

Approved June 6, 2023

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town

Hall

May 16, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Michael R. Elmore, Bob Wesley

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by the Chair

QUORUM—established

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

AGENDA - Ben M. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended by moving the meeting with the Addison County Sheriff to the top of the agenda. ***Motion passed***—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Meet and Greet Addison County Sheriff, Michael R. Elmore

Sheriff Michael Elmore and Deputy Bob Wesley came to meet with the Select Board today in order to listen to any concerns and to answer questions the Board may have about the services the Sheriff's Department provides. John R. said that he likes the presence of the patrols the Sheriff's Department provides and feels they are useful. Don B. asked about the general patrolling strategy. Sheriff Elmore said they do know the "hot spots" in each town where speeding most often occurs, and will do stationary patrols there. Otherwise they move around, primarily on the main roads. Patrols are two hours in duration. Ben M. said in Cornwall, road safety issues are the area of most concern.

Ben M. asked what the Sheriff's Department is most concerned about, county-wide. Sheriff Elmore replied that since the pandemic began, speeding has increased, there has been an increase in break-ins and more people are running from the police. He told the Board that he would welcome meeting with them again and would like to maintain open communication channels between his department and the Town. The Town contracts with the Sheriff's Department for patrolling services, and that contract is renewed annually. The patrolling service includes the detection and prevention of crime, traffic enforcement, and supplementing other police services. They do not investigate crimes. That is done by the Vermont State Police. Board Chair Tanya B. said she was glad to understand more about the relationship between the Town and the Addison County Sheriff's Department.

MINUTES

- **May 2, 2023** - Ben M. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as modified with one typo corrected and one other correction, that Don B. was the person who had the idea of a collaboration between the CORA Committee and the garden enthusiasts. **Motion passed**—2 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained.
- **April 26, Joint Working Session** - Ben M. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion passed**—3 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Draft contract from S & J Stearns, for demolition of salt/sand shed and site preparation for new salt/sand building - has been reviewed by Attorney Benj Deppman
- Findings and Decisions from the Development Review Board (DRB) regarding the sand and salt shed. Application was approved.
- Request from the Open Door Clinic for ARPA funds
- Letter from Bob Burton requesting change of trial date. The Town will grant his request.
- Information from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns about how towns are using ARPA funds
- Information about the Municipal Energy Resilience Program - to be added to the agenda at the next meeting.
- Letter from Rebecca Diehl, Research Assistant Professor at UVM, regarding a two-year project to monitor the levels of the Lemon Fair River. Monitoring equipment is to be installed on the bridge on Route 125 and will be removed at the end of the project. She asked to be contacted if the Town has any concerns.
- Information about interest bearing savings accounts at Bank of America. However, Don B. said that the bridge funds are currently in a CD earning 3.5% interest until February 2024, a higher interest rate than Bank of American is offering at this time.
- Letter from Chris Kramer asking to meet with the Board for an update on after school activities. Meeting with Chris K. to be added to the June 6 agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson left written report, read by Tanya B.

- 35 tax payments have not yet been received. Sue J. will send the delinquent tax report to Rodney Cadoret next week.
- Resident of West Street called to say the electronic speed sign was effective on West Street and she would like to have it come back.
- Bridge funds CD at National Bank of Middlebury is now earning 3.5%.
- The Select Board will be meeting with the Cemetery Commission to discuss the cemeteries in Cornwall.
- Next week, Wednesday - Friday Sue J. will be out of the office, and Carolyn will be covering.

- This week, Town Office will open at noon on Friday.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - no report tonight

OLD BUSINESS

- **Discuss amendments to Town Plan**

The Board discussed some minor changes it wants to make to the Town Plan draft approved by the Planning Commission. Ben M. will send the red-lined draft to the Select Board tomorrow for review, and then will post it to the Town website with an explanation of the changes. Ben M. will also post a link to the recording of the joint meeting between the Select Board, Planning Commission, and Conservation Commission during which this group came to agreement on some specific language in the forest fragmentation section. This joint meeting was deemed very effective and a good model for how Town boards and commissions can work together on other issues going forward. The public hearing on the Town Plan is scheduled for June 6 at 7pm. The Board may be able to vote to approve the Town Plan at the regular meeting following the hearing, if no further changes are proposed.

Once the Town Plan is approved, the Town can move forward to apply for a Village Center designation, because applying for such designation is a specific goal in the Town Plan. Ben M. spoke with the administrator of the Village Center Designation program and is satisfied that there are no downsides, only benefits. Having a Village Center designation is not necessarily permanent, and can be changed at any time by the Town.

Salt Shed Project Status

Application for a variance has been approved by the DRB. Sue J. is sending Sean Stearns the first payment for preparation work on the site. The timeline for delivery of materials is unknown by the Select Board at this time.

NEW BUSINESS continued

- **Consideration of and possible vote on the appointment of Adam Eckhardt to the DRB as an alternate** - John R. MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion to appoint Adam Eckhardt to the DRB as an alternate. ***Motion passed***—4 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **Consideration of and possible vote on the appointment of Bob Cluss as Cornwall's delegate to the Lemon Fair Insect Control District** - John R. MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion to appoint Bob Cluss as Cornwall's delegate to the Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD). ***Motion passed***—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Brownfields Concept concerning the salt issue at the Town Garage**

Don B. reported that David Allwine from Stantech did a site visit last Thursday. Stu Johnson and Andrew L'Roe were also present. Next step is to make application for an assessment. EPA needs to approve the application.

- Don B. said that the Planning Commission has a candidate to recommend for

appointment to an open position on the Planning Commission and plans to come to the June 6 meeting with this recommendation.

- Don B. mentioned that the current Zoning Administrator is stepping down and that David Dodge wishes to step down from the LFICD - what is the plan to fill these soon to be vacant positions?
- John R. reported that he sent out the RFP for website design and hopes to report more at the next meeting. It was noted that a good website promotes civic engagement.

ADJOURNMENT

John B. MOVED / Ben M. 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