

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, April 4, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Heidi Kearns, Roger Kane, three citizens, two reporters

First Selectman Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

MINUTES: Selectman Bramley made the motion to approve the minutes of March 21, 2017 as presented. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway presented some items to be added to the agenda. Selectman Kearns made the motion to add to the agenda Grand List Report and Housatonic Valley Association. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were no communications.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Question was received from citizen present asking how the Board will vote later in the meeting on a fund request.

FLAT ROCKS ROAD BRIDGE BIDS: First Selectman Ridgway reported to the Board on the bid for the Flat Rocks Road bridge. Two bids were received: Trademark for approximately \$488,000 and Towne & Aurell for \$338,000. As Mr. Kane was in another meeting, First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to table further discussion of the Flat Rocks Road Bridge Bid until Roger Kane could join the Board. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN MEETING APRIL 7: First Selectman Ridgway reported all is set for Friday's town meeting to discuss the town proposal to borrow funds for the Bridge Improvement Program.

THE BEND: First Selectman Ridgway updated the Board concerning the progress of the Bend project and gave history of the project in answer to Selectman Kearns' question of how the town got involved in this project. The Board discussed options and scenarios of lease or purchase of the property.

HIGHWAY BUDGET: First Selectman Ridgway reported on his meeting with Town Treasurer and Board of Finance Chairman. There are some funds leftover in some budget lines and they looked at what may be left in capital projects. The Board discussed this and how it may help in the next budget year and discussed the replacement of the town pickup truck.

FLAT ROCKS ROAD BRIDGE BIDS: Mr. Kane arrived and First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to go back to the Flat Rocks Road Bridge Bids. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board and Mr. Kane reviewed and discussed the last time bids went out for the Flat Rocks Road bridge and the bids received this time. Mr. Kane reported he had

reviewed the bids received and found them to be well balanced and expressed his recommendation. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion, upon Mr. Kane's recommendation, to accept the Towne and Aurell bid of \$338,899 pending Town Meeting approval of funding. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was discussion of experience with company, time line and placement of order. Motion passed unanimously.

GEER BUS MEETING: First Selectman Ridgway reported on his meeting with GEER and First Selectman Valentine of Goshen to discuss the use of the GEER bus and the Goshen/Cornwall van.

OPTIMUM CABLE PETITION: First Selectman Ridgway reported on Optimum cable, who has been purchased by Altice, plans to drop Cable 5 and Neighborhood News with Jeff Zineer. There is a petition circulating to protest this. The Board discussed this and what Neighborhood News covered. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion the Board endorse the petition approved by the Mayor of Torrington, First Selectman of Litchfield, First Selectman of Goshen and Representative Cook, to encourage Optimum to preserve Neighborhood News Report. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

BEACH DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION: The Board reviewed past job descriptions for beach director. Selectman Kearns presented a combined version which will be reviewed for next meeting.

CORNWALL GRANGE TRUST FUND REQUEST: The Board received an e-mail from the Cornwall Grange Trust Fund Advisory Committee approving a grant of \$500 to the Cornwall Cooperative Farm Market Group. The Board reviewed the request and recommendation. First Selectman Ridgway stated it was prudent for the Board to hand to Selectman Kearns the responsibility of speaking for the Board on matters of the Farm Market on the Town Green if she is willing. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion the Board authorize Selectman Kearns to act on its behalf for dealing with matters concerning the Cornwall Farmer's Market use of the Green. Selectman Bramley seconded. Selectman Kearns is willing. There was discussion. Motion passed unanimously. First Selectman Ridgway gave the history of the Grange Trust Fund. Selectman Kearns inquired how the Committee justifies this request to meet the parameters of the ordinance. Selectman Kearns will inquire of the committee and let the Board know her decision.

First Selectman Ridgway reported to the Board there is a lack of funds in the Sydney Kaye Trust to fulfill the recommendation presented at the last Board meeting. The Board discussed the fund, the discrepancy between what the will states and what the town ordinance states and the broader question of small funds given to the town which are too small to make any usable interest in the present economy.

SIGNS AT FOOTE FIELDS: First Selectman Ridgway reported the Park and Recreation Commission is sponsoring a cooperative inter-town Little League team and is requesting the orange fencing in the outfield be replaced with chain link fencing. To raise money for official uniforms, the commission also requests permission to put up vendor signs on the outfield fence. The Board discussed this. The consensus of the Board is this would be fine.

GRAND LIST ANALYSIS: The Board reviewed an analysis presented by the Tax Assessor upon the completion of appeals by the Board of Assessment Appeals. The total is decreased by 3.8%. This will be plugged into the 2017-18 budget.

HOUSATONIC VALLEY ASSOCIATION: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had received from HVA a document entitled "Road-Stream Crossing Inventory" which categorizes every culvert in town, makes some recommendations and is a study of the movement of animals under bridges/culverts, habitat found there and watershed restorations. The Board and Mr. Kane leafed through the 327 page document and discussed its purpose. First Selectman Ridgway will call HVA and thank them for doing this.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Questions were received from the press and answered.

BILLS were paid in the usual manner.

DELINQUENT TAXES: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to go into executive session to discuss delinquent taxes. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board went into executive session at 8:45 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:55 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart
Administrative Assistant