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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town
Hall

August 1, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Steve Rheaume, Lynn Coale, Paul Vaczy, Patrick Dunn, Kip Andres, James McCarthy, Jonathan Blake, Fianna Barrows, Andrew Van Buskirk

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Chair

QUORUM—established

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

AGENDA - John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of an update on the FOCS request to Old Business and an ARPA request from the Fire Department and a Report from the Cornwall Emergency Manager to New Business. ***Motion passed***—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

NEW BUSINESS - visits

- **Visit with James B. McCarthy, Project Manager of VT Highway Division and members of the Salisbury Select Board, to discuss Salisbury-Cornwall Bridge**
James McCarthy, Fianna Barrows and Andrew Van Buskirk from the Vermont Highway Division presented information and discussed with the Select Boards of both towns, proposed plans to rebuild the bridge spanning the Otter Creek between Cornwall and Salisbury.

Both the Cornwall and Salisbury Select Boards expected to see the State's proposed plans for a replacement single lane wooden covered bridge (preferred by the voters in both towns) as well as plans for a single lane steel girder bridge made to resemble a traditional covered bridge. Their expectation was based on all the meetings and scoping discussions held with VTrans to date. Instead Mr. McCarthy and his coworkers came only with plans for a single lane steel girder bridge made to resemble a covered bridge (with the option of a double lane in the same design). They also presented completely new information about federal funding.

The Select Boards asked Mr. McCarthy to come back by the next meeting on September 5 with plans and costs for a single lane wooden covered bridge. The boards want to compare this plan with the plan for a faux or hybrid covered bridge.

- **Meet with Lynn Coale about Zoning Administrator (ZA) position**

Lynn Coale shared some information about his background, experience, availability, and current part time job as the ZA for the Town of Weybridge. After discussion, Don B.

MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion to appoint Lynn Coale as Zoning Administrator for a term of 3 years, effective immediately. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

APPROVE MINUTES - July 12, 2023

John R. MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Latest test report of the water at the Town Garage
- Email from William Johnson regarding historical test results of the water at the Town Garage
- Notice from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board regarding Municipal Planning grants for 2024
- Notice from the State Treasurer's office that the quarterly Highway Aid payments will be in the amount of \$17,629.92.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- Caterer's permit for an event on July 28 was approved in between meetings by the process previously agreed upon.
- Sue J. will be out of the office this Thursday, Friday, and next Tuesday. Carolyn will be covering.
- Dottie Ringey is ready to step down from managing Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Sue J. and Ann Collins will be meeting with Dottie to transfer the management of Pleasant Hill Cemetery to the Town. Sue J. will take care of selling the lots.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Steve Rheaume

- Steve R. presented quotes for suitcase generators and his preference for the \$1200 generator. After discussion, John R. MOVED / BEN M. SECONDED a motion to use the equipment fund to purchase the generator recommended by Steve R. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed
- Steve R. said he has ordered the road sign for the Beaver Brook development - "Old Church Lane".
- Applied for a \$7500 safety grant, with no match required from the Town, that includes tree work. Next step is to fill out the grant execution form. Steve also said he is getting a quote from Thad, who did the tree work on Swamp Road. Tree work is needed on the Town Green. Sue J. advised Steve to be in touch with Jeff and Holly Noordsy, as they

are stakeholders regarding the trees on the Green.

- Grants in aid project for Snake Mountain Road and Ledgewood Lane to conclude in the next few days.
- Turn around at the Swamp Road fishing access is in need of repair - Steve R. has not yet been able to identify who at the State is responsible. The culver here has totally failed.
- Steve was able to open up Swamp Road again last Thursday and the road appears intact.

OLD BUSINESS

• Salt Shed Project Status Report

Paving is done and Sean's work is almost done. The building will be delivered in August and is paid in full. Brian K. said that overall the project has gone really well.

- **Consider contract with Sheriff's Department** - Ben M. reviewed and recommends signing. John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to authorize Tanya B. to sign the contract.

• Brief update reports

- Cornwall School Tents - Sue J. looked into the size of space needed to store each tent. There are two tents, 20 feet x 20 feet each. They store in waterproof bags measuring 2 feet x 2 feet x 3 feet. Ben M. will ask the Fire Chief if the Fire Department would like to store them at the station to use for events.
- Village Center Designation - in process
- Updating Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) - Tanya B. reported that the Town has received a pre-award fund of \$8,362 with which the Town can go out to bid for a consultant to update the LHMP. Tanya B. will sign the form accepting this award and will update the Board at the next meeting.
- Municipal Energy Resilience Program - Tanya B. will work with Sue J. to arrange the audit of the Town Garage, as the first step in this program.
- Town of Cornwall website upgrade - 3 companies are being considered and a 4th company has been identified. John R. will reach out this company, and Don B. and Tanya B. will meet to review all the options.
- Update on FOCS request - Chris Kramer has withdrawn his recent request for funds. His most recent calculations for projected programming costs for the 2023/24 school year, show that the organization has sufficient funds to cover costs at this time.

NEW BUSINESS - continued

- **Discussion of setting Municipal Tax Rate** - Sue J. said she is waiting for information from the Listers and that a special meeting will need to be scheduled to set the tax rate.
- **ARPA Request from the Fire Department** - Ben M. passed along a request from the

Fire Department for ARPA funds for the purpose of putting in a well and indoor water tank at the North Bingham Street station for a cost of \$15,000. This request will be added to the list of ARPA fund requests the Town has received.

- **Report from the Cornwall Emergency Manager** - Ben Marks reported that Cornwall fared well during the recent storms and severe flooding in Vermont. The Cornwall Swamp absorbed most of the water. Cornwall got 10.2 inches of rain.

OTHER BUSINESS - none

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board