

Approved May 6, 2025

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

April 15, 2025

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

ALSO PRESENT: Morgan Huestis, Bill Johnson

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order by the Chair Tanya Byker at 7:04 pm.

QUORUM—established

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

AGENDA - John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with the addition of a visit from Bill Johnson and the addition of the appointment of a library trustee. ***Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.***

MINUTES - April 1, 2025

John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion approve the minutes as amended, with the correct spelling of the name of Sean Stearns. ***Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Message from David Andrews confirming that he would like to be reappointed to the position of Trustee of Public Funds.
- Request for liquor license for event on May 24 - will pass on to Laura Fetterolf for processing.
- Request from CORA to sign tree grant paperwork. John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to authorize Tanya B. to sign the tree grant paperwork. ***Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.***
- Laura F. received a notice from the long-time cleaner of the Town Hall, regarding a proposed change in her cleaning schedule. Tanya will follow up with Laura.

TOWN CLERK REPORT - Laura F. is not here tonight. Tanya said that Laura F. sent the latest draft of the proposed amendment to the non-profit funding policy. The Board has reviewed but has questions, so will wait until the next meeting for clarification, before voting.

TOWN TREASURER REPORT - Nicholas Gill is not here tonight.

- The March statement will be ready at the next meeting, after Nicholas has more information about the source of recent grant funds received.
- Nicholas and Tanya met with Vermont League of Cities and Towns staff to finalize the ARPA reporting for the ARPA fiscal year that ends on April 30.
- Regarding the notice from Carroll, Boe and Kite the attorneys fees are going from \$215/hour to \$235/hour. John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to authorize Tanya B. to sign the agreement. **Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Visit from Bill Johnson

Bill is here in his role as Town Health Officer and also as a Lister. As Health Officer he reported that today he collected the water samples from the Town Garage and the four surrounding houses. In two weeks, he expects to get the results from the lab.

In Bill's role as Lister, he reported that he and the other listers, Todd Kincaid and Jordan Young, had a short period of time to review the NEMRC data for 600+ properties in Cornwall, only enough time to identify data that seemed way off. The reappraisal numbers have been sent out to the property owners. The average increase in property values is 85-90%. The last appraisal was in 2009.

Bill said that the listers want property owners to have all the information they need to be able to respond to the reappraisal. Informational meetings will be held April 23 and 24, by appointment. Property owners will have an opportunity to speak with the NEMRC appraiser and receive detailed information at these informal meetings as to how the value of their property was determined by this reappraisal. On May 13 and 14 formal grievance hearings will be scheduled. Request for a grievance hearing must be in writing. If an owner disagrees with the determination of their hearing, they can appeal to the Board of Civil Authority (BCA). Bill added that Vermont League of Cities and Towns will be sponsoring an online training for BCAs in the grievance process.

ROAD COMMISSIONER REPORT - Brian Kemp and Morgan Huestis

- Morgan H. said he is still struggling to complete the Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways, in terms of getting the numbers to add up. Brian K. recommended he contact Mike Winslow for assistance.
- Lights in the shop have been changed.
- Crew has been grading as much as possible and is continuing to grade, with focus on highly traveled roads next.
- Finished work on the roller, work on the disc is in process.
- Picked up new chloride tank.
- Continued to haul gravel.
- Unclogged a culvert on Snake Mt. Road

- Measured steel beams on South Bingham to determine they are not in the Town right of way and are at an angle so water flow is not impeded.
- Submitted grant application for Class II roads.
- Tanya will be setting up an on site meeting at the Town Garage with the Capital Committee, Select Board, the architect Asher, and Stu Johnson. This is a public meeting and will need to be warned.
- Brian is working on setting a meeting with Todd Eaton, Tanya, Morgan and Brian before the next Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Discuss Salisbury - Cornwall Bridge Proposal** - John reached out to the bridge project manager to inquire about the cost of changing the approach on the Cornwall side. He was told that it would be possible and that the cost would be added to the overall cost of the bridge, and that both towns would need to agree to this. John then spoke to Salisbury Select Board and was told that Salisbury does not agree to the plan to change the approach on the Cornwall side. The Board will now sign the proposal from VTrans as is, without a change to the approach to the bridge from the Cornwall side.

NEW BUSINESScontinued

Consider appointments to the DRB, Maple Broadband Board, Delinquent Tax Collector, and Library Trustee vacancies

- John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to appoint Ashley Glass as DRB alternate. ***Motion passed*** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.
- John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to appoint Cy Tall as Maple Broadband Board alternate. ***Motion passed*** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.
- John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to appoint Barbara Kincaid as library trustee. ***Motion passed*** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.
- John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to appoint David Anderson as Trustee of Public Funds. ***Motion passed*** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.
- John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to appoint Nicholas Gill as Delinquent Tax Collector until the next Town Meeting in March 2026. ***Motion passed*** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

OTHER BUSINESS - Don suggested that the Town have a policy that specifies how often Town policies and ordinances be reviewed. Tanya will check with Laura to get the inventory list of policies and ordinances.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board