

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, December 5, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, Roger Kane, five citizens

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

MINUTES: Selectman Bramley made the motion to approve the minutes of November 7 and November 28, 2017 as presented. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda Cream Hill Road Street Painting Request and Beaver Problems. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway reported the Council of Small Towns Annual Meeting will be in February. The Board discussed the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Citizen present brought to the Board a concern of leaning trees on Bald Mountain Road. The Board discussed the situation with him. Citizen will mark the trees of concern and the concern will be forwarded to the Eversource tree crew.

GOALS: The Board reviewed a list of goals for the Board of Selectmen which First Selectman Ridgway had drafted. Selectman Pavel expressed an interest in improving the internet and telephone service in town. The Board discussed the goals. Selectman Pavel made the motion to adopt the draft of Board of Selectmen goals as First Selectman has presented. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The goals will be sent to the website and chronicle.

VACANCIES: First Selectman Ridgway reported to the Board the need to fill vacancies on town Board and Commissions has been sent to the newspaper and the chronicle. Some interest has been expressed, letters will be forthcoming. The Board reviewed the list of vacancies and noted those who have said yes to reappointment and discussed eligibility.

First Selectmen Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Susan Saccardi to the Cornwall Grange Trust Fund. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint K.C. Baird as Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department Service Incentive Trustee. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Nancy Berry, Heidi Cunnick, Richard Griggs, Ivan Miller and Betty Spence to the Cream Hill Lake Study Group. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the EDC and discussed letters of interest. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Todd Piker and Dick Sears to the Economic Development Commission. Selectman Bramley seconded. The Board discussed the vacancies remaining to be filled. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Phil Hart to the Housatonic River Commission. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Bill Hurlburt to the Inland Wetland Water Courses Agency. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the Park and Recreation Commission. Letters of interest have been received. The new town ordinance states the Board will appoint members. The Board discussed those who have expressed an interest and the requirement of how many of any one party can be appointed.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to appoint Libby Mitchell, Steve Saccardi, and Melissa Bronson as full members and Erica Joncyk as alternate to the Park and Recreation Commission. Selectman Bramley seconded. The Board discussed this will be a one year term to comply with the ordinance. Motion passed unanimously. Vacancies remain to be filled.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Virginia Potter to the Sydney Kaye Fund Advisory Committee. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed tree warden position. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to appoint Fred Scoville III as Tree Warden and Bruce Bennett as Assistant Tree Warden. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed vacancies on various commission yet to be filled.

BRIDGES: As Mr. Kane was still at a Wetlands meeting, First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to table the agenda item BRIDGES until Mr. Kane's arrival. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

LORCH FARM/STONE WALL DAIRY: First Selectman Ridgway reported on messages received concerning the Lorch Farm and Stone Wall Dairy which operates there. First Selectman Ridgway gave those present a history on the acquisition of the farm by the town and the farmer, Chris Hopkins, who has been successful in operating a dairy on the farm. Mr. Hopkins has sent the Board a letter of interest in moving on and his advertising of his portion of the farm and dairy for sale. The Board discussed who owns which properties, the interest expressed in buying the business as a dairy farm and would the town be willing to lease the town property to the prospective buyer. The consensus of the Board is they are open to the idea of leasing to the next business owner.

BRIDGES: The Board discussed town bridges with Mr. Kane, the amount borrowed for bridge work and time frame it needs to be spent in. The Board discussed with Mr. Kane the work done

on Flat Rocks Road bridge and the next bridges to consider: Smith Place bridge, Gravel Bank bridge and Ford Hill Road bridge. The Board and Mr. Kane discussed how to proceed, state and federal funding that may be available, priority of bridges and types of bridges, discussed the condition of Ford Hill bridge and Gravel Bank bridge. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion the Board instruct Roger Kane to proceed with investigating the painting of Ford Hill bridge with the DOT and getting a proposal from Lenard Engineering, an RFP, for the Gravel Bank bridge. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board and Mr. Kane further reviewed the condition of the Smith Place bridge which was replaced after the 1955 flood. Mr. Kane reported his recommendation and reviewed with the Board the right-of-way in the bridge area. The Board and Mr. Kane reviewed a map of the area of possible route alternatives to using the bridge and discussed the alternative of not using the bridge. The Board and Mr. Kane discussed when the project might be scheduled and the advantages of scheduling when the repairs to the Covered Bridge are done in 2018. First Selectman Ridgway will speak to the property owners in the bridge area.

CREAM HILL ROAD STREET PAINTING REQUEST: The Board received a communication requesting a stripe be painted down the center of Cream Hill Road in the area of the blind curve by Rattlesnake Road to encourage drivers to remain on their side of the road. The Board discussed the painting of a center line and other spots in town that may benefit from a center line. The consensus of the Board is to do this next spring when weather is warmer.

BEAVER PROBLEMS: The Board discussed culverts in town clogged by beavers and water release that occurs when unclogged. Complaints from neighbors have been received of the sudden water release. First Selectman Ridgway reported he has signed a contract for the trapping of beavers in three locations upon the recommendation of the DEEP. First Selectman Ridgway acknowledged the problem of beavers in the lake, but the town does not own any property in the problem area.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Board received inquiry of where the beaver sites were: Lake Road and two on Great Hill Road, the possibility of eminent domain to bridge project: not a favored idea, doing road painting now as winter is dark and an inquiry to the Eversource reply to the Bald Mountain Road tree situation which was discussed.

BILLS were paid in the usual manner.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant