

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, citizens, reporter, videographer.

First Selectman Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

MINUTES: Priscilla Pavel made the motion to approve the minutes of April 2 as presented. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway agreed to add to the agenda two matters raised by Pavel – first, to appoint Joanne Wojtusiak to be an alternate on the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) and second to discuss malfunction of the Housatonic Railroad's crossing protection equipment in West Cornwall Village.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were none to report.

Public Comment: None

1. Appointment of Heather Dinneen as Veteran's Service Contact Person. Ridgway moved to appoint Dinneen to the position. Richard Bramley seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous.
2. Transfer Station Vacancy. Two people have applied so far. The board agreed to postpone action on this appointment until May after the publication of ads for the position have appeared in the Lakeville Journal and the Cornwall Chronicle.
3. FOI Conference. There is a statewide training session in Haddam CT on May 3. The Town of North Canaan will conduct a similar training on April 23 in North Canaan at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall which is open to the public. The board agreed to communicate this information to Cornwall's boards and commissions.
4. Bridges. Roger Kane is completing bid specifications for the Lake Road Bridge over the Hollenbeck. The project will go out to bid before Memorial Day.
5. Town Building Report. Jim Terrall has been assessing needs for repair in town buildings and will present his report at the Board of Finance meeting on April 18.
6. Suspense List. The board reviewed the list of uncollected motor vehicle and personal property taxes prepared by Tax Collector Jean Bouteiller. Ridgway made a motion to transfer the accounts on the list to the suspense list as recommended by the tax collector. Bramley seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous.

7. West Cornwall Septic. Ridgway has met and talked with engineer Steve McDonald in West Cornwall where they toured, with Todd Piker, possible sites. They also talked about alternatives for the treatment facility with a view to bringing down the cost to the town. Visits to sites in Saybrook and Madison have been suggested to look at smaller, non-central facilities. In both locations the plants are close to businesses and to homes.

8. River Interns/The Bend. Ridgway attended a meeting at Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) about river stewards. HVA is offering interns to monitor river activity, including the boat launch recreation area at the Bend which will open this summer. Before this happens the town will pave an apron area at the entry to the parking area; install a barrier fence provided by HVA; and install a bollard to prevent vehicles from entering the river. The latter will be removable so that the Fire Department can launch its rescue boat. A June ribbon-cutting is planned.

9. Fiber Optics. Ridgway and other area first selectmen met with Gov. Ned Lamont at the Litchfield Hills COG. The COG has hired an economic development consultant to facilitate its regional plan. Public meetings are planned to discuss fiber optic cable installation. NWConnect and the COG itself are capable of estimating the cost to each of its member towns to wire the fiber optic cable. The use of existing utility poles is may not be legally possible.

10. Pritchard Road. Inland Wetlands is studying the feasibility of extending Day Road and possibly Pritchard Road to enable local landowners to build on their property.

11. Tornado Anniversary. The Cornwall Historical Society will be commemorating the 30th anniversary of the 1989 Tornado in Cornwall with an exhibit created by Paper Buck. The opening is June 21 between 5 and 7 p.m. Jerry and Pat Blakey will recreate their "Blakey Diner" volunteer feeding effort with grilled meats and local produce. Ridgway has been asked to talk about the tornado and the massive effort the town as a whole made to bring order to the chaos caused by the storm.

Ridgway made a motion to support the Historical Society in its effort to commemorate the tornado. Pavel seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

12. Additions to the agenda. Appointment of an alternate to P&Z. Pavel moved and Bramley seconded a motion to appoint Joanne Wojtusiak as an alternate to P&Z. Bramley seconded. During discussion Ridgway said he was unclear about the procedure to appoint an alternate since all town boards and commissions had different procedures. The suggestion was made to appoint Wojtusiak until the fall elections of 2019. The possibility of other candidates was discussed. Bramley moved and Ridgway seconded a motion to table the appointment motion until the meeting of May 7. The vote to table was unanimous.

Railroad Crossings: Equipment malfunctions have kept the automatic barriers, the lights and the warning toner in place for as long as an hour after the train has passed through the village. Pavel suggested that talking with the railroad and state regulators will help. Ridgway said he would bring the matter up with state Sen. Craig Minor who is interested in railroad matters and also Rep. Maria Horn.

Public Comment. Meg McMorrow and Brad Harding brought their concerns about the health and safety issues arising from the installation of electronic equipment in town. They suggested better communications with townspeople about the scope of potential dangers. Joanne Wojtusiak commented on Ridgway's tour of septic sites with Steve McDonald and Todd Piker, chair of the Septic Study Group.

Bills were paid in the usual manner. The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Lansing
Clerk, pro tem