

Approved _____ 2025

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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

June 3, 2025

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

ALSO PRESENT: Morgan Huestis, Laura Fetterolf, Mike Palmer

Recording of meeting—announced

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

QUORUM—established

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

Reconciled Bank Statement - reviewed

AGENDA - Don B. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with the addition of Update to Salt Situation in Old Business.

Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES - May 20, 2025

John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion approve the minutes as presented.

Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Email from Mike Palmer - see details in Public Comments
- Notice from the State that the William Slade historic marker at the north end of the Town Hall parking lot is in need of repair and will be picked up and returned when fixed.
- Annual contract from Homeward Bound to be signed. Tanya will follow up and sign when she returns.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Mike Palmer has been working with retired physician Jack Meyer and Middlebury College professor Ellen Oxfeld on a Resolution Regarding Proposed Federal Medicaid Funding Cuts and Vermont's Health Care Crisis. He asked the Board to consider adopting this resolution and asked that it be put on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting. Mike P. added that the Middlebury Select Board will be considering the resolution on June 10, and hope this will be the first of many Vermont towns to adopt it.

TOWN CLERK REPORT - Laura Fetterolf

- The new VOIP telephone system with auto-attendant has been installed and instructions have gone out to all who need to use it. WCVT verified that the Town Garage can be easily added to the system at any time. Laura said it is working well from her vantage point. She has not heard anything from the public about it.
- Still waiting to hear from GoNetspeed about whether or not the Town can have fiber phone service without having to pay for the full fiber package.
- WCVT sent their quote for the upgrade of the router, wifi extender to the parking lot, wifi extender to the library and the switch that controls it all. The wifi extension to the parking lot will run on an entirely separate network, so it will be more secure. These are all one-time costs, no recurring licenses need to be paid for. After discussion, all agreed that Laura can use money that remains in the election grant for this purpose, as it falls within the criteria of the grant, increasing security of elections.
- The Town is in receipt of 2 property tax assessment appeals to the BCA.
- The recent experience of a person using a walker who was unable to open the front door demonstrated the urgent need for an ADA compliant front door. Tanya will reach out to Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) for information about grants and also to Ashar Nelson.
- Signs have been posted inside and outside the building stating that abuse behavior in the Town office is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Town Clerk's Office will be closed on Friday, June 6. The Town Treasurer will be here that day.

TOWN TREASURER REPORT - Tanya Byker from Nicholas Gill

- Auditors have been working at the Town Office all week.
- Nick will be in the office this Thursday and Friday.
- Tanya said she sent out a list provided by VLCT with the details of the difference between the role of a municipal Treasurer and the role of a municipal Financial Services employee. She added that other towns in Vermont are considering this model for financial administration.

ROAD COMMISSIONER REPORT - Morgan Huestis

- The road crew is halfway through the first pass of mowing on Town roads.
- Anthony continues to gain experience and skills.

- Dangerous trees on Snake Mountain Road have been removed. Morgan is still waiting for fabric to be delivered, that will be used to prepare a section of Snake Mountain Road for paving.
- Morgan has spoken with Mike Mullen from Pike to get an updated quote for paving.
- State Inspector will be coming to inspect the recent electrical work at the Town Garage. Morgan will consult with Brian K. about the inspection.
- Don B. said that he has been hearing from residents asking what is going on with Snake Mountain Road. All agreed that the Town could do a better job of informing the public about the current and proposed work of the Town Highway Department. Laura said she can put something up on the current website about planned paving as soon as Morgan gives her the dates. Also on the new website, the Highway Department can have its own section for news and information.
- John mentioned a road salt bulk buying program managed by the State. Morgan will look into it by contacting Ted Brady. Deadline to express interest is June 6.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Update on Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** - public meeting was attended by two people on Zoom and Bruce McIntyre, Addison Central School District Facilities Manager, who attended in person. Bruce M. said that the school district would not have a problem should the school be needed in an emergency situation.
- **Discussion of Select Board Role in Updating Zoning/Subdivision Regulations**
Town Attorney Jim Carroll responded to a question about a proposed timeline for legal review of proposed update to Town regulations, several questions of his own. One question was for the Select Board, and the other questions were for the Planning Commission. He asked if the Select Board plans to vote to adopt the changes or to put the question out for the voters to decide by Australian ballot. The Select Board has the authority to adopt an update to Town regulations and also the authority put the decision to the voters to decide by Australian ballot. At this point, all agreed to keep both options open, until public hearings have taken place.
- **Salt Situation Update** - John Roberts
John said that the two houses that receive the tax abatement have sodium below the State level and chloride above the recommended level at a ration of 40/60, that is the same ratio as road salt. After discussion, it was agreed to keep pumping, keep abating the taxes for these two homes, and to test the water annually. Tanya will contact Bill Johnson about testing the water annually. She will also contact Brian Gill, regarding the results of water testing at the Gill house, that tested below the recommended levels for sodium and chloride.

NEW BUSINESS - none

OTHER BUSINESS - none

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 8:20 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board