mr. Johnson has agreed to continue in the position. Ben Marks signed.
- Reviewed the letter from Alex Getty, prospective buyer of a property that was granted a tax reduction 35 years ago. His question is about the water on this property. After discussion, it was agreed to advise Mr. Getty to consult a qualified hydrologist.
- Letter from Fyles Brothers Inc regarding S.5, a proposed bill in the Vermont Senate.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- Sue J. passed out copies of the 2022 Town Report and the Board reviewed the Warning with her in preparation for Town Meeting.
- After discussion of Article 2 on the Warning, it was agreed that Sue J. will make a motion

that the General Fund surplus be used to lower taxes.

- Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 4, beginning at 10 am. Friends of the Cornwall School will serve breakfast beginning at 8:30 as a fundraiser for after school activities for students. Voting will take place on Tuesday, March 7. All candidates for local positions are incumbents, running unopposed. The race for the open seat on the Addison County Central School District (ACCSA) is highly contested.
- At this point, Sue J. said she does not know the plan for counting the ballots for Hannaford Career Center or the ACCSA.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Steven Rheaume, Road Foreman

- Nick has been hauling gravel. Steve R. added that as a new employee, Nick has already proven in many ways that he is an asset to the Town.
- Steve R. reported that he did some grading in February (unusual) because the roads were getting some soft spots and weather conditions made grading possible.
- The crew has been cutting brush, pushing it back to the right of way.
- The crew has been preparing equipment for the coming storm this weekend.

OLD BUSINESS .

• Sand/Salt Shed Update

Sue J. reported on progress and process. The paperwork with the contractor has been signed and the 25% down payment sent. Jim Duclos, Acting Zoning Administrator, has asked Sue to make minor changes to the application. She plans to get the paperwork to the Development Review Board (DRB) by March 3 in order for the matter to be on the agenda for the April DRB meeting. If the application is approved and all goes to plan, the project should be ready to go by May 1.

• Update and follow up on potential ARPA fund projects

Don B. said that he contacted the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to clarify exactly when ARPA funds need to be spent. He learned that the moneys need to be committed by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. Don added that the spreadsheet on the website needs to be updated with all ideas proposed and with the amounts requested, when available. Ben M. said he would follow up on that. Further discussion was tabled until next meeting.

• Potential EPA Brownfield funding for reassessment of the Town Garage property

Don B. has been in touch with Andrew L'Roe from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC). Andrew requested past study work and test results going back as far as possible, for the consultants. EPA Brownfield funding could support a reassessment of the situation. Next step: obtain a file that the Town Health Officer has. Test results have been reported to the State monthly, since the Town started pumping, so that information should be readily available.

- **Update and discussion on Salt Contamination at the Town Garage**

John R. met with staff from the Water Quality Division of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). ANR staff person said that the ancient Champlain Sea never came up as far as the area where the Town Garage is now, so the salt currently in the water at the Town Garage did not come from the Champlain Sea. ANR staff would like to examine test data going back as far as possible and information from the well driller. Ben M. will continue to read relevant historical documents and will find out who drilled the well. John R. will follow up with ANR staff and will copy Don B. on all communications.

NEW BUSINESS - none

OTHER BUSINESS

Sue J. reported that the Historical Society recently met with the local chapter of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). The DAR chapter is being revived. An engineering study is being done on the building. The revived local DAR chapter wants to be welcoming to the community and open up their building for community use. Currently there is no heating system in the DAR building, and they were asking about ARPA funds. Sue J. advised them to come to the Select Board with a specific proposal including the amount of funds requested.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board