

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, three citizens, one reporter

First Selectman Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES: Selectman Pavel made the motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2019 as presented. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda West Cornwall Firehouse Renovation Plans, Air Monitor and COST Legislative Meeting. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Pavel inquired about contacting Mohawk Construction concerning road construction signs apparently left over from the Covered Bridge project. The Board discussed signs left on route 7, both approaches to the bridge, and one on route 128.

First Selectman Ridgway had a communication concerning the offer of a donation from the Woman's Society towards maintenance of the Holiday Tree on the Cornwall Bridge triangle. The Board discussed the tree.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Hector Prud'homme inquired about a letter addressed to the Board of Selectmen, the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Economic Development Commission. This will covered under agenda item #4.

An inquiry was made concerning a Lakeville Journal article last week concerning funding for a study of fiber-optics, was this on tonight's agenda. First Selectman Ridgway replied there is interest but is not on tonight's agenda.

WEST CORNWALL SEWER STUDY: The Board reviewed surveys returned that were sent out to addresses in the West Cornwall village core area inquiring if any interest in connecting and utilizing a centralized sewage disposal system in West Cornwall. 55 letters were sent, 26 responses received, even between yes/no, handful of maybes. Due date for survey is tomorrow. The Board discussed what had been received and what this may mean.

THE BEND PROJECT: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had met with Mike Jastremski of Housatonic Valley Association and reviewed the Bend project which is almost complete – gate and bollards to be installed and apron paved and order a porta-potty. A ribbon cutting ceremony in June is being considered. HVA will install a kiosk and a directional sign on route 128. First Selectman Ridgway also reported on an HVA program, River Information and Outreach, with funding for maintenance for areas along the Housatonic River.

BELL ROAD CELL TOWER: First Selectman Ridgway reported on letters received, which were reviewed by the Board, from the Connecticut Siting Council and a request the Citing Council had received from Blue Sky Towers, successor in interest to the facility at 16 Bell Road Extension, requesting an extension of eighteen months to complete the construction and operation of the tower. The Board discussed the request and what is up on the site. First Selectman Ridgway expressed opposition to the extension as this is the sixth request which will extend the construction time to October 20, 2020. It is time the project was completed. The Board discussed this and the need for coverage which this tower may provide. The Citing Council letter grants the extension. Selectman Bramley made the motion to authorize First Selectman Ridgway to go on record in opposition to the further delay of the activating of the tower and to apply pressure to improve cell coverage in Cornwall as six extensions are excessive. Selectman Pavel seconded. There was discussion. Motion passed unanimously. The Board looks forward to their prompt reply.

WEST CORNWALL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: The Board reviewed e-mail received from Mr. Jim Fishman suggesting the Town purchase the listed vacant properties in West Cornwall village for conversion to commercial use, create a redevelopment zone, hire a planner to re-conceptualize the area and form a West Cornwall Redevelopment District Committee to oversee the project. The Board reviewed follow up e-mails from Ms. Lisa Simont and Mr. Hector Prud'homme and Todd Piker concerning their take on Mr. Fishman's proposal. The Board reviewed an e-mail received from Ms. Jocelyn Ayer of NHCOCG concerning redevelopment authorities. The Board discussed all this. The Board reviewed a reply penned by First Selectman Ridgway and made adjustments. It will be sent to Mr. Fishman and copied to the Economic Development Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission and the WC Water Septic Study Group.

CORNWALL/GOSHEN BUS MEETING: First Selectman Ridgway reported on a meeting with First Selectman Valentine of Goshen and people from GEER concerning the use of the joint van. GEER is working on a proposal to help track the bus use and schedule use and integrate the joint van in with their vans to ensure good coverage of the bus use for doctor appointments.

APPOINTMENTS: The Board discussed volunteers who have put their names forward for the filling of the vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Selectman Bramley made the motion to appoint Ginny Potter from her alternate position to full member position on the Planning and Zoning Commission. First Selectman Ridgway seconded. Motion passed unanimously. There was discussion of the alternate position vacancy. The appointment runs to the next election. Motion passed unanimously.

TAX REFUND: The Board reviewed a tax refund request. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to grant the tax refund request of \$978.46 to William Spencer and Stephen Templeman for overpayment of real estate taxes due to adjustment by the Board of Assessment Appeals. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

WEST CORNWALL FIREHOUSE RENOVATION PLANS: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had met with the architect and building committee concerning plans for the renovation of the WC firehouse which will make the building more functional. The Board discussed changes to be

made and reviewed plans. Selectman Pavel made the motion to proceed with the alterations of the renovation of the West Cornwall firehouse as presented by architect Lisa Keskinen. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was further review. Motion passed unanimously.

AIR MONITOR: First Selectman Ridgway reported the air monitor has been ordered and checks received from the Cornwall Foundation and the Town of Cornwall Endowment Fund to help pay for it.

COST LEGISLATIVE MEETING: First Selectman Ridgway reported on the Council of Small Towns Legislative Meeting he attended in Rocky Hill. The mandatory school consolidation is not going to be mandated, teacher pensions have been taken out of the bill, the mandated regionalization bill is still alive and well. First Selectman Ridgway reported the Council of Governments is working on the census to get everyone counted. There will be upcoming census workshops.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Hector Prud'homme gave the history on his response to Jim Fishman's letter which was up on the website. Mr. Prud'homme inquired about the town's borrowing capacity which First Selectman Ridgway replied is in excellent condition.

Karen Nelson, Land Use Administrator, reported to the Board on the Inland Wetland meeting which was this evening and had adjourned, the Pritchard Road access was discussed.

The Board answered questions from the press.

BILL PAYMENT: Bills paid in the usual manner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant