

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

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, and Roger Kane (Bridge Expert).

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

MINUTES: Selectman Priscilla Pavel moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting held on February 4, 2020 and from the Board of Selectmen Special Meetings held on February 6, 2020 and February 10, 2020. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

AGENDA: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway moved to add four items to the agenda: 1) NHCOC Meeting; 2) Budget 2020 / 2021; 3) Fire Marshall Employment; and 4) Cornwall Historic Society Tax Request. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: 1) Ted Cheney of Cornwall starts work for the Cornwall Highway Department on February 19, 2020. 2) Janell Mullen of NHCOC is now working for Cornwall as the Town Planner.

WMC CONTRACT EXTENSION, WEST CORNWALL SEWER / SEPTIC: The Board of Selectmen discussed the West Cornwall Waste Water Study Group meeting. First Selectman Ridgway noted that the West Cornwall Waste Water Study Group voted unanimously to extend the contract with WMC Consulting Engineers. First Selectman Ridgway moved to execute the WMC contract extension for \$6,000.00. Selectman Pavel seconded the motion. Selectwoman Kotchoubey noted that, in the future, the Board should take care to make cost predictions more accurate. The motion unanimously passed.

OFFICE EMAIL INITIATIVE: Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey reported that the email is up and running, presented an email template design, and described a landing page where individuals can sign-up by providing their email address. Also, those who wish to sign-up for the emails can provide their email address to Administrative Assistant Jonathan Berry at Town Hall.

M.I.R.A. STATEMENT OF INTEREST / MOU: The Board of Selectmen discussed a “non-binding informational statement of interest” from MIRA (Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority) regarding the State’s directive to redevelop the MIRA facility. The statement of interest asks for a yes or no answer regarding potential interest in committing to a 30-year agreement with MIRA. There would be a maximum tip fee of \$145.00/ton to commence FY 2025. The Board of Selectmen discussed alternatives to MIRA such as shipping the waste to landfills in Ohio or Virginia. Selectman Priscilla Pavel noted that MIRA has not provided information sufficient to validate the veracity of MIRA’s claim of a Maximum tip fee of \$145.00/ton. First Selectman Ridgway moved to respond “No” to the MIRA Statement of Interest, and request that MIRA re-evaluate their proposed tip fee in order get it closer to that of the current rate of \$95.00/ton. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

BRIDGE WORK: Roger Kane (Bridge Expert) presented options to the Board of Selectmen for a guiderail to replace the deteriorating concrete parapet on the bridge near the intersection of Cogswell Rd. and Cream Hill Rd. The options presented were: 1) Galvanized Steel (Approx. \$24,000.00); 2) Weathering Steel (Approx. \$26,000.00); and 3) Wooden Guiderail (Approx. \$54,000.00). The Board of Selectmen ruled out the Weathering Steel and Wooden Guiderail options. The next step is to begin the bidding process and schedule a Pre-Bid meeting with contractors.

CIRMA SEXUAL HARRASMENT TRAINING: The Board of Selectmen discussed the new State requirement that Government Employees receive sexual harassment training. Cornwall's Insurer, CIRMA, provides training sessions at no additional cost. First Selectman Ridgway suggested scheduling an evening training session in April, and he noted that CIRMA will soon provide an online sexual harassment training option.

NHCOG MEETING: The Board of Selectmen briefly discussed the NHCOG Meeting that was held February 13, 2020 in Goshen.

BUDGET 2020 / 2021: The Board of Selectmen discussed the Cornwall Conservation Commission's budget request, and no action was taken.

FIRE MARSHALL EMPLOYMENT: The Board of Selectmen discussed changing the Fire Marshall position from a contractor arrangement to town employee in order to cover the position under workers compensation insurance. Selectman Priscilla Pavel moved to switch the current Fire Marshall, Stan MacMillen, from a contractor to employee of Cornwall. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

CORNWALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY REQUEST: The Historical Society has received two parcels of land as a gift, and have put the parcels up for sale. The Historical Society submitted a request for potential tax relief to the Board of Selectmen in case they incur property taxes associated with the parcels. Selectman Pavel noted that the sale of the parcels could be imminent, thus relieving the burden any taxes would pose to the Historical Society. First Selectman Ridgway noted that the Town has limited ability to abate taxes. The Board of Selectmen will wait to see if the parcels sell and will revisit the issue if needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bridge Expert Roger Kane discussed the bridge on Lake Road near Route 43. He noted that the contractor hired to replace the bridge has yet to install a guiderail. Roger will take action to contact the contractor in an effort to get them to install the guiderail.

The Board of Selectmen then reviewed items for Bill Payment.
The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry
Administrative Assistant
Town of Cornwall