

Approved March 18, 2025

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

February 18, 2025

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

ALSO PRESENT: Laura Fetterolf, Morgan Huestis, Brian Gill

Recording of meeting—announced

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

QUORUM—established

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

AGENDA - Don B. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with addition of report by Don about zoning regulations update to Other Business. ***Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.***

MINUTES - February 4, 2025

Don B. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion approve the minutes as distributed.

Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW - none

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK REPORT - Laura Fetterolf

- Town Meeting Warning newsletter was mailed out today.
- Copies of Town Report are available in the office.
- Laura will be out on February 28 and Sue J. will be covering.
- The fire department will be setting up the school Friday night for Town Meeting Saturday March 1, 10 am.
- The polls will be open 7 am - 7 pm March 4 for voting.
- The website committee is meeting this week and a “staff” directory for the website is being compiled.
- Dennis Newton ERAC wired up the generator and reported that the battery is low.

TOWN TREASURER REPORT - none tonight. Brian K. would like the Board to receive the General Fund and Highway orders ahead of meetings, giving the Board time to review. He added that it is very difficult to effectively review the orders while being

engaged in the business of the meeting. In the past, orders were sent out ahead of time electronically, which was very helpful.

ROAD COMMISSIONER REPORT - Brian Kemp and Morgan Huestis

- Road crew has been busy plowing during and after 2 recent large storms and has been using the grader to push back the snowbank on some roads.
- Road crew has been also picking up many branches on the roads that came down in recent storms.
- After discussion with the Board about the labor needed to fix the excavator, it was agreed to purchase the parts and have the road crew (with assistance from Shoreham road crew) do the labor.
- Morgan reported that there are several lights in the shop that are not working. He was advised to reach out to electricians for quotes.
- Brian K. said that he was contacted by owner of Fosters Farm on James Road about significant damage done to farm feed truck by a hanging limb. Foster's insurance company asked him to first reach out to the Town to inquire about any policy the Town may have that would apply. Brian will follow up to let Mr. Foster know that the Town has no such policy.
- Morgan said that Cornwall has a winter parking ban on traveled roads, from 11 pm - 6 or 7 am. The Town Constable can have cars towed that are parked on traveled roads during this time.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Road Crew Mentoring Process Discussion (visit from Todd Eaton, VTrans) -**
Morgan has been working with Todd Eaton from the Agency of Transportation to put together a month by month workflow maintenance plan. Brian has had input. This plan is part of a road crew mentoring program that Todd E. offers to Vermont municipalities. Todd E. is working with a lot of towns now. With the Covid pandemic, there have been huge turnovers in Road Foreman positions in Vermont. The mentoring program for Cornwall is expected to conclude around April 14. Todd E. will provide an assessment at the conclusion. Unfortunately, Todd E. was not able to come to tonight's meeting.

- **Discussion of sodium and chloride levels at town highway department's well (visit from Brian Gill)**

Brian Gill spoke with the Board about his need to have documentation that the well on his mother's property is safe within State limits and not contaminated by the spread of the sodium and chloride levels at the Town Garage. He has recently has the house appraised.

John R. said that there is no evidence of any salt contamination in neighboring wells over the years. The Town has been pumping for 30 years to contain the contamination and has been told there is no other solution to the issue. Additionally, a geologist informed the Town that because of the fault line in the area, the water and therefore any potential contamination would spread east or northeast from the Town Garage.

After a long discussion, John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to ask Health Officer Bill Johnson to take water samples from Florence Gill's well, along with the Town

Garage well, and surrounding neighbor's wells. Brian Gill was very satisfied with this next step.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discuss RFP for Financial Services** - the Board reviewed the draft RFP and discussed the timing of the proposed change for financial services. Don B. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to post the RFP, subject to small edits. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

- **Discuss Town Meeting Logistics** -

Discussion included use of microphone, set up by the Fire Department Friday night, Cy Tall as moderator, introduction of the Board by Laura F, food from FOCS, and tables in the hallway for the Conservation Commission, DAR, and CORA.

- **Consider the appointment of Dan Comar to the Conservation Commission (CCC)**

John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the appointment of Dan Comar to the CCC. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Zoning update progress - Don B. reported that a member of the working group of the Planning Commission will make a quarterly report to the Select Board regarding progress on the zoning regulations update on April 1, July 1, October 7, and January 6. Don added that John Roberts is the liaison from the Board in the update process, and will be attending Planning Commission meetings and reviewing the changes made to the document.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Brian K. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion that premature general public knowledge regarding non-public information concerning personnel issues and labor contracts would clearly put the Town at a disadvantage. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Brian K. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss non-public information about personnel issues. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:49 pm and came out at 9:18 pm. No decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board