

Approved November 7, 2023

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town

Hall

October 17, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Rheaume, Holly Noordsy, Nick Gill

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by the Chair

QUORUM—established

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

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

NEW BUSINESS visits

- **Town Treasurer Applicant** - Nicholas Gill, Town Treasurer applicant and resident of Cornwall, introduced himself, and described his experience and availability for the Town Treasurer position. Next steps for the Board are to talk with Sue Johnson regarding the scope of the Town Treasurer position, if that job is to be held by someone who is not also the Town Clerk.
- **Discussion of trees on the Town Green** - Holly Noordsy, who lives next to the Town Green, discussed the state of the trees currently on the Town Green, the benefits of planting new trees on the Green, the need for a plan, and the importance of consulting a professional for that plan. Next step for the Board is to talk with the Planning Commission and then follow up with Holly N.

APPROVE MINUTES

October 3, 2023

John R. MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as amended with date in heading corrected. Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Brian K.).

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Email from the CORA committee with an estimate of \$2,734 for ongoing maintenance costs for the planned outdoor recreation area. They plan to cover these expenses with private donations and court user membership fees.
- Invitation to attend the October 18 meeting of the Planning Commission
- Letter from James McCarthy, Department of Transportation, regarding the two options

for replacing the Swamp Road bridge. Option One is to build a new 2 lane steel bridge with no pier. The State will cover the construction cost of two land steel bridge at 100%. If the Town wanted to add a cover to the steel bridge, the construction cost of that would be the responsibility of the Town. Option 2 is a one lane wooden covered bridge. This is considered rehabilitation. The State will cover the construction cost of a one lane wooden covered bridge at 100%, including the cost of fire suppression and related costs. Brian K., Road Commissioner, expressed his concern that with either option, the plans proposed by the State still show the Cornwall side approach to the bridge with the curve in the road. The curve makes the approach blind. Brian K. would prefer that the road be redesigned to eliminate the blind approach, and all agreed this would be much safer.

- Application for the Town Clerk/Town Treasurer from Chris George. Tanya B. will send an email to acknowledge the application.
- Email from Bob Burton with a complaint about a copying issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Steve Rheume and Brian Kemp

- Equipment preparations for winter continue.
- Brian K. authorized the final payment to Sean Sterns from the Capital Fund. Steve R. added that the sand/salt shed does not have lights yet, but once they are installed, the project will be 100% complete.
- Road crew has been doing shoulder work on the blacktop.
- The turbine leaf blower is in need of repair.
- The Dodge has new tires, but Steve is still waiting for new tires for the truck. He may need to use a different vendor.
- Grader wing is expected to arrive at the end of this month.

OLD BUSINESS

• Report from the ARPA subcommittee

Tanya passed out the spreadsheet of all ARPA requests received to date reported that the next meetings of the ARPA subcommittee are scheduled for:

October 26, 5 pm

November 14, 5 pm

November 28, 5 pm

The goal of the subcommittee's work is to evaluate the applications and come to the full Select Board with a set of recommendations. The subcommittee recommends one application for a vote tonight.

John R. MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion to allocate ARPA funds in the amount of \$2,500 to the Conservation Commission (CCC) to serve as matching funds to hire a wildlife biologist per the request of the CCC on September 5, 2023. Motion passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed. Don B. added that the Trustees of Public Funds also granted \$600 for

the CCC project.

- **Brief update reports**

- I-beams at 194 South Bingham Street - The I-beams at 194 South Bingham are still in the right of way. John R. will follow up with them again.
- MREMS contract - Ben M. said he sent a marked-up version of the contract to the Executive Director of MREMS and heard back that the matter is in process with MREMS.
- Salt Shed Project Status Report - see Road Commissioner's Report (above)
- Salisbury - Cornwall Bridge Project - see Correspondence (above)
- Website subcommittee - next meeting scheduled for October 24 at 5 pm. Tanya B. will reach out to Katherine Branch to join the website subcommittee.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- **FEMA Review of August storm damage** - Brian K. said that several Cornwall roads had damage estimated in the range of \$22,000 - \$25,000. Steve R. will prepare and submit the application to FEMA.
- **Preliminary discussion of budgeting process** - Board had a short discussion of the budgeting process.
- **VLCT assistance in Town Clerk search position** - The Vermont League of Cities and Towns is available to assist Cornwall in the search for a Town Clerk/Town Treasurer.

OTHER BUSINESS

John R. reported that he inquired about whether Act 205 applies to the CORA project. The answer is no, it does not.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board