

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, three citizens, two reporters

First Selectman Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

MINUTES: Selectman Bramley made the motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2018 as presented. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda Roger Kane – Bridges RFP Draft. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway presented to the Board a letter received from ConnDOT concerning the replacing of pedestrian signs on state roads. The Board discussed the letter. The consensus of the Board is to ok First Selectman Ridgway to sign and return the letter as requested.

First Selectman Ridgway presented a poster received from Aquarion Water Company concerning a search for Environmental Champions for Aquarion awards. The Board discussed this.

First Selectman Ridgway conveyed to the Board there is an interest in town to have a reception for Stephen O'Neil, the retiring Transfer Station Operator. The Board discussed this. Saturday, March 3 from 11:00 to 1:00 will be the date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

BRIDGES: The Board received from Mr. Kane a draft for a Request for Proposals concerning the Smith Place and Gravel Bank bridges. The Board discussed the RFP with Mr. Kane and work to be done. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to accept the draft RFP for bridge work on Smith Place and Gravel Bank with the idea that work on the schedule is being done as we speak. Selectman Pavel seconded. There was discussion of the time line and pre-bid meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kane reported to the Board he has met with the ConnDOT Bridge Inspection crew and conveyed their comments to the Board.

SPRING OILING PROPOSAL: The Board reviewed Highway Foreman Jim Vanicky's recommendation to engage Seymour Sealing for spring oiling work. The Board discussed the proposal, roads to be done and who will do the flagging. Work is be done this April, mostly in East Cornwall. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to accept the bid for chip sealing from Seymour Sealing who has the state bid in this area. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET 2019: First Selectman Ridgway reported it was a good budget hearing with the Board of Finance last week. Additional BoF meetings are coming up. The high school numbers are stable, Cornwall's share is going up while other towns are decreasing.

HOUSATONIC RAILROAD COMPANY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN: First Selectman Ridgway presented a Vegetation Management Plan received from Housatonic Railroad Company. The Board reviewed and discussed the plan and past actions on vegetation control. The consensus of the Board is to write the Housatonic Railroad Company inquiring before they do any more spraying along the tracks, what is their plan to manage the dead trees as a result of previous spraying.

TRANSFER STATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE: The Board discussed a schedule for conducting interviews for the position of Transfer Station Operator. Selectman Bramley made the motion to have interviews on Monday morning, the 26th, here in the Town Hall and to conduct them in executive session. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS: The Board discussed remaining vacancies on Town Boards and Commissions. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to appoint Simon Hewett and Bianka Griggs, who will be able to vote in three months after her change in party affiliation. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the vacancy of an alternate on Planning and Zoning Commission and letters of interest received. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to nominate Phill West as alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board acknowledged there are more vacancies to be filled.

WEST CORNWALL FIREHOUSE RENOVATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway updated the Board on the progress of the West Cornwall Firehouse renovations. John Laporta and Paul Prindle have met contractors on site to review work to be done. Bids should be coming in soon. The Board reviewed the site plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The Board answered questions from the press.

TRANSFER STATION APPLICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to go into executive session to review and discuss applications received for the position of Transfer Station Operator. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board went into executive session at 8:25 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:12 p.m. No action was taken.

BILLS and BANK RECONCILIATIONS were done in the usual manner.
Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant