

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

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

7:30 p.m. – Remotely via Zoom

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway; Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey; Selectman Priscilla Pavel; Emergency Management Director Diane Beebe; Two Members of the Press; 4 Members of the Public

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway moved to add the following items to the agenda: 1) Memorial Day Observation; 2) Town Beach 2020; and 3) Farmers Market. Selectman Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed by the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Priscilla Pavel offered thanks to the Cornwall Residents who are making masks.

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway presented an update on the Town's efforts to respond to the health threat of Covid-19. The update included discussion regarding the CDC's recommendation that people wear face-masks while in public in order to slow the spread of Covid-19. Cay Tyson has volunteered to be Cornwall's mask coordinator. Also, mask donations can be dropped-off on the North porch of Town Hall, 26 Pine Street, Cornwall, CT 06753. Next, town operations were discussed, and First Selectman Ridgway gave special thanks to Cornwall's Fire Dept., EMS, Social Services Director Heather Dinneen, and Emergency Management Director Diane Beebe.

BUDGET PROCESS 2020/'21: First Selectman Ridgway discussed the Budget Process in light of Covid-19 precautions. In particular, Governor Lamont's executive order 7(S) allows Town Budgets to be passed by the positive votes of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. A draft budget will be made available at www.cornwallct.org, and the Board of Finance will hold a remote meeting open to the public via Zoom on Friday April 24, 2020. Public comments can also be sent to Town Hall via email or mail. (cwselectmen@optonline.net and Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753) The Board of Finance is scheduled to meet remotely via Zoom on May 21, 2020 to adopt the budget and set the mill rate. First Selectman Ridgway noted that the local tax rate should be approximately what it is now. Finally, The Board of Selectmen discussed Governor Lamont's executive order 7 regarding tax relief.

HIGHWAY PROJECTS & BID: The Board of Selectmen considered a Bid submitted by Harwinton Paving for work on the Cogswell Rd. Bridge guiderail and work on the Ford Hill Bridge. Harwinton Paving was the only bidder at \$137,000. Selectman Pavel moved to accept the bid; Selectwoman Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

WEST CORNWALL SEWER SEPTIC: The Board of Selectmen discussed pausing the Sewer Septic process while the Covid-19 emergency exists. WMC Engineers will continue work on the USDA application.

TAX REFUND: The Board of Selectmen considered four tax refund requests due to overpayment. The first two are for overpayment on real estate properties totaling \$294.84. The second two requests are for overpayment of Motor Vehicle taxes totaling \$61.21. Selectman Priscilla Pavel moved to grant the tax refunds. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVATIONS: The Board of Selectmen discussed the Town's Memorial Day observance in light of Covid-19. First Selectman Ridgway suggested having a taped program that can be shared remotely with the Cornwall residents.

HAMMOND BEACH: Selectwoman and Hammond Beach Director Marina Kotchoubey stated that this is the time of year when she begins the hiring process for the town beach. Selectwoman Kotchoubey noted that she will contact prospective beach staff members to begin the process but also inform them that, due to Covid-19 closures, the Town is uncertain what the beach situation will be by the 3rd week of June.

FARMERS MARKET: The Board of Selectmen discussed the Farmers' Markets. Selectman Priscilla Pavel stated that Patricia Bramley hopes to have the Farmers' Market on the Green in Cornwall Village open on May 18, 2020, with social distancing procedures in place. Also, Priscilla spoke to Bianca Griggs regarding the West Cornwall Farmers' Market which is on hold due to closure of the Wish House during the Covid-19 emergency. First Selectmen Ridgway noted that the Town is awaiting guidance from the State regarding Covid-19 compliant practices for Farmers' Markets.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Emergency Management Director Diane Beebe commented on Cornwall's efforts to respond to the Covid-19 emergency. Leila Hawken of the Lakeville Journal thanked the Board of Selectmen for their work. Finally, Land Use Administrator Karen Nelson commented on the April 7, 2020 Wetlands Commission meeting in which two land use applications were moved forward.

The Board of Selectmen then reviewed items for Bill Payment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – DELINQUENT TAXES: The Board of Selectmen entered executive session at 8:15 PM. The Board of Selectmen discussed potential delinquent taxes. No action was taken. The executive session ended at 8:25 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry
Administrative Assistant
Town of Cornwall