

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

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, Ted Larson (Cornwall Transfer Station Manager), one member of the press, and one citizen.

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

MINUTES: First Selectman Ridgway moved to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Jan. 22, 2020. Selectmen Pavel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway moved to add two items to the agenda: 1) NHCOC Planning Services Agreement, and 2) Mohawk Trail Race by Steep Endurance, LLC. The motion was seconded by Selectman Priscilla Pavel, and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Board of Selectmen heard comments from the public regarding the recycling budget, the WMC Contract Extension, and public comments.

WENDY MCFARLANE APPOINTMENT TO PARKS & REC: First Selectman Ridgway moved to appoint Wendy McFarlane to the Cornwall Parks and Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Selectman Pavel, and the motion unanimously passed.

WMC CONTRACT EXTENSION, WEST CORNWALL SEWER / SEPTIC: The WMC Contract Extension was discussed. Selectwoman Kotchoubey and Selectman Pavel noted that additional costs are a concern. First Selectman Ridgway moved to table the matter and revisit on February 10, 2020. The motion was seconded by Selectman Pavel and unanimously passed.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SESSION IN WARREN: The Board of Selectmen discussed the FOI compliance information provided at the public session in Warren with State FOI Agent, Tom Hennick.

TOWN EMAIL INITIATIVE: Selectwoman Kotchoubey gave an update and noted that the town email would be a subscriber-based platform which would minimize the risk of spam designations. The next steps are obtaining a dedicated email address for the initiative, publicize the subscription efforts, and begin accepting subscriber email addresses.

S.T.E.A.P. GRANTS III: First Selectman Ridgway noted that the third round of S.T.E.A.P. Grants is underway, and the remaining grant dollars need to be spent by the end of 2020 in order for the town to qualify for the next round of grants.

C.O.S.T. ANNUAL MEETING 2/19/2020: Council of Small Towns annual meeting registration is open. No action taken.

HOUSATONIC RAILROAD VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN: The Board of Selectmen discussed Cornwall's potential response to the Railroad's vegetation management

plan. First Selectmen Ridgway proposed trying to arrange a meeting with the Railroad to address any concerns.

M.I.R.A. LETTER ON REDEVELOPMENT: The Board of Selectmen discussed a letter from MIRA (Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority) regarding the State's directive to redevelop the MIRA facility. The Letter was accompanied by a "non-binding informational statement of interest" which has been sent to towns within the region. 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 discussed options to accommodate the future price increase.

BUDGET 2020 / '21: First Selectman Ridgway went over highlights of the 2020 / '21 Budget in anticipation of BOS Special Meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2020 - 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

TAX REFUND: The Board of Selectmen examined five requests for Tax Refunds: four for overpayment, and one due to the end of a lease. The refund amounts are as follows: \$11.69, \$13.36, \$1,213.26, \$10.00, \$172.36. (See appended Requests for Abatement) First Selectman Ridgway moved to approve the requests and pay the refunds. The motion was seconded by Selectman Priscilla Pavel, and the motion unanimously passed.

NHCOG PLANNING SERVICES AGREEMENT. Selectwoman Kotchoubey moved to authorize First Selectman Ridgway to sign the Planning Services Agreement with NHCOG. Selectman Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

MOHAWK TRAIL RACE BY STEEP ENDURANCE, LLC: Scheduled for May 3, 2020 and starting at Housatonic Highschool, the 22-mile foot-race will proceed South to Cornwall Bridge along the Mohawk Trail and then return along the same trail to the finish-line at the Highschool. First Selectman Ridgway noted that Steep Endurance, LLC will provide a certificate of insurance, participant waivers of liability, and take measures to ensure the safety of the participants. First Selectman Ridgway moved to grant permission to Steep Endurance, LLC to conduct the race. Selectwoman Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Board of Selectmen heard comments regarding government transparency and the WMC Contract Extension.

The Board of Selectmen then reviewed items for Bill Payment.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry  
Administrative Assistant  
Town of Cornwall