

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

Tuesday, April 6, 2021
7:30 p.m. – Remotely via Zoom

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway; Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey; Selectman Priscilla Pavel; Cornwall Bridge Expert Roger Kane; two members of the press; Forty-Nine members of the public.

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

MINUTES: Selectman Priscilla Pavel moved to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the March 29, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported that chip-seal road work is scheduled for April.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway provided an update on the Covid-19 Pandemic and encouraged residents to schedule a time to get vaccinated. Residents who need assistance scheduling an appointment can contact Park and Rec. Director, Jen Markow who has been helping people in Cornwall register for an appointment. First Selectman Ridgway also noted an increase in new Covid cases primarily among younger people. Next, First Selectman Ridgway read a letter from Maggie Cooley of the Women's Society announcing that due to safety concerns related to Covid, there will not be a traditional Rummage Sale this summer. The Women's Society is considering ideas for a non-traditional fund raiser that would allow people to recycle some of their items.

APRIL 23rd TOWN MEETING CALL: The Board of Selectmen reviewed the draft Town Meeting Call for April 23, 2021. First Selectman Ridgway moved to approve, sign and publish the call. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway then moved to sign the Return of Notice confirming that the call would be sent to the Town Clerk and published in the Waterbury Republican. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

APRIL 12 CORNWALL BRIDGE TRAFFIC FORUM: First Selectman Ridgway confirmed that there will be a Town Forum on April 12 at 7:00 PM regarding traffic concerns at the intersection of Route 4 and Route 7 in Cornwall Bridge.

SUMMER BRIDGE WORK: First Selectman Ridgway discussed 4 bridges that need some restoration work: two on Popple Swamp, one on West Rd., and one on Music Mountain Rd. The work on the first 3 bridges will be restoring the concrete masonry around the stones. The Music Mountain Rd bridge will be resurfaced, and a membrane will be set to protect the bridge from corrosion. First Selectman Ridgway then discussed using the State Bid Process to hire bridge crews to perform the restorations. Selectwoman Kotchoubey requested a 'scope of work' prior to hiring a contractor. First Selectman Ridgway agreed, and noted that details would be provided. Next, the Board of Selectmen discussed the Cogswell Rd Bridge guiderails and acknowledged requests from some residents to take time to consider potential options for the guiderail. First Selectman Ridgway stated that in a decade or so, the next projects would be the replacement of culvert pipes at Rattlesnake / Cream Hill Rd, and the culvert near the entrance to the Cream Hill Lake Association

on Town Street. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey encouraged the Board to take time with Cogswell Bridge in order to receive community input.

WEST CORNWALL WASTE WATER GRANT & SCHEDULE: First Selectman Ridgway discussed new funding opportunities via the Community Project Funding request application to Congresswoman Jahana Hayes' office. First Selectman Ridgway also read a letter of support for the Waste Water project from Cathy Webber of the Torrington Area Health Department.

PADDLE TENNIS: The Board of Selectmen discussed a proposal for a Paddle Tennis court. The proposed court would cost the Town approximately \$66,000 for half of the construction. The other half of construction costs would be paid through fundraising by local residents who are proposing the project.

DOG PARK: This agenda item was postponed.

CYBER SECURITY INSURANCE: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway discussed cyber security insurance, not currently covered by CIRMA. The cost to add the cyber security insurance would be approximately \$8,000.

OPTIMUM UPDATE: First Selectman Ridgway reported on a recent phone conversation with Optimum. Optimum is planning to schedule fiber optic upgrades in Cornwall during the 2021-2022 construction season.

HOUSING PLAN GRANT EXTENSION: The Board of Selectmen discussed an authorizing resolution for First Selectman Ridgway to sign a Housing Plan Grant Extension to extend the DOH housing plan grant period to December 31, 2021. First Selectman Ridgway read the following resolution language:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen has accepted planning grant funds to prepare and adopt an Affordable Housing Plan under the provisions of § 8-30j of the Connecticut General Statutes (“CGS”).

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Gordon Ridgway, as First Selectman of the Town of Cornwall, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey moved to adopt the proposed resolution. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion passed after receiving two votes in favor. First Selectman Ridgway abstained from the vote.

TRINITY RETREAT TRAFFIC REQUEST: The Board of Selectmen discussed a request from Trinity Retreat to place temporary speed bumps during spring, summer and fall on Lower River Road near their complex in West Cornwall. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway moved to grant their request on a trial basis so long as the speed bumps are placed within the gates of Trinity Retreat where Trinity owns both sides of Lower River Road, and that proper insurance be obtained. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded and motion unanimously passed.

MEMORIAL DAY SCHEDULE: The Board of Selectmen discussed Memorial Day, 2021. This year the V.F.W. can have a limited role, but due to Covid safety there will be no large celebration. First Selectman Ridgway described a mobile parade of CVFD vehicles and the new Town Truck past various cemeteries in Cornwall where Military Veteran graves are located – including: Cornwall Hollow, West Cornwall, Cornwall Bridge, and then back to Cornwall Village. Like last year, “Taps” will be performed, as well as the honor roll and keynote speaker.

TAX REFUND REQUEST: First Selectman Ridgway moved to approve a tax refund request in the amount of \$139.82 for overpayment of real estate tax. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway provided a short update on Municipal Solid Waste, and reported that solid waste amounts are down some from this time last year.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were several comments from Cornwall residents regarding Planning & Zoning, as well as the Cogswell Road Bridge.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry
Administrative Assistant
Town of Cornwall