

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, Selectwoman Kotchoubey, one citizen

First Selectman Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

MINUTES: Selectman Pavel made the motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2019 as presented. Selectwoman Kotchoubey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda Registrars Request for a Computer, Tax Refund and Highway Department Interview Schedule. Selectman Pavel seconded and inquired about adding a message received from a gentleman concerning an issue. First Selectman Ridgway replied the issue has been referred to Karen Nelson as it is under Zoning jurisdiction. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway thanked those present for coming out on this icy night and thanked Richard Griggs for videoing the meeting to enable people to see the meeting from the warmth and comfort of home. The Board wishes everyone Happy Holidays.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

FOOD AND FUEL FUND: First Selectman Ridgway reported on his work with the Social Services Administrator on the Food and Fuel Fund. There has been an increased need for funding in town. Last winter there were 30 users, this month has 80. The Board discussed the need for additional funding and town support in providing for the present toy and winter clothing program. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to allocate \$500 from the Town Endowment Fund to the Food and Fuel Fund. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board discussed further programs to supplement the pantry.

APPOINTMENTS: First Selectman Ridgway reported on his attendance to the Economic Development Commission meeting last month. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to re-appoint Richard Bramley and to appoint Arnon Fischer and Lee Pryor to fill vacancies on the Economic Development Commission. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed an offer of help from a citizen the other side of the river and the qualifications for appointment. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to appoint Dee Salomen as special member to the Economic Development Commission. Selectwoman Kotchoubey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2020 GOALS: The Board reviewed and discussed a draft of goals for the upcoming year. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to adopt these goals for the year 2020. Selectman Kotchoubey seconded. Selectwoman Kotchoubey had possible areas that Board may work on.

There was discussion of the fluidity of the list and the possibility of adding to it during the year. Motion passed unanimously.

STEAP FAÇADE GRANTS: First Selectman Ridgway reported on the Façade Grant Program as part of the state Small Town Economic and Assistance Program. This is the third round. The Board discussed the purpose of the grant, funding still available and the process for applying. First Selectman Ridgway reported he has applied for and received an extension for the program until December 31, 2020. The Board discussed advertising the program.

AUDIT 2019: First Selectman Ridgway presented to the Board the completed 2019 audit for the town. The town ended the fiscal year with a substantial surplus due to receiving more state aid than expected and receiving back taxes. The report is available in the office for review. The Board reviewed and discussed the report.

WEST CORNWALL WASTE WATER STUDY: The Chairman of the West Cornwall Water Septic Study Group has asked the Board to redefine their mission and purpose. The Board reviewed and discussed a draft statement, expressing their thoughts. Selectman Pavel made the motion to go forward with this statement for the sewer committee. Selectwoman Kotchoubey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

REGISTRARS REQUEST FOR A COMPUTER: The Board reviewed and discussed a request from the registrars whose computer as of January will no longer support state software. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to go into the town contingency fund for \$1,648 to pay for the computer. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

TAX REFUND: The Board reviewed a tax refund request. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion, upon the recommendation of the Tax Collector, to grant the tax refund request of \$376.83 to Kateland McKenzie for overpayment of motor vehicle tax. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT INTERVIEW SCHEDULE: The Board reviewed applications received and discussed a meeting schedule for interviews. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to have a special meeting to do highway interviews at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 19, 2019. Selectwoman Kotchoubey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to go into executive session to discuss interview questions for highway personnel. Selectwoman Kotchoubey seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board went into executive session at 8:07 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:40 p.m. No action was taken.

BILLS were paid in the usual manner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant