

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, Nick Pohl Housatonic Youth Services Bureau Executive Director, Katherine Freygang Cornwall Energy Task Force chair, one citizen, two reporters

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

MINUTES: Selectman Bramley made the motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2017 as presented. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda Bridge Updates with Roger Kane, Updates from COG Meeting, Frontier Communications Telephone Poles, Insulating West Cornwall Firehouse. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway wished to extend his thanks to the local churches, Troop B in Canaan and members of the community for the large outpouring of gifts for families which Social Services Administrator Jane Sellery has been working hard on distributing all week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

HOUSATONIC YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU: HYSB Executive Director Nick Pohl spoke to the Board thanking them for the town's support in the past and speaking to the bureau's mission, programs and events. The Board asked questions which were answered and thanked Mr. Pohl for the work HYSB has done for Cornwall and the area towns.

SUSTAINABLE CT: Kate Freygang, chair of the Cornwall Energy Task Force, spoke to the Board of a new program in the state, Sustainable CT. Ms. Freygang gave the background history of how the program began, explained the program and its goal of balancing natural resource conservation and building resilience throughout the state, and how to apply to Cornwall. A resolution from the Board is needed for Cornwall to participate, some of the participation will be region wide through NHCOCG. The Board reviewed the information distributed and asked questions. The Board will further review and consider signing a resolution at the next meeting.

BRIDGE UPDATES: Roger Kane updated the Board on bridge work in town. Mr. Kane had met with Connecticut Department of Transportation concerning the rehabilitation work to be done on the covered bridge. The job will begin December 21 and take 224 days at a cost of 1.3 million dollars. Route 128 will be closed for 29 days from the day after Labor Day until just before Columbus Day. Mr. Kane presented specifications and plans for the Board's review and anyone interested and answered questions from the Board. The job entails the rehabilitation of the deck which is a steel structure under the wooden bridge. First Selectman Ridgway will write the local businesses.

Mr. Kane addressed the Smith Place bridge and discussed with the Board options, timing of doing the work when the Covered Bridge is closed, bridge design, timetable and process of design, going out to bid and how the work may be done. First Selectman Ridgway proposed

talking to the abutting land owners in early January about granting easement for relocating the road and if no interest then pursue engineering plans for bridge repair.

First Selectman Ridgway reported on preliminary plans received from Dave Battista for the Gravel Bank bridge. Mr. Kane reported there are minimal wetlands issues and he recommended a bridge similar to the one placed on Flat Rocks Road, a design built pre-cast concrete structure. The Board discussed this and the advantages of using the knowledge from Flat Rocks for the Gravel Bank bridge. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to accept Dave Battista's proposal and to get a survey done on the Gravel Bank bridge as Mr. Battista outlined in his letter of December 14, 2017. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to propose to do preliminary engineering bid documents, and requests for proposals for these two projects – Smith Place bridge and Gravel Bank bridge. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway reported Ford Hill Road bridge is in pretty good shape. The paint system is wearing away, having been done in the 1960's. Mr. Kane reported this bridge doesn't qualify for federal funding as it is lightly used. The Board discussed this with Mr. Kane.

Mr. Kane reported on the bridge on Lake Road upstream from the Ford Hill Road bridge, the culvert is collapsing. This bridge is more likely to be eligible for state funds. The Board and Mr. Kane discussed this.

Mr. Kane and the Board answered questions from the press.

APPOINTMENTS: First Selectman Ridgway presented a request from the Town Clerk to consent to her appointment of sub-registrars of Vital Records per Connecticut General Statute Section 7-65b. The Board discussed this. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to consent to the Town Clerk's appointment of Brian Kenny and Jean Bouteiller as sub-registrars of Vital Records. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway reported he had received a letter from the chair of the Economic Development Commission, Janet Sanders, recommending Eric Tietz and Bianka Griggs be appointed to the EDC. First Selectman Ridgway reported the maximum number of Democrats allowable have already been appointed to the EDC. Per state statute only two thirds of a commission can be of one party. Per town ordinance members must be an elector in the Town of Cornwall. The Board discussed this acknowledging they cannot appoint these two at this time. First Selectman Ridgway will inform the applicants.

The Board discussed reappointments who were willing to serve again. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Andrew MacDavid to the Inland Wetland Water Courses Agency. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Kimberly Sullivan as representative to the Northwest Regional Mental Health Board. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed vacancies on the Park and Recreation Commission.

First Selectman Ridgway reported he received a letter from a member of the Cornwall Committee for Seniors who has written on behalf of the committee which has decided that because of lack of business and because of increased support for seniors from park and

recreation and town social services that there is no longer a need for a Senior Committee. The needs the committee identified ten years ago have been met. If the Board of Selectmen decide to disband the committee, it could be revived if the need arises. The Board discussed this. No action was taken.

WEST CORNWALL SEWER PETITION: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had received a petition signed by 19 people, 18 of whom live in or own property in West Cornwall, opposed to the plans as currently presented for a sewer system in West Cornwall. The West Cornwall Water Septic Study Group is aware of the petition. The Board discussed the petition and the last committee meeting. First Selectman Ridgway updated the Board on his last discussion with Mr. McDonnell concerning the project.

BUDGET 2018-2019: First Selectman Ridgway reported he has met with Board of Finance chairman John Laporta and the Town Treasurer and the Finance Director concerning the next budget year. Budget letters will be going out to organizations and departments. The Board discussed the anticipated increase in Cornwall's portion of the high school budget.

COG MEETING UPDATES: First Selectman Ridgway updated the Board on the last Northwest Hills Council of Government meeting; he has invited members to come visit Cornwall, breweries and distilleries are opening in area towns, some towns have an increase in school numbers, SustainableCT has a program meeting January 13, he will attend an upcoming Economic Summit meeting, the State's impact on area town's financial health, there are two more vans for senior transport in the region, update on the Council's Regional Plan of Conservation and Development and update on the Northwest Regional Arts Council.

FRONTIER'S COMMUNICATION TELEPHONE POLES: First Selectman Ridgway brought to the Board's attention a new issue of the space on telephone poles. Municipalities are entitled to the use of a space on utility poles for any purpose. Frontier and wireless providers are seeking to eliminate this right. The Board discussed the issue and the town as an intervenor, what should be done.

INSULATING WEST CORNWALL FIREHOUSE: First Selectman Ridgway updated the Board on a report received from the Building Official concerning the insulation of the West Cornwall Firehouse. This was reviewed.

COMMENTS were received from those present.

BILLS and **BANK RECONCILIATIONS** were done in the usual manner.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant