

Approved December 19, 2023

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town

Hall

December 5, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Rheume, Sue Johnson

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

Reconciled Bank Statement - reviewed

AGENDA -Ben M. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended with addition of Town Clerk / Town Treasurer's Report. Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

NEW BUSINESS visits

Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD) Board - Bob Cluss, member of the LFICD Board, described the make up and expertise of the current LFICD Board. The LFICD was formed in 2006, serves the towns of Cornwall, Bridport and Weybridge, and is one of only two mosquito control districts in the whole state of Vermont.

The district had 30 inches of rain in 2 months in the summer of 2023, it was “quite a year” for mosquitoes as a result and the LFICD complaint line was very busy. The mosquitoes were so abundant that it affected the livelihoods of those who have to work outside. The State criteria for permits to do aerial spraying is, in Mr. Cluss's view, too restrictive. The LFICD was preparing to do an aerial spray when it was needed, but then conditions changed and no longer met State criteria. The LFICD Board has requested a meeting with the State agency that issues the permits.

Steve R. brought up the fact that significant land on either side of the Lemon Fair River is now owned by the State, no longer mowed, and includes 8-9 ponds, contributing to the problem. Mr. Cluss said that the district is discussing what needs to change in the approach to mosquito control, based on what happened last summer, including the possible use of drone technology for targeted treatment.

Mr. Cluss also discussed budgetary concerns with the Select Board. If there is another wet year in 2024 and they have to do two aerial sprays, funds will be exhausted. The Select Board encouraged him to go back to his board to reconsider the 2024-25 FY request to member towns, in order to have sufficient funds to meet the need.

APPROVE MINUTES

November 21, 2023

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

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Addison County Solid Waste Management District 2023 Annual Report and adopted rate changes.
- Email from Stan Grzyb asking for a letter of support for CORA's VOREC grant application
- Invitation to the December 11 county budget meeting of the Assistant Judges of Addison County
- Letter from the Overhead Door Company of Rutland offering yearly maintenance

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- Sue passed out the budget sheets for the Board to review. Discussion will be at the next meeting.
- Preparations are underway for Town Meeting
- Local elections - John Roberts and Ben Marks terms on the Select Board are ending
- Newsletter submissions deadline is December 22.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Steve Rheaume and Brian Kemp

- Road crew has been doing some grading after rain storms.
- Last Thursday, Spoffords replaced the failed pressure tank that controls the well. The tank was under warranty as it was installed 10 months ago. Spoffords replaced it with a different style of tank that is expected to work better. Steve R. added that he has been adjusting the rate of flow and expects the electric bill to be lower next month as a result.
- Steve said he would like to replace the current 1983 water heater at the Town Garage with an on-demand water heater. Trucks need to be rinsed off after use and hot water is much more effective than cold water. Steve is in the process of getting quotes, after discussing the issue with Brian K.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- **Consideration of Applicants for Town Treasurer and Town Clerk positions**
 - Laura Fetterolf has been offered the position of Town Clerk and she accepted. She is available to begin training next week and the fact that her husband is an auditor in Cornwall does not present a conflict of interest.
- Ben M. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to appoint Laura Fetterolf as

Cornwall's Town Clerk starting March 7, 2024 at a rate of \$28.00 per hour. **Motion passed**—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

- Ben M. spoke with the applicant for the Town Treasurer position this morning. Tanya B. will follow up with him.
- **Preliminary Review of 2024-25 Budget worksheets** - Sue passed out the worksheets for Board review.
- **Consider letter of support for CORA's VOREC grant application** - after discussion, the Board agreed to sign the letter of support drafted by Tanya B. and Sue J. will sign as well.

OLD BUSINESS

Brief update reports:

- Update from the website subcommittee - Tanya B. said there will be an update at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ben M. reported that the Fire Department budget is increasing by 20% due to inflation.

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 8:25 pm. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:00pm. No decisions were made.

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 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board