

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

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway; Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey; Selectman Priscilla Pavel

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

MINUTES: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting held on March 3, 2020. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey modified the motion to include a correction to the Community Email section of the minutes, stating that approximately 110 people had signed up for the Board of Selectmen Newsletter, and the motion unanimously passed.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway stated that Town Hall, and Town Offices are closed to the public due to the Covid19 health threat. Residents may call in or send an email.

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. In particular, First Selectman Ridgway emphasized that all efforts to slow the spread of Coronavirus are appreciated. He then provided details regarding the town's efforts, including: 1) volunteers offering their skills and technical support to form the Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT); 2) the coordinated efforts of Town Officials, EMS Officers, Social Services, Cornwall Emergency Management Director Diane Beebe; and, 3) expert analysis from Terry Burke. The Town of Cornwall is still accepting volunteers for CERT and the First Selectmen noted the benefits of matching skills with the needs presented at this juncture.

Special thanks was noted for the efforts of Social Services Director Heather Dinneen, as well as thanks for residents' donations to the Cornwall Food and Fuel Fund. First Selectman Ridgway advised that people who are sick should call their doctor first, and that EMS is also available.

Furthermore, Town Clerk Vera Dinneen is working to postpone non-essential meetings, and that Town Planner Janell Mullen of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments will train Town officials in the use of technology employed to facilitate remote meetings. Also, the Transfer Station is open as normal; however, residents are asked to keep their visits brief at this time.

The Board of Selectmen agreed that the Town's goal is to conduct remote meetings whenever possible. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey announced that residents may forward event cancellation notices to cwlnews@optonline.net to be included in the Board of Selectmen newsletter.

GREENWOODS COUNSELLING: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway discussed the services offered by Greenwood Counselling, a referral service for substance abuse counseling. He noted that the Town supports Greenwood, and they are a wonderful resource.

BUDGET 2020/'21: The first round of the Budget proposals were submitted to the Board of Finance with a slight increase in expenditures. Also, there was a slight increase in the tax base, therefore Tax impacts are expected to be minimal.

ROAD SEALING APRIL: First Selectman Ridgway corrected the agenda item listed as Road “Scaling” which should have been Road “Sealing”. He then listed several roads to be chip sealed in April, and noted that Highway Department Foreman Jim Vanicky had approved a contractor’s bid. First Selectmen Ridgway explained that Foreman Vanicky and the Highway department would save Cornwall an estimated \$6,000 dollars by recycling gravel currently on the road and incorporating that material into the chip seal. First Selectman Ridgway moved to accept the contractor’s bid for the road sealing of approximately \$160,000. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded the motion. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey inquired about the variance between the cost of chip seal and asphalt pavement. First Selectman Ridgway noted that asphalt pavement costs approximately 10 times more per mile than chip seal, but does not last 10 times as long. The motion passed unanimously.

HAZARD MITIGATION: First Selectman Ridgway discussed a proposal to have Town Planner Janell Mullen of the NHCOC update Cornwall’s Hazard Mitigation plan. He noted that in order for the Town to qualify for certain Federal Funds the plan must be updated every few years. First Selectman Ridgway moved to approve the expense of \$1,000 for the cost of the update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

TAX REFUND: The Board of Selectmen considered two tax refund requests due to overpayment. One request for \$19.00 and another for \$361.75. First Selectman Ridgway moved to refund the two requests, Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION FROM N.H.C.O.G.: The Board of Selectmen considered an authorizing resolution pertinent to Cornwall’s Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Homeland Security. Specifically, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway moved that the Board of Selectmen pass the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Cornwall Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the **State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security** any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Gordon Ridgway, as First Selectman of Cornwall, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Cornwall Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded the motion. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway abstained from the vote because the Resolution referred to him. The motion passed with two votes in favor of the proposed resolution.

The Board of Selectmen then reviewed items for Bill Payment.
The meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry
Administrative Assistant
Town of Cornwall