

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, Highway Foreman Jim Vanicky, Roger Kane, two citizens

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

MINUTES: Selectman Bramley made the motion to approve the minutes of January 2, 2018 as presented. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda Council of Governments and Transfer Station Personnel. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway reported an engineer for Nash Pond is working through the regulatory process and updated the Board. Questions from the Board were answered. There was discussion.

COMMENTS: There were none.

BUDGET HIGHWAY: The Board reviewed and discussed the present 2017-2018 Budget with Highway Foreman Jim Vanicky, in particular road maintenance, snow and sand, dead trees and truck maintenance. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to adopt a budget for the highway similar to 2017-2018 budget year but increase the tree and repair lines by \$5000 each. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was discussion of overtime expense and overtime labor and the waste oil furnace. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board and Mr. Vanicky reviewed and discussed the highway portion of the Capitol Budget, Five Year Plan. First Selectman Ridgway reported there will be no state Town Aid Road funds next spring. There was discussion. The Board reviewed with Mr. Vanicky roads to be done and the success of the present program in road maintenance. The Board and Mr. Vanicky discussed funding for payloader. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the Capital Plan \$300,000 for road repair and \$95,000 for payloader. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

BRIDGES: Mr. Kane updated the Board on Smith Place and Gravel Pit bridges in town. Mr. Kane reported on the installation of a design built bridge similar to the Flat Rocks Road bridge, survey work to be done, borings, and preliminary engineering work after which the projects can go out to bid. These can be done this construction season. The Board discussed the timing and possibility of timing Smith Place work when the Covered Bridge is closed for reconstruction.

Mr. Kane updated the Board on a third bridge, Ford Hill Road bridge. Mr. Kane presented a painting estimate and what work needs to be done. The Board discussed with Mr. Kane whether all three bridges could be done this summer.

The Board and Mr. Kane discussed the next bridge in line, possibility of federal funding and preliminary engineering work to be done.

First Selectman Ridgway discussed with the Board letters received from residents in the Smith Place bridge area expressing their concerns. The Board discussed the various alternates to using the bridge. The Board agreed the direction to be going is to replace the bridge.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to request a work proposal from Lenard Engineering for preliminary engineering and bid specifications for the design built bridge for Smith Place and Gravel Pit bridges and to report to the Board of Finance. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Kane will get quotes.

SUSTAINABLE CONNECTICUT: The Board reviewed and discussed a request for a resolution supporting participation in the Sustainable Connecticut Municipal certification program.

Selectman Pavel made the motion the Board pass the resolution in support of participation in the Sustainable Connecticut Municipal certification program,

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is a comprehensive, statewide, action-oriented voluntary certification program, built by and for municipalities, with the vision that: Sustainable CT communities strive to be thriving, resilient, collaborative, and forward-looking. They build community and focal economy. They equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents. And they respect the finite capacity of the natural environment.

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is designed to boost local economies, help municipal operations become more efficient, reduce operating costs, and provide grants and additional support to municipalities.

WHEREAS, Cornwall embraces an ongoing process of working toward greater sustainability, selecting which actions it chooses to pursue from the voluntary menu of actions provided by Sustainable CT.

RESOLVED, by the Selectmen of Cornwall that we do hereby authorize Katherine Freygang as an independent volunteer to work with Cornwall commissions, organizations and individuals to serve as the Sustainable CT contact person for the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification process and authorize her to complete Municipal Registration on behalf of Cornwall.

RESOLVED, that to focus attention and effort within Cornwall on matters of sustainability, and in order to promote Cornwall's local initiatives and actions toward Sustainable CT Municipal Certification, the selectmen establish an advisory Sustainability Team as part of the Conservation Commission.

RESOLVED, that the first meeting of the Sustainability Team must be held within 90 days of passing this resolution and that the Sustainability Team shall meet as frequently as needed, but no less than quarterly.

RESOLVED, that the Sustainability Team shall report annually to the Selectmen on the progress of its activities toward Sustainable CT certification, with reports and presentations made publicly available.

Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

WEST CORNWALL FIREHOUSE INSULATION: First Selectman Ridgway reported on progress on the bid to insulate the firehouse and to upgrade the heating and a meeting with the architect. The Board discussed this.

Selectman Pavel made the motion First Selectman Ridgway sign the January 11, 2018 letter of agreement with Lisa Keskinen for the designing of the improvements for the West Cornwall Firehouse. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was discussion of the footprint and insulating before changes are made. Motion passed unanimously.

CORNWALL CONSERVATION TRUST REQUEST: The Board reviewed and discussed a letter of request from the CCT for the support of a state grant for the purchase of 104 acres on Furnace Brook Road. The Board reviewed a map of the area. First Selectman Ridgway expressed concern for how much land should be preserved, is preserved and the need for support to the town tax base. The Board discussed how to respond. Selectman Bramley made the motion to authorize First Selectman Ridgway to write a letter to the CCT before February 1 declining the Board's support. Selectman Pavel seconded. Selectmen Pavel and Bramley voted aye. First Selectman Ridgway abstained.

WEST CORNWALL SEWER STUDY FUNDING: First Selectman Ridgway reported to the Board all the money allocated in the grant received by Northwest Hills Council of Governments for the West Cornwall Water Septic Study had not been spent. NHCOCG asked the state to extend the grant period to allow the funds to be spent but was denied an extension. The Board discussed this and town funding, the grant process, funding from private citizens and citizen concerns with the project.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS: First Selectman Ridgway reported on items from the Northwest Hills Council of Governments meeting, funding to stabilize train and bus services and a presentation about the opioid crisis in Connecticut.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

BILLS were paid in the usual manner.

TRANSFER STATION PERSONNEL: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel at the transfer station. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Board went into executive session at 9:40 a.m.

Board came out of executive session at 9:50 a.m. No action was taken.
Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant