

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 5th 2017

	<u>Selectmen</u>	<u>Others</u>
Present	Y Gordon M. Ridgway (First Selectman) Y Heidi Kearns Y Richard Bramley	Barbara Herbst - Clerk Pro-tempore 6 citizens

Call to Order

7:32 p.m.

Minutes

Minutes for the June 20th meeting were provided to all members via email as well as available at the meeting.

Motion

Richard Bramley Made a motion to approve the minutes as presented

Gordon Ridgway Seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Additions

Motion

Gordon M Ridgway Made a motion to add a) Summer Intern Dean Saccardi, b) Regional Trail Map and c) Railroad Spraying

Richard Bramley Seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Communications

Selectman Kearns voiced concern that the agenda that was provided to her was the incorrect one and wanted to make sure that this meeting was posted properly so the meeting would be considered legal. The posted agenda was retrieved from the Town Clerk's posting board and validity of the meeting and agenda were verified.

Selectman Kearns asked about the Food Truck for West Cornwall, brief discussion ensued and First Selectman Ridgway said he would follow up on that.

Public Comment

Judy Herkimer commented on her understanding of F.O.I rules and regulations as they pertain to filing agendas, minutes and results of motions. Additionally, she commented that in her experience sometimes agendas, minutes and or results of motions are not posted on the Cornwall web site or in the Town vault timely and sometimes not at all. It was pointed out that the Cornwall web site is not owned or operated by the Municipality and therefore is not considered the "public agency's web site". There was a difference of opinion regarding what constitutes "public agency's web site". One interpretation includes customary places for posting information and that would include the Cornwall web site regardless of who operates it.

1 - New Fire Truck

First Selectman Ridgway reported that the new CVFD Tanker has arrived. It was inspected and accepted by the department, it holds 3,000 gallons of water. The one month process for training FD members to use this new piece of equipment has already started and the tanker will be placed in service upon completion of said training.

2 - Asphalt Bids

First Selectman Ridgway reported that the following three bids were received in response to the paving RFP. Highway Foreman, James Vanicky, opened and reviewed all the bids and recommends that A & J Construction be awarded the job.

- 1) A & J Construction at \$83 per ton
- 2) Metcalf paving at \$86.50 per ton.
- 3) Waters Construction at \$87.20 per ton.

Motion

Gordon M Ridgway Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Highway Foreman, James Vanicky, and award the job to A & J Construction at \$83 per ton.

Richard Bramley Seconded the motion.

Discussion

Brief discussion ensued as paraphrased below;

- a) What is the total amount of asphalt that needs to be placed?
Approximately 1300 tons of asphalt.
- b) How much was budgeted for this project?
The recommended bid falls within the range of the amount that was projected in the budgeting process.
- c) What area of town is slated to receive this asphalt?
Portions of Great Hollow Road, Clark Road and portions of Great Hill Road
- c) Can the paving company fix driveway aprons around town when they are here paving, possibly utilizing any excess?
Driveway aprons are the responsibility of the homeowner, not the Municipality.

Motion passed unanimously

3 - Cornwall Bridge Crosswalk

First selectman Ridgway reported that he is still awaiting plans for the crosswalk and expects them shortly.

4 - BAA Vacancy

A current member of the BAA (Board of Assessment Appeals) has moved out of Cornwall as well as registered to vote in another location. Said member is no longer eligible to be an elected member of the Board. The Chairman of the Board, Roger Kane, has been consulted and it is his view that any current appeals are de minimis and can be handled with the existing board

therefore fulfillment of that position can be addressed on the ballot in the upcoming fall election.

5 - Tax Abatement Application

A Tax Abatement Application was received timely at the Selectmen's Office. Said application was submitted with signed copies of the federal income tax returns for the three calendar years preceding the tax year as required by the application. Upon implementation of financial calculations to determine eligibility of the abatement request, it was determined that the income exceeded the guideline to grant the abatement. Additionally it was noted that the application is unclear as it pertains to using "total income from any sources" and that "total income" for tax purposes, may not include all of the Social Security income received and the term "total income" needs to be clarified for these purposes. Selectman Kearns read the relevant portion of the application aloud and noted that the program was created in accordance with Section 12-124 of the General Statutes of Connecticut and suggested consulting said CGS for clarification.

Motion

Gordon M Ridgway Made a motion to deny the abatement request pending review of the State Statute 12-124 and that going forward total Social Security received will be included as part of the total income, not just the taxable portion.

Heidi Kearns Seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Add 1 - Summer Intern

First Selectman Ridgway introduced Dean Saccardi who will be the summer intern. Dean will be attending different Board meetings, shadowing First Selectman Ridgway as he executes the First Selectman duties and will learn about how a local government is run. Dean will be preparing a report for submission to the Board of Selectmen that presents the youth perspective on the future of the Town of Cornwall. Already Dean has visited the burn site of the large fire that was off of Flat Rocks Road last year. The site visit included a registered Forester who made observations and predictions on the impact that the fire had and will have on the area forest and it's ecology.

Dean spoke briefly and thanked the Board of Selectmen for this opportunity and shared his enthusiasm for the internship.

One question was asked; Is this a high school or college program and is this a volunteer internship? It was noted that Dean is in Highschool and is volunteering.

Add 2 - Regional Trail

First Selectman Ridgway reported that the NWH COG (Council of Governments) is spearheading an initiative to look at creating a regional trail system. Currently each town has trails, some local, some include the Application Trail as well as the Mattatuck Trail. HVA is doing some mapping and the consideration will be linking existing trails to increase and maximize local hiking opportunities to promote economic development, tourism and general investment in the area.

One question: How large of a region would be included?

Most of the towns in the 21 member COG.

First Selectman Ridgway stated he has been provided with draft proposal maps that the NHCOG has prepared.

Add 3 - Railroad Spraying

The Selectmen's office received a phone call from a resident on River Road reporting that the spraying of vegetation and trees has resumed along the railroad tracks.

First Selectman immediately called Brian Ohler, State Representative.

Brian Ohler reported that although a bill has been passed to restrict and monitor this spraying, it is awaiting the governor's signature before it become enforceable.

Three concerns were outlined and discussed briefly and will be addressed with the Housatonic Railroad.

- 1) A dead zone seems to have been created yet they continue to spray.
- 2) The rail bed is eroding and lack of vegetation may have contributed to the erosion.
- 3) What is the management plan for the dead trees that are lining the tracks?

7 - Public Comment

One citizen asked a question regarding the driveway aprons and paving.

- 1) Is there any way to bundle and coordinate paving services for local property owners? Perhaps, create a sign up sheet for taxpayers and approach a paving company to bundle all the jobs into a day or a multiple consecutive day period and get a lot of small jobs completed successively. This approach may be able to help homeowners realize financial economy of service related to the bundling of projects.

First Selectman said the company that is paving town roads may not be able to do small jobs at the same time because the equipment and manpower necessary would be adverse. There may be other companies interested in this type of contract and offered to ask the A & J Paving staff for their thoughts on the idea.

6 - Delinquent Taxes

Motion

8:11 P.M.

Executive Session anticipated

Gordon M Ridgway Made a motion at 8:11 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss Delinquent Taxes

Heidi Kearns Seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

8:15 P.M.

Board came out of Executive Session - no action was taken.

8 - Bill Payment

Payroll and Accounts Payable folders with expense manifests were reviewed and authorized by each of the Selectmen. First Selectman Ridgway signed the Accounts Payable checks. It was noted that Bank Reconciliations were not yet available for June.

Adjournment

Heidi Kearns Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Richard Bramley Seconded the motion

Motion

Motion passed unanimously

8:45 PM

Submitted:

Barbara E. Herbst, Clerk pro tempore

Note:

Minutes remain "Draft" until approved at the next regular Selectmen's meeting. See future minutes for any corrections.