

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

Tuesday, December 15, 2020
7:30 p.m. – Remotely via Zoom

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway; Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey; Selectman Priscilla Pavel; Eleven Members of the Public; One Member 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 December 1, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joanne Wojtusiak commented on the Planning and Zoning Commission workshop meetings, and requested the proposed P&Z regulations be sent to an attorney for review.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Priscilla Pavel informed about the “12 Days of Christmas” art installations located in various windows of West Cornwall Village.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway provided an update on the Covid-19 Pandemic: Cornwall remains in the “Red Zone” as new Covid cases continue to be reported. First Selectman Ridgway thanked Emergency Management Director Diane Beebe who is working to schedule Covid vaccinations for first responders. First Selectman Ridgway also provided an update on the State’s vaccine distribution plan: First, hospital workers will get vaccinated; next, nursing homes; third, will be first medical responders; and fourth, other first responders and essential workers.

WINTER PARKING BAN: First Selectman Ridgway stated that Cornwall is under a winter storm warning. The snow plows throw snow and ice up to twenty feet from the edge of the streets, so the Winter Parking Ban prohibits parking on the side of the road until March 30, 2021. First Selectman Ridgway moved that the Board of Selectman approve and sign the Winter Parking Ban:

Effective December 16, 2020 the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Cornwall will evoke its power to prohibit the parking of all vehicles that are situated so as to interfere with snow plowing activity on Town highways.

- This restriction will apply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from **December 16, 2020 through March 30, 2021.**
- Plowing activity can occur at any time and includes set back plowing in clear weather.
- Interference with plowing can occur unless a parked vehicle is at least 6 feet from the traveled or paved portion of the highway.
- Section 14-307 of the Connecticut State Statutes empowers the Cornwall Board of Selectmen to remove vehicles parked in violation of its orders.

Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

VACANCIES: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway moved to appoint Phill Hart to the Housatonic River Commission for another term, to appoint Steve Sacardi to another term on the Park and Rec Commission, to appoint Michelle Shipp as alternate on the Park and Rec Commission, to appoint Will Evans to a 5-year term as alternate on Planning and Zoning, and to appoint Bruce Bennett to a 1-year term as alternate on Planning and Zoning. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: First Selectman Ridgway reported that the State Legislature has been changing its operations to accommodate remote work. Next, the Federal Legislature is working on a Covid relief package that would have a direct impact on Connecticut. Also, State Representative, Maria Horn, is now the Chair of the Connecticut Emergency Management Commission.

HIGHWAY REPORT: First Selectman Ridgway reported that the Town has received its new truck, which will be operated by Highway Department Foreman, Jim Vanicky. The town traded-in an old truck that had been in service for over 20 years.

HOUSING ISSUES: First Selectman Ridgway noted that the State passed legislation effective July 2017 which by 2022 requires each municipality to have a proactive planning process to lay out a strategy for meeting the housing needs of existing and future residents and workers. First Selectman Ridgway then discussed general housing statistics in Cornwall, noting a lack of rental property available in Cornwall, and that there has been a decline in building permits in the last 12 years. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey stated it's great that the plans are moving along. Selectman Priscilla Pavel stated that it's a lot that needs to be thought about, including costs. Selectman Pavel also discussed the current high costs of available housing in Cornwall. Planning and Zoning Consultant, Janell Mullen, discussed some of the next steps with regards to fulfilling the State's planning requirements, such as forming a steering committee / task team comprised of Planning and Zoning members, Board of Selectmen members, local housing organization members, and Economic Development Commission members. Janell Mullen estimated the tentative timeline for the planning process to last 9 months, and then a 10th month set aside for adoption of the plan by the Board of Selectmen. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway highlighted the fact that there are opportunities for public input regarding the process. The planning process will likely kick off in January 2021. First Selectman Ridgway and Janell Mullen then discussed what might be necessary to fulfill the housing plan requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joanne Wojtusiak discussed the housing planning process.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry
Administrative Assistant
Town of Cornwall