

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

Tuesday, October 20, 2020
7:30 p.m. – Remotely via Zoom

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway; Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey; Selectman Priscilla Pavel; Two Members of the Press; 16 Members of the Public

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

MINUTES: Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey moved to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were comments from two Cornwall residents regarding internet connectivity.

COMMUNICATIONS: Voting will be held at the Cornwall Consolidated School on Tuesday, November 3rd from 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM. The deadline to register to vote is October 27. First Selectman Ridgway encouraged everyone to register and vote. There will be no Halloween party at Town Hall this year. Covid-19 Halloween safety guidelines are posted at www.cornwallct.org. The DOT will be paving Rt 128 in West Cornwall Village tomorrow, and next the DOT will pave Rt 43. First Selectman Ridgway thanked the DOT for their work in Cornwall this year.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: No Additions.

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: First Selectmen Gordon Ridgway provided an update on Covid-19: there have been a few flare-ups in Northwest Connecticut including at Geer, Hotchkiss, North Canaan Elementary, Sharon Middle School. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey added Lee Kellogg school to the list of Covid flare-ups. First Selectman Ridgway stated that accurate information is important, and urged people to continue to wear masks, practice social distance, and wash hands. He also advised meeting remotely whenever possible.

NOVEMBER 20, ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: First Selectman Ridgway moved to have the Board sign the Notice of Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Friday November 20, 2020 at 7:30 PM at Cornwall Consolidated School, 5 Cream Hill Rd, for the following purposes: 1) To receive reports of the officers, boards and commissions having reports to make; 2) to adopt the Five Year Capital Plan for the Town of Cornwall as recommended by the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. The Board discussed if the meeting would be livestreamed over the internet. First Selectman Ridgway noted that there were no plans to livestream the meeting, but the meeting would be video-taped for www.CornwallCT.org. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

WEST CORNWALL WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT REFERENDUM MOVE TO SPRING DETAILS: The Board of Selectmen discussed having a Town Meeting and Referendum in the Spring of 2021 on the funding for a potential Waste Water Facility in West Cornwall Village. Due to timing restrictions and social distancing concerns related to the Pandemic, a vote this winter would be untenable.

TOWN REPORT REPORT: First Selectman Ridgway moved to send the Board of Selectmen Annual Report to Finance Director Barbara Herbst for inclusion in the Annual Town Report. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

STORM ISAIAS MEETING REVIEW WITH EVERSOURCE 10/14/2020: First Selectman Ridgway reported on a meeting with Eversource officials and Cornwall Emergency personnel (EMD Diane Beebe, Fire Chief Fred Scoville, and Highway Dept. Foreman Jim Vanicky). During that meeting Cornwall officials provided a critique of Eversource's response to the storm.

PLANNING & ZONING VACANCIES: The Board discussed vacancies on the Planning & Zoning Commission. No action was taken at this time.

YUTZLER PAINTING REQUEST: The Board of Selectmen considered a request from the Cornwall Library for the return of a 1920's Arlington Yutzler painting depicting four women working on quilts for the Cornwall Relief Society (predecessor of the Cornwall Women's Society). The Library had given the painting to Town Hall several years ago because they didn't have space for it. Now, space is available at the Library to hang the painting. First Selectman Ridgway moved to grant the request and return the painting to the Cornwall Library for display purposes. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

CORNWALL WEBSITE PRESENTATION: Rocco Botto of the Cornwall Website Committee (a subcommittee of the Cornwall Association) gave a presentation on the new design and new platform for www.cornwallct.org. The presentation was well received by the Board of Selectmen. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey noted that any questions related to the Town's potential financial support of the website would be addressed at a future Board of Selectmen meeting.

BRIDGE PROJECTS: The Bridge Project discussions by the Board of Selectmen will resume with budget discussions and work scheduling at the beginning of 2021.

CONNECTIVITY STUDY: Gary Steinkohl of the Cornwall Internet Expansion Committee stated that a connectivity survey specific to Cornwall would be submitted to Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey in January of 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Comments were made regarding fiber optic internet expansion.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway moved to adjourn. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry
Administrative Assistant
Town of Cornwall