

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

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

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

MINUTES: Selectman Pavel made the motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 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 Meeting with Sharon Hospital and Request from Cornwall Conservation Trust. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway presented to the Board a notice of a meeting titled "America's Housing Crisis" taking place in Lakeville, at Hotchkiss, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. It should be an interesting meeting. Housing is a nation-wide problem.

First Selectman Ridgway announced the publishing of the book Connecticut 169 Club by Marty Podskoch which is a guide to the exploration of Connecticut's towns. Jeremy Brecher wrote the section for Cornwall. December 15 will be a talk and book signing in the Souterrain Gallery.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

COVERED BRIDGE EVENTS: First Selectman Ridgway announced there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly refurbished Covered Bridge in West Cornwall at the bridge. The Commissioner of the Department of Transportation will be there. The Board discussed what was done to the flooring.

THE BEND PROJECT: First Selectman Ridgway announced work has begun on the Bend Project in West Cornwall. Trees have been cut down and invasives cut out. Gravel is being hauled to level the parking lot. Work is anticipated to be done by Christmas. Asphalt plants have closed, paving will be done later. The Board discussed the project.

SOLAR TREE IN CORNWALL BRIDGE: First Selectman Ridgway announced the tree is lit on the green in Cornwall Bridge, though smaller than in years past. First Selectman Ridgway relayed the events leading to the choosing of the smaller tree to light up, the need to replace bulbs and strands and the costs, consideration of hardier bulbs, what the solar system can handle as hardier bulbs requires more power, and what is sustainable long term. The Board discussed this.

HART HILL ROAD: The Board discussed the closing of a portion of Hart Hill Road as passed at the last Town Meeting. Further action is needed by the Board. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion that, following a majority approval at a town meeting held November 16, 2018, the Board of Selectmen discontinue a 137 foot portion of Hart Hill Road and file a written notice of discontinuance of a portion of Hart Hill Road from the current termination of the town road for a distance of 137 feet toward Route 128 in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13a-49. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board signed a written notice to file on the land records.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: First Selectman Ridgway informed the Board that an MOA with the State for the 2018 State Homeland Security Grant Program is needed. The Board reviewed and discussed the agreement. Selectman Bramley made the motion, Resolved, that the Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and further resolved, that Gordon M. Ridgway, as First Selectman of the Town of Cornwall, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. Selectman Pavel seconded. There was discussion and review of past items purchased through the grant. Motion passed unanimously. First Selectman Ridgway signed the agreement.

MIRA TRASH COSTS: First Selectman reported that MIRA, Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority, has suspended operations due to mechanical failure at the trash-to-energy facility. The processing of waste deliveries is suspended. The Board discussed the impact of this on the town's waste, when might operations resume at the facility, costs to the town.

APPOINTMENTS: The Board reviewed a list of appointments, terms expiring, vacancies and those willing to be reappointed.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to re-appoint Debby Bennett and Patrick Mulberry to the Conservation Commission. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Terms are 3 years and will expire in 2021.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to re-appoint Kate Sandmeyer Ward, Priscilla Pavel and Janet Sanders to the Economic Development Commission. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was discussion. Motion passed unanimously. Terms are three year terms to expire in 2021.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to re-appoint Wendy Kennedy to the Cornwall Grange Trust Fund Advisory Committee. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Term is three years and will expire in 2021.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to re-appoint Barton Jones as alternate to the Housatonic River Commission. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Term is three years and will expire in 2021.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to re-appoint Dody Clarke Wolfe as Town Historian. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Term is three years and will expire in 2021.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to re-appoint Steve Saccardi to the Park and Recreation Commission. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Term is a two year term and will expire in 2020.

The Board discussed the affiliation composition of the Economic Development Commission.

Further appointments will need to be considered.

SHARON HOSPITAL MEETING: First Selectman Ridgway reported on a meeting yesterday at Sharon Hospital, the President is committed to having the maternity service at the hospital. The Hospital had merged with a New York group and is seeking to merge with a Connecticut group which will expand their access to services. The Board discussed this.

REQUEST FROM CORNWALL CONSERVATION TRUST: The Board reviewed a letter dated November 29, 2018 received from the Cornwall Conservation Trust requesting the Board's support in seeking a state grant to purchase 72.5 acres of land on Johnson Road. This property abuts other CCT land and state property. The Board reviewed and discussed the letter and map of property under consideration. The consensus of the Board is to table taking action until a subsequent meeting to take the opportunity to review the land.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Citizen present spoke to the CCT letter of request requesting the Board encourage affordable housing.

BILLS were paid in the usual manner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant