

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, Bart Jones - Chairman of Cornwall Conservation Trust, one citizen

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

MINUTES: Selectman Pavel made the motion to approve the minutes of December 4, 2018 as presented. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda: Report on the STEAP Façade Grant Program, Various Meeting Updates with Legislative Government NHCOC Last Week. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway reported it has been a busy week for the Social Services Administrator. The Town Hall is filled with toys. Heather Dinneen has done a great job organizing the toy drive for fifty Cornwall kids with contributions from local churches, the Youth Service Bureau, Troop B, National Iron Bank, Northwest Community Foundation and individuals. There has also been a lot of donations to the Food and Fuel Fund.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

WEST CORNWALL WATER SEPTIC STUDY GROUP: The Board discussed three candidates approved and recommended by the Study Group. Selectman Pavel made the motion to appoint Betsey Preston, Lisa Simont and Don Bachman to the West Cornwall Water Septic Study Group. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was discussion of any more openings. Selectman Bramley expressed request that vacancies be filled by candidates from all areas of the town and not just the West Cornwall village. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway reported on the receipt of a contract extension from Steve McDonnell of WMC. The Board reviewed the letter of request for extension. There will need to be a budget transfer. The Board discussed the request and funding. Selectman Pavel made the motion to accept the contract extension from Steve McDonnell of WMC dated December 10, 2018, reference #16015 and to fund it completely with \$5000 available now and with a \$2,000 budget transfer. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway presented the need to send a letter to everybody in West Cornwall village to scope out if there is interest in the water septic project. The Board discussed who to send to and where issues may be. It would not be a commitment, but a strong indication of interest.

First Selectman Ridgway reported an upcoming tour-the-village meeting is coming up to review potential sites. There have been offers of properties as possible sites. The Board discussed this.
CORNWALL CONSERVATION TRUST REQUEST: First Selectman Ridgway reported on the receipt of a request dated November 29, 2018 from the CCT for a letter of support for an open

space grant for 72 acres on Johnson Road. First Selectman Ridgway read the letter. Mr. Bart Jones, Chairman of the CCT, thanked the Board for their past support on the Furnace Brook purchase. Mr. Jones spoke to the Board concerning the Johnson Road request of support for the state grant, presented maps of the area, the history of the request and purchase price. First Selectman Ridgway expressed his concern for accessible buildable acreage for affordable housing. There was discussion of how much acreage is available, accessibility of acres for affordable housing, ways in which acreage is tied up and the importance of open space accessible to citizens for walking. The Board will review further.

BRIDGES: First Selectman Ridgway reported on meeting with Mr. Roger Kane concerning next bridges to work on. Mr. Kane is working on an engineering package for Lake Road bridge and working on what needs to be done on Ford Hill Road bridge. The Board discussed this and what info Mr. Kane has received from the engineer.

TAX REFUND: The Board reviewed a tax refund request. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion, upon the recommendation of the Tax Collector, to grant two requests of \$14.00 and \$65.59 to Ernest Everett Merchant for two vehicles removed from the tax rolls. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

STEAP FAÇADE GRANT PROGRAM: First Selectman Ridgway reported the Small Town Economic Assistance Program for the façade grant program is reenergized with an extension until the end of 2019. There is \$82,000 left for grants for façade improvements. The Board discussed this.

VARIOUS MEETING UPDATES WITH LEGISLATIVE GOVERNMENT NHCOC LAST WEEK: First Selectman Ridgway reported on meetings: with Governor Elect Lamont who came to Torrington to meet with area Selectmen, a meeting with Senator Craig Miner concerning railroad cars parked on the tracks in Cornwall Bridge for long length of time, and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments Legislative Breakfast meeting. The Board discussed these meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

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 Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board went into executive session at 9:00 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:47 p.m. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant