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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town

Hall

November 7, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Rheaume, Sue Johnson, Chris George

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm by the Chair

QUORUM—established

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

Reconciled Bank Statement - reviewed

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

NEW BUSINESS visits

APPROVE MINUTES

October 17, 2023

Brian K MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted.

Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Another application for the Town Clerk/Town Treasurer position
- Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) PACIF regarding options for auto insurance coverage. It was agreed to request a copy of the proposed policy.
- Addison County Solid Waste Management Annual Report
- VLCT Vermont Municipal Compensation and Benefits Report
- Letter regarding the backyard concert series - the series has been so popular it has outgrown the location.
- Salt report

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

NEW BUSINESS - visits

Chris George spoke with the Board about his background, his interest in the combined position of Town Clerk / Town Treasurer, and his availability.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Steve Rheume and Brian Kemp

- Steve has been in communication with a FEMA representative about damage to Cornwall roads, now that there is an emergency declaration that covers the storms during that period of time. On November 21 he will have an in-person RSM meeting with the FEMA rep.
- Trucks are ready for winter.
- Road crew has been doing some mowing, brush cutting and some grading while grading is still possible.
- Grader wing has been delivered - installation is next step.
- Steve R. said that Andrew Munkres will be available for plowing, if needed, during Steve's March vacation. In the meantime, Steve will provide some refresher training for Andrew with ride-a-longs and equipment operation.

OLD BUSINESS

• Salisbury-Cornwall Bridge project

After discussion of the latest communication from J.B. McCarthy from VTrans, Ben M. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the choice of a rehabilitated covered bridge, with all costs to be covered with federal funds, except a cost of \$15,000 to be shared equally between the two towns. Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed. Sue J. advised that Swamp Road will need to be closed for an extended period of time and that needs to be advertised well in advance of the road closure.

• Brief update reports

- I-beams at 194 South Bingham Street - Steve R. reported that the I-beams at 194 South Bingham are still in the right of way. It looks like someone attempted to move them unsuccessfully.
- MREMS contract - no update
- Website subcommittee - Ben M, John R. and Tanya B. met to plan website needs.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

• Recommendation from ARPA subcommittee on allocation of funds for Recreation Project on Town land (near the school) per the CORA proposal

The Board discussed the recommendation of the ARPA subcommittee that the Board pledge ARPA funds in the amount of \$70,000 to the CORA committee, including how it meets the criteria for ARPA funding from Cornwall.

• Vote on CORA request

Don B. MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion that the Cornwall Select Board vote to pledge seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) of its American Rescue Plan Act

(ARPA) funds towards first phase of the two acre Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area (CORA) in substantially the form presented to the Select Board.

And that the Select Board pledge those funds subject to the following conditions:

1. That the CORA receive all required permits enabling its construction;
2. That the CORA successfully complete the requirements for the Better Places Grant, including without limitation, the public matching funds portion of that grant; and
3. That the CORA committee submit to the Select Board a plan for the administration of the CORA.

The Select Board also agreed to sign a letter indicating Cornwall's support addressed to the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, subject to such changes and amendments as the Chair of the Board deems advisable.

Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed. Tanya B. added that while John R. is not present tonight to vote, he expressed his support of the above pledge to CORA.

• **Discussion of the Energy Coordinator position and the prospect of forming an Energy Committee**

Cornwall's Energy Coordinator, Gary Barnett, is recommending that Cornwall join together with Weybridge to create a joint energy committee. Gary B. would like to step down as coordinator, and thinks an energy committee is a better way to promote energy issues. Don B. spoke of the benefits of a joint committee. Weybridge's active and effective energy committee supports this idea. Both Select Boards will need to be in support. After discussion, all agreed that the Cornwall Select Board supports this idea. Don B. will let Gary know.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ben M. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion that premature general public knowledge regarding matters potentially concerning litigation would clearly put the Town at a disadvantage. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ben M. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters potentially concerning litigation. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:45 pm. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:00 pm.

Ben M. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion that the Town of Cornwall pay Ken Manchester \$505 to replace a retractable tarp per his request, provided that Mr. Manchester signs a general release in favor of the town regarding this and all future claims. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed

ADJOURNMENT

Ben M. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed—

4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board