

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

7:30 p.m. – Cornwall Library, 30 Pine Street, Cornwall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Bramley, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, seven citizens, one reporter

First Selectman Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. informing those present that the change of location, which caused the meeting to be a special meeting, was due to the Referendum for the Region One budget taking place in the Town Hall at this time.

MINUTES: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to approve the minutes of April 16 and May 2, 2019 as presented. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING: First Selectman Ridgway announced the Annual Budget Town Meeting will be May 17 rather than the May 24 date first chosen due to the town ordinance which mandates the annual budget meeting be on the third Friday of May. The Board reviewed and discussed the call for the meeting. First Selectman Ridgway asked who is in favor of holding the Town Meeting on the 17th of May at 7:30 pm at the grade school. All were in favor. The Board signed the call and the Return of Notice.

SKID STEER LOADER: First Selectman Ridgway presented to the Board a quote for a used skid steer from Pine Plains Tractor & Equipment. The Board reviewed and discussed the quote, condition of the skid steer, field inspection, whether to trade in or sell old one, and the anticipated life span of a skid steer. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to accept the quote from Pine Plains Tractor & Equipment of \$18,000 for the purchase of a skid steer loader. Selectman Bramley seconded. The Board discussed the \$20,000 in the budget for this. Motion passed unanimously.

THE BEND: First Selectman Ridgway reported the annual kayak race is in two weeks. He has received proposals for the paving of the apron to the driveway of the Bend area. The Board reviewed the proposals and discussed the differences of what is being offered and the square footage. Selectman Bramley made the motion to accept the proposal from Harwinton Paving in the amount of \$4,500 for the paving of the apron on lot opposite 44 Lower River Road in West Cornwall. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the need for a porta potty for the upcoming race weekend, opening the area for that weekend, what is left to be done and possible dates for a formal opening.

ROUTE 45 YIELD SIGN: First Selectman Ridgway reported on a recent accident on the south leg of route 45 off route 7. The stop sign is scheduled to be installed next week by DOT. The Board discussed the situation and the reply from the state on the installation.

CITING COUNCIL LETTER: The Board reviewed and discussed the reply received from the Citing Council concerning operation of a telecommunications facility at 16 Bell Road Extension and the company's request for an extension. The tower has been up for several years but not activated. The Board requested the extension be denied and the company activate the tower. The Citing Council replied they cannot force a carrier to install equipment on a tower. If the extension were denied the tower would be dismantled. The Board discussed this and their intention to get more coverage with activation, not dismantling.

2019/2020 BUDGET ADDITION: First Selectman Ridgway reported of the need to put funding in next year's budget for the POCD. He had discussed this with Land Use Administrator Karen Nelson who was present and affirmed the need. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to raise the 2019/2020 budget by \$10,000 in Capital for the POCD. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

BUILDING REPORT: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had received the building report for the town buildings. The report suggests forming a building committee which First Selectman Ridgway recommended as a future agenda item. The Board discussed the report and a building committee.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY: First Selectman Ridgway reported the Hazardous Waste Day will be June 1 in Falls Village. A registration ticket is required and available in the town office.

TRANSFER STATION ATTENDANT: First Selectman Ridgway reported the Board had met with four applicants for the position of Transfer Station attendant. After interviewing, the Board unanimously voted to hire William Berry who has worked part time at the transfer station and was highly recommended by the Transfer Station Operator. Mr. Berry has declined the town health insurance as he is already covered. The Board discussed this and the impact on the budget. First Selectman Ridgway made the suggestion the Board decrease the budget insurance line to reflect what funding is needed. Insurance would be provided should Mr. Berry's situation change. The Board discussed this. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to decrease the 2019/2020 budget insurance line by \$25,000, or the amount determined by the Finance Director for a family plan. Selectman Pavel seconded. There was discussion as Selectman Bramley expressed his concerns. Motion passed unanimously.

FARNSWORTH REQUEST: First Selectman Ridgway brought to the Board a suggestion concerning the Farnsworth bookstore now for sell in West Cornwall and the adjacent town property that was once the site of a firehouse. If the Farnsworths purchased the town property and added it to their parcel it would provide parking which would enhance their building and make it usable. The Farnsworths are concerned about what

might be under the cement pad of the old firehouse. The Board discussed this. If this transfer were to happen it would have to go to Town Meeting with an 8-24 from Planning and Zoning. The parking could be restricted to municipal parking rather than private. The Board discussed parking, the history of the parcel, and needed barriers to prevent driving into the brook.

WEST CORNWALL SEWER STUDY: First Selectman Ridgway reported the next meeting will be Tuesday at 5:00 pm in the Town Hall. The committee will be working on refining work on possible sites and alternate systems. First Selectman Ridgway reported on a trip to Saybrook to review a system. The Board discussed a time line for bringing this to the town, available funding grants and applying for grants.

PLANNING AND ZONING ALTERNATE APPOINTMENT: The Board reviewed three letters of interest in the Planning and Zoning Alternate position. The position runs through to next November elections and would be a six year appointment after that. The Board voted by paper ballot. Two votes for Jim Terrall. One vote for Joanne Wojtusiak. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to appoint Jim Terrall as alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

RADIO FREQUENCY/MICRO CELLS: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had met with the McMorrows concerning the proliferation of micro cells in town and concerns for health. This concern has been sent to Senator Miner who responded DEEP would be the contact for these concerns. Northwest Hills Council of Governments is working on improving cell coverage in the area. The Board discussed coverage, who has authority over micro cells, the impact on real estate when there is no cell phone coverage. The Board discussed a possible forum on the subject this summer as this relates to Cornwall.

HOUSATONIC RAILROAD UPDATES: First Selectman Ridgway brought up the on-going issues with the railroad and letters received from Mr. Rodriquez, the Executive Vice President. The gates which were down in West Cornwall have been repaired and the number to call was given should they stay down again. The other issue of the old railroad cars on the Cornwall Bridge siding, the cars will be permanently removed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Citizen present spoke on the need for a neutral party at a forum on micro cells. This was discussed. Citizen present requested the letters of interest from the P&Z Alternate candidates. Question from the press was answered.

BILLS were paid in the usual manner.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant