

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

Tuesday, May 4, 2021  
7:30 p.m. – Remotely via Zoom

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway; Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey; Selectman Priscilla Pavel; Will Berry-Transfer Station; Heather Dinneen – Cornwall Social Services; two members of the press; ten 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 April 20, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Priscilla Pavel discussed the recent passing of Cornwall resident, John Miller and stated in part - “He was a very special man.” First Selectman Gordon Ridgway praised John Miller’s contributions to the Town over the years including his work covering the Board of Selectmen for the Cornwall Chronicle.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway provided an update on the Covid-19 Pandemic and noted that Connecticut continues its path to vaccination and currently has the highest state vaccination rate in the United States. The First Selectman also emphasized the importance of getting vaccinated, and noted that there have been a few recent cases of Covid in Cornwall.

MAY 21, 2021 BUDGET TOWN MEETING CALL: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway made a motion to sign the call. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

WEST CORNWALL COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported that Congresswoman Jahana Hayes has received Cornwall’s application for Community Project Funding for the potential West Cornwall Waste Water Project. Cornwall’s request is one of ten applications selected by Congresswoman Jahana Hayes to be considered by the Congressional Appropriations Committee. The Town expects to receive a response to the funding request by the end of June 2021.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: Social Service Director Heather Dinneen reported on the status of the Food Pantry. She discussed fund raising efforts, as well as increased demand for assistance due to economic hardships caused by the Covid19 Pandemic. Heather and the Board of Selectmen discussed hiring a Food Pantry Coordinator to run the pantry operations. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway estimated that the position would require five to seven hours per week at \$20 (or a little more) per hour and would cost approximately \$5,000 to \$7,000 per year. First Selectman Ridgway stated that it would be a good use of funds and would make sense in order to keep things running. Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey agreed, and stated that the need for the food pantry calls for hiring a Food Pantry Coordinator – and it is an easy move to make in order to help out Heather and the volunteers. Selectwoman Kotchoubey then moved to proceed with hiring a Food Pantry Coordinator. First Selectman Ridgway seconded, and discussion ensued with Heather Dinneen

regarding steps towards an application process for the new hire. Selectman Priscilla Pavel agreed and noted that Heather Dinneen has been doing a wonderful job, and hiring someone to assist is a very smart idea. Finally, the motion to hire a Food Pantry Coordinator unanimously passed.

**TRANSFER STATION UPDATE:** First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported on a tour of the Transfer Station with Cornwall Building Inspector, Paul Prindle. First Selectman Ridgway discussed replacing the Transfer Station office with a new office building, constructing a new roof on the main building, and adding a shed-roof extension off of the swap shop. The plan is to use a temporary trailer office while construction occurs. First Selectman Ridgway moved to put out a request for design specifications from a local architect, to hand out those specs to some contractors, and go ahead and take down the ramp in front of the transfer station office to start things off. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

**PADDLE TENNIS UPDATE:** First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported on a trip to Lakeville to check out the paddle tennis court, and noted that it looked like a paddle tennis court could fit at Foote Field. First Selectman Ridgway also stated that lighting is not part of the Foote Field site plan. Nell Nicholas of Cornwall thanked the Town and Board of Selectmen for their enthusiasm for a Paddle Tennis court.

**CYBER SECURITY QUOTE:** First Selectman Ridgway reported that the Town's insurance company is still working on supplying a quote for cyber security insurance.

**POPPLE SWAMP ROAD CELL TOWER ACTIVATION:** First Selectman Ridgway reported Verizon has begun work to install an antenna on the Popple Swamp cell tower.

**SCOPE OF WORK: 4 BRIDGES:** First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported that Roger Kane is working with Hammonasset Construction on the scope of work, and more details will be available soon.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Caroline Nastro discussed the cell phone tower on Popple Swamp Rd.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry  
Administrative Assistant  
Town of Cornwall