

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Heidi Kearns, Jim Vanicky, Roger Kane, two citizens

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

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Selectman Kearns made the motion to add to the agenda The Bend, Farmer's Market and COST Meeting. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway informed the Board he had met with Transfer Station Operator Stephen O'Neil to discuss preliminaries for the Transfer Station budget; the Cornwall Goshen Boy Scout troop has made some very nice signs for the transfer station; the Troop has redeemed the returnable cans and bottles for troop operations; the Paint Care Program of which the transfer station is a drop off point has been successful in keeping 6.2 million gallons of paint out of the waste stream through reuse; the transfer station has recycled 10 ton of metals.

First Selectman Ridgway reported there will be an informational meeting February 2 in the town hall presented by the Department of Transportation on the rehabilitation of the Covered Bridge.

Selectman Kearns inquired about the request the Board received from the Donate Life organization to fly the "Donate Life" flag the month of April. The Board discussed this. The Board declined to fly the flag for the month of April.

Selectman Kearns inquired about the Exclusive Service Area Aquarion is requesting. The Board discussed the maps which Aquarion will send.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Griggs informed the Board there is a video on the website of the new swap shop at the transfer station.

CORNWALL CONSERVATION TRUST: The Board reviewed a request from the CCT asking for a letter of support to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for an Open Space Grant to purchase 72 acres of forest in West Cornwall. First Selectman Ridgway expressed his concerns of the town's declining tax base and cuts in state aid. The Board discussed this. Selectman Bramley made the motion to endorse the CCT grant application for the Matland 72 acres on Tarradiddle Mountain. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY BUDGET WITH FOREMAN: The Board reviewed and discussed the highway budget and Five Year Plan with Highway Foreman Jim Vanicky and discussed truck maintenance, payloader needed, road “oils”, and operating budget to date.

MUSIC MOUNTAIN ROAD BRIDGE AND OTHER BRIDGES: First Selectman Ridgway reported to the Board the driver who hit the Music Mountain Bridge has been found and their insurance company contacted. The Board discussed with Mr. Kane the condition of the bridge, the cost of restoration, the cost of improving the safety with guide rails, and a proposal for guide rails received. Selectman Bramley made the motion to accept Eagle Fence and Guardrail’s proposal for \$9,375.00 to furnish and install metal beam guide rails. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway reported he will be meeting next week with engineer Dave Battista to finalize the town bridge report.

APPOINTMENTS: First Selectman Ridgway acknowledged there was a good response of volunteers from the publicizing of vacancies on town boards and commissions. The Board reviewed and discussed applicants for the alternate position on Planning and Zoning. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to appoint Ben Gray Jr. as alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was discussion. Selectman Kearns made the motion to appoint Richard Griggs as alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission. There was discussion. There was no second. First motion voted on: First Selectman Ridgway and Selectman Bramley aye; Selectman Kearns abstained. Motion passed.

Inland Wetlands vacancy for alternate was considered. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to nominate Peter Demy as alternate to the Inland Wetland Water Courses Agency. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered candidates for two vacancies on the Economic Development Commission. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to appoint Jacque Schiller and Nicholas Stuller to the Economic Development Commission. Selectman Kearns nominated Bianca Griggs and Nicholas Stuller to the Economic Development Commission. Selectman Bramley inquired how would the Board like to choose to make the selection of two out of three candidates. The Board discussed this. As neither motion had a second the Board decided to vote by roll call. First Selectman Ridgway voted Nicholas Stuller and Jacque Schiller. Selectman Bramley voted Nicholas Stuller and Jacque Schiller. Selectman Kearns voted Bianca Griggs and Nicholas Stuller. Nicholas Stuller and Jacque Schiller will fill the two vacancies on the Economic Development Commission.

The Board discussed the vacancy for Cornwall’s representative to the Northwestern Regional Tourism District.

TAX REFUND: The Board considered a request for a tax refund. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to grant, as recommended by the tax collector, \$10.00 to Ralph and Sandra Sandmeyer for the overpayment of Real Estate taxes. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

DEEP FORESTRY REPORT: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had received a forestry update from forester David Irvin of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Forestry Division updating on state land forestry happenings in the area, in particular the Flat Rocks Road fire which even though wet and cooled from snow and rain has yet to be officially declared out. The Board discussed this.

OTHER BUDGET ITEMS: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had met with Transfer Station Stephen O'Neill to discuss the transfer station budget. Budget requests from organizations have been coming in. The Board considered a budget meeting for next Monday or Tuesday.

THE BEND: First Selectman Ridgway reported on correspondences received from Audrey Cole, President of Housatonic Environmental Action League, Inc. concerning the Phase I Study of the Bend Project by Housatonic Valley Association which she states is not adequate. The study showed a clean bill of health. First Selectman Ridgway reported he had spoken to the author of the study and to the Conservation District which has experience on analysis of contaminated area. The Board discussed this.

FARMER'S MARKET: First Selectman Ridgway reported there have been some changes in the local Farmer's Market. Some merchants are considering leaving the West Cornwall site. The Board discussed this, the hazards of the traffic through the village, what is required to set up a farmer's market.

COST: First Selectman Ridgway reported it was an interesting Council of Small Towns Town Meeting which he and Selectman Bramley attended. The Board discussed some of the topics reported on at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

BILLS and BANK RECONCILIATIONS were done in the usual manner with some discussion.

DELINQUENT TAXES: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had nothing new on delinquent taxes. The Board discussed some questions which may be posed to the town attorney.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant