

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

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

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

MINUTES: Selectman Pavel made the motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2019 as presented. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda Marie Baum Scholarship and Selectman Pavel's addition of Appointment to Boards. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway reported the Board had received a lengthy e-mail from a Cornwall citizen recommending the town purchase West Cornwall village properties for commercial use and the Board appoint a West Cornwall Redevelopment District Committee. The Board discussed this. First Selectman Ridgway will reply.

First Selectman Ridgway reported the Town Hall Players are presenting a play this coming weekend in the Town Hall, which shows the artistic talent of the town.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

BRIDGE PROJECTS: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had spoken to Roger Kane concerning Lake Road bridge over the Hollenbeck River. Lenard Engineering is on track to go out to bid. This project will not be in the present fiscal year. The Board discussed this.

FIBER OPTICS: First Selectman Ridgway reported on his field trip last Tuesday to the town of Mount Washington in Massachusetts to review their project of wiring the town with fiber optic. It is a small town of 167 people, 128 housing units, the town center of 15 miles was wired. The Board discussed the project, costs and per resident cost and monthly charges.

First Selectman Ridgway reported Felicity Jones of Falls Village, who also attended the field trip, has found a company that will survey and study towns to establish the costs of fiber optic out-build. Would Cornwall like to join Falls Village in such a study. The Board discussed this.

First Selectman Ridgway reported there will be a webinar on the national build out of fiber optics. Selectman Pavel replied she would be available to view the webinar.

The Board discussed a communication received concerning the health impact of telecommunications in regards to fiber optic. As fiber optic is wired it may be less impact.

WEST CORNWALL STUDY LETTER: The Board reviewed the draft of a letter to go out to residents of the West Cornwall village area. Changes were made. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to send this draft as amended to citizens living in the study area – up the main street to two houses past the old market, River Road, Railroad Plaza and Lower River Road. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was discussion of the due date. Motion passed unanimously. The survey is due back April 3.

BUDGET: The next budget meeting will be this Thursday, 7:00 with the Board of Finance in the office here.

AIR MONITOR: First Selectman Ridgway reported a purchase order has been placed for the air monitor in regards to the Cricket Valley Energy Center.

SPRING ROAD PROJECTS: First Selectman Ridgway reported Highway Foreman Jim Vanicky is requesting the Board pursue the hiring of Seymour Sealing to do road work on Town Street, Town Street South, Todd Hill Road, Todd Hill Extension, Hall Road, Johnson Road, Lake Road, Hautboy Hill Road, Hurlburt Place, Bradford Road, Scoville Road, Yelping Hill Road, Baldwin Road and Allen Road in town. The Board reviewed and discussed the quote received, the type of oil to be used and the work that needs to be done. Selectman Bramley made the motion to accept the March 13, 2019 bid of Seymour Sealing Service, Inc. for \$203,376 for the 2019 resurfacing of roads with MC3000 prior to May 1 on Cornwall Hollow section of roads as recommended by Jim Vanicky Highway Foreman with the \$6,825 pre-sweeping option. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

TAX REFUND: The Board reviewed a request for tax refund. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to grant the request, upon recommendation of the tax collector, to refund \$9.42 to Peter Von Ziegesar for overpayment of motor vehicle tax. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

MARIE BAUM SCHOLARSHIP: First Selectman Ridgway reported on the Marie Baum Scholarship fund giving the history of the fund, the original bequest in 1998, the earnings since and at present, and the bequest is \$8.00 below the original level due to the low present interest rate. The Board discussed this and whether the body of the fund should be spent or just the interest accrued, past scholarships awarded and what level of award should be maintained. Something to consider further as application time has come.

APPOINTMENTS: The Board reviewed a letter received from a citizen volunteering to fill the vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Board discussed the process in filling elected board vacancies with alternates. Selectman Bramley recommended the Board review other vacancies also and take action at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Board received comments concerning the plantings not done around the transformer on route 4 and 128, and concerning volunteering for boards.

BILLS and BANK RECONCILIATIONS were done in the usual manner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant