

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Tuesday, December 1, 2020
7:30 p.m. – Remotely via Zoom

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway; Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey; Selectman Priscilla Pavel; Twelve Members of the Public; Two Members of the Press

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

MINUTES: Selectman Priscilla Pavel moved to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joanne Wojtusiak voiced concerns about the private nature of the Internet Committee meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Food and Fuel Fund received over \$10,000 in the week following Thanksgiving – in part due to the fund-raising efforts of the Town Hall Players virtual talent show.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway provided an update on the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Town has seen an increase of Covid cases in the last week, and Cornwall could be in the “red zone” by the end of the week. Over 150 Connecticut Towns are in the red zone. A part time employee at the Town Offices has tested positive for Covid and is isolating at home. Two other employees in the Town Offices are being tested for Covid. The First Selectman urged everyone to wear masks, practice social distance, and wash hands / use hand sanitizer. The Cornwall Emergency Management Group continues to meet every Wednesday via zoom. First Selectman Ridgway recently asked the Governor’s staff for additional testing in the area. Also, U.S. Representative Johanna Hayes is headed back to Washington D.C. to work on a new Covid Relief Package.

INTERNET COMMITTEE: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway read an email from Gary Steinkohl of the Internet Committee. The letter stated the Internet Committee’s withdrawal of a request for funds related to the upcoming internet survey publication. First Selectman Ridgway noted that he recently asked the Governor’s staff to get an answer from local cable / internet providers about replacing the current coaxial cables with fiber optics.

WEST CORNWALL WASTE WATER PROGRAM: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported the Covid Pandemic delayed the convening of a Town Meeting to vote on a funding referendum. The Board will begin looking into possible remote / hybrid Town Meeting options, and the West Cornwall Sewer / Septic Committee will reconvene in early 2021.

VACANCIES: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway moved to appoint Kate Freygang to the Conservation Commission, Erin Berry to Park and Rec, Wendy McFarlane to Park and Rec, and Simon Hewett to the EDC. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

BUDGET SEASON SCHEDULE: First Selectman Ridgway reported that Budget Season is set to begin next month at the start of the new year. Preliminary planning will include taking a look at State Revenue, the Growth and Grand Lists, and projected school enrollment. The Board of Selectmen will also be gathering information regarding budget requests from various Town departments.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were several comments regarding the Internet Committee. Casey Cook spoke about the phenomenal work being done by Social Service Director Heather Dinneen.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry
Administrative Assistant
Town of Cornwall