

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, Selectwoman Kotchoubey, four citizens, two reporters

First Selectman Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda Goals 2020 and Fund Balances. Selectman Pavel seconded with the addition of Dump Opening at 8 am. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway presented a draft section of an application to the USDA for the West Cornwall septic project from the Water Septic Study Group's engineer who is working on funding for the project.

First Selectman Ridgway presented to the Board a letter from the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation concerning the Women and Girls Fund and discussed the fund.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: First Selectman Ridgway welcomed new Board member Marina Kotchoubey.

APPOINTMENTS AND VACANCIES: First Selectman Ridgway read a letter of retirement received from Administrative Assistant Joyce Hart, effective January 15 and thanked her for her 22 years of service to the Board.

The Board discussed the recent vacancy for a highway maintainer in the Highway Department and plans to advertise the opening.

The Board reviewed a list of vacancies and possible reappointments to be made on Town Boards and Commissions.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to appoint Debra Tyler to the Cornwall Grange Trust Fund Advisory Committee for another 3-year term, to expire in 2022. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Heidi Cunnick, Nancy Berry, Richard Griggs, Betty Spence and Ivan Miller to the Cream Hill Lake Study Group for another 2-year

term, to expire in November 2021. Selectman Kotchoubey seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board noted a recommendation of an additional person to add to the group.

The Board noted some recommended candidates to consider for appointment for vacancies on the Economic Development Commission. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Bianka Griggs to the Economic Development Commission for another 3-year term, to expire in 2022. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Roger Kane, Bill Hurlburt, Steve Hedden, Andrew MacDavid, Debby Bennett as full members and Peter Demy as alternate Inland Wetland and Water Courses Agency: for another 2-year term, terms to expire in 2021. Selectwoman Kotchoubey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion reappoint Kimberly Sullivan to the Northwest Regional Mental Health Board for another term, to expire in 2020. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint John Sanders and Johan Winsser to another 2-year term, to expire in 2021 and Shanna Robinson to fill a vacancy for 2-year term to expire in 2021 to the Park and Recreation Commission. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board noted Ben Gray Jr has moved from alternate to full member which creates a vacancy as alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission. There are three alternates. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Jim Terrall as alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission for another 6-year term to expire in 2025. Selectwoman Kotchoubey seconded. Motion passed unanimously. There is a vacancy left to fill.

The Board noted there are two vacancies on the Sydney Kaye Advisory Committee and a vacancy for representative to the Torrington Area Health Board.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to reappoint Fred Scoville III as Tree Warden and Bruce Bennett as assistant Tree Warden for another 2-year term to expire in 2021. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board noted there are two vacancies for alternates to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to appoint Bob Ensign to the Western Tourism District for a 3-year term to expire in 2022. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board noted a representative to the Northwestern Connecticut Transit District and ADA coordinator is still needed.

SNOW SEASON PARKING BAN: The Board reviewed the annual notice of no parking in snow season within six feet of the traveled paved portion of the road which enables the Board to remove vehicles parked or situated which interfere with snow plowing activity on Town highways. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to sign and put into effect the annual No Parking Notice during Snow Season, December 1, 2019 through March 30, 2020. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board signed the notice.

2020 MEETING SCHEDULE: The Board discussed a Board meeting schedule for 2020. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to adopt the schedule of first and third Tuesdays in the Town Hall building with the exception of Wednesday, January 8 and with the exceptions of location for May 5 and November 3 to be in the Cornwall Library. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HOLIDAY TREE: The Board discussed the lighting of the Holiday Tree on the state-owned green in Cornwall Bridge and the consensus of a meeting of the Cornwall Association which is to illuminate the smaller pine tree plus a star on the larger tree. The logistics of the bigger tree and more lights and capacity of the solar panels with less sunlight in December was problematic for solar powering the larger tree. The smaller tree will be solar powered. The tree lighting celebration will be November 29 at 5:00 pm.

TOWN BUILDINGS: First Selectman Ridgway reported the renovations on the West Cornwall firehouse are 99% finished. First Selectman Ridgway reported he has received a proposal to replace the Transfer Station office. The Board discussed this.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS: The Board reviewed and discussed drafts of job descriptions for a Highway Maintainer position and the Administrative Assistant position and an updated job application form.

TAX REFUNDS: The Board reviewed two tax refund requests. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to grant the tax refund requests of \$58.78 to Charles Short who sold a motor vehicle and \$331.66 to ACAR Leasing for overpayment of motor vehicle taxes. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HOUSATONIC RAIL ROAD COMPANY: First Selectman Ridgway reported he has followed up with an e mail to Representative Horn concerning the railroad tree damage and meeting with DEEP. A 2019 Housatonic Railroad Vegetation Management Plan has not been received. The Board discussed this.

GOALS 2020: First Selectman Ridgway proposed, in light of a new Board member, reviewing the 2019 Goals and what has been accomplished and setting goals for 2020 at a future meeting.

DUMP OPENING 8 AM: Selectman Pavel brought to discussion the request received of opening the Transfer Station at 8 am on days when open. The Board discussed this and will check with Transfer Station personnel what the peak times during the day at different seasons is. A change of hours will have budgetary considerations.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Board received comments from citizen present asking that the town put a roof on the sand bin at the garage. Selectman Pavel thanked the press for nice coverage given to the town on events. Compliment of job well done on the recent Sedgwick Monument Civil War event was received.

BILLS and BANK RECONCILIATION were done in the usual manner.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant