

Approved October 1, 2024

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

September 17, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tanya Byker, Don Burns, John Roberts, Shawn Fetterolf,
Brian Kemp

ALSO PRESENT: Laura Fetterolf, Steve Rheaume, Tim Fisher, Meg Story Groves,
Laurie Groves

Recording of meeting—announced

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair Tanya Byker at 7:02 pm.

QUORUM—established

AGENDA - John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with discussion of Potential Revisions to Town Purchasing Policy tabled until a future meeting. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES - September 3, 2024

John R. MOVED / Shawn F. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as amended with the clarification in the motion regarding the Auditors that the Auditors are an advisory body, and therefore not subject to Open Meeting Law recording and posting requirements. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Communication from the Vermont Department of Taxes - regarding the timeline for reappraisal, and the expectation that it be done by July, 2025.
- Communication from Benj Putnam regarding to the latest filing by Bob Burton. Benj P. will prepare and file the Town's response.
- Emails and phone calls from several taxpayers regarding the current tax bill
- Notice from the Vermont Department of Health that the term of Cornwall's deputy health officer expires September 30, 2024. Town Clerk affirmed that Sue Johnson would like to continue in this role. John R. MOVED/ Brian K. SECONDED a motion to appoint Sue Johnson as Deputy Health Officer for the ensuing term of one year. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Tim Fisher expressed his concern that water running down Park Lane is

funneling onto Fisher Road. A small section at the beginning of Fisher Road is a Class 3 road, and the rest is a Class 4 Road. Tim F. asks the Board to do something to mitigate the water drainage problem. Brian K, Road Commissioner, said that, while the Town has no legal obligation to maintain Class 4 roads, the highway department can look at the Park Lane and the Class 3 section of Fisher Road, to see what can be done to divert the water. If work is done, it can only be on the section that is Class 3. Tim F. also asked about a Private Road sign that he believes was put in place by the Town some years ago. Fisher Road is not a private road, and he asks that the sign be removed. Brian K. said the highway crew will remove it.

- Meg Story Groves and Laurie Groves expressed their dismay about their current tax bill. Laura F. explained the cause of the significant increase in the school funding part of the tax bill, the Listers' appeals in the past few years (the latest appeal was denied), and the Town's communication with the State to express dismay and get clarification. Senator Ruth Hardy and Representative Peter Conlon have offered to come and talk with the Select Board. Meg and Laurie were pleased to hear that.

TOWN CLERK - Laura Fetterolf

- The Town has received a \$5,000 grant from the Center for Technology and Civic Life that can be used to increase the security and transparency of elections. Laura is working on a list of what would help with elections. The deadline for spending the grant is December 31, 2024.
- Laura attended the annual conference of the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association (VMCTA) on September 11, 2024 and the Secretary of State's election training and found it very helpful.
- The Vermont Homeland Security Unit will be doing a free walk through on September 26. 8-10 am, to assess cybersecurity safety in the Town of Cornwall.
- Election ballots are arriving.
- Laura will put up the poster this Friday with the notice that firearms are prohibited in the Town Hall 45 days prior to the November 5 election, as the Town Hall is the designated polling place.

TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - no report today

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Steve Rheaume

- Morgan Huestis, new road crew person, started on Monday, September 9.
- After it rained, Steve graded Sperry Road and was dismayed to find that 2 days later, the washboards reappeared. He said he turned to others for advice and now is implementing their suggestions for a multi-step process of grading.
- There is a gas powered jack hammer available from a local company, that would be useful for the Town to have. Steve will look into possibly buying it in collaboration with another neighboring Town, possibly using ARPA funds.

- Planning to use the safety grant for tree removal to be done in the month of December.
- Steve discussed the issue of a driveway culvert on South Bingham Street. Brian K. will follow up.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Update from Website Subcommittee: RFP Progress Report** - John R. that the deadline for quotes is September 27. The committee will review and come to the Board in October with a recommendation.
- **Discuss possibility of delegating certain authorizations (i.e. catering, facilities) to town officials and/or employees** - After discussion, John R. MOVED/Brian K. SECONDED a motion to delegate to the Town Clerk the approval of catering permits in between Select Board meetings. ***Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.***

NEW BUSINESS

- **Consider appointing new Cornwall delegate to Maple Broadband** - Justin Boyer, who has just moved to Cornwall, and was a Maple Broadband governing board delegate from his previous town of residence, would like to be Cornwall's delegate. Shawn F. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to appoint Justin Boyer as delegate to the Maple Broadband governing board. ***Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.***
- **Consider DLL license application** - After discussion, Shawn F. MOVED/ Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the DLL license application for an event on October 5 at a Franklin private residence. ***Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.***

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Update on Ordinances from John R.** - John said that when the recording of the training he went to is available, he will let the Board know. Don had expressed interest in it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Shawn F. MOVED / John R SECONDED a motion that premature general public knowledge regarding non-public information related to employee matters would clearly put the Town and the employee at a disadvantage. ***Motion passed*** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Brian K. MOVED / Shawn F. SECONDED a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss non-public employee matters. ***Motion passed*** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:10 pm and came out at 9:40pm. No

decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board