

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, November 20, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, Park and Recreation Chair John Sanders, Kate Freygang, two citizens

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

MINUTES: Selectman Bramley made the motion to approve the minutes of November 6, 2018 as presented. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda Park and Recreation Appointment: Erin Berry. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway informed the Board of his meeting and discussions with the new Representative Maria Horn this morning. There is an upcoming meeting in early December concerning the merging of Sharon Hospital with a Western New England group.

First Selectman Ridgway informed those present that the Citgo gas station in Cornwall Bridge is having tanks removed. There will be no gas available for about a month. The store will be open.

Citizen Joanne Wojtusiak presented and read a letter dated November 20, 2018 to the Board concerning the outsourcing of Cornwall's POCD. This will be addressed under item 8 on the agenda.

PARK AND RECREATION APPOINTMENT: The Board reviewed a recommendation received from the Park and Recreation Director for filling a vacancy. John Sanders, Park and Recreation Chairman spoke to the candidate and the Commission's vote to recommend her.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to appoint Erin Berry to the longest term open on the Park and Recreation Commission. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN GOALS: The Board reviewed their December 5, 2017 list of Goals discussing what has been done, being done, yet to be done, what could be added.

WEST CORNWALL COVERED BRIDGE: First Selectman Ridgway reported the Department of Transportation is looking to do a formal ribbon cutting in early December for the newly floored Covered Bridge. There is more rattle than when the floor was first laid, there is buckling of boards which DOT is aware of and may schedule work to be done on the floor.

NO PARKING BAN IN SNOW SEASON: The Board reviewed the annual No Parking Ban during snow season. The Board discussed issues with plowing when vehicles are parked roadside. Selectman Bramley made the motion to sign the No Parking During Snow Season Notice effective December 1, 2018 through March 30, 2019. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2019 MEETING SCHEDULE: The Board reviewed a draft of meeting schedule for Board of Selectmen meetings in 2019. The Board discussed changes which deviate from the first and third Tuesdays of the month. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to adopt the 2019 meeting schedule of first and third Tuesdays for regular Board of Selectmen meetings with proposed exceptions. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

SUSTAINABLE CT: Kate Freygang made a presentation to the Board about the state Sustainable CT program and how it relates to Cornwall and work that has been done in town to meet program goals.

COUNCIL OF SMALL TOWNS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: The Board discussed the upcoming COST annual town meeting. Selectmen Bramley and Pavel plan to attend.

HUBBARD FIELD SOCCER: First Selectman Ridgway presented to the Board a letter dated October 2018 received by the Park and Recreation Commission concerning the playing of soccer on Hubbard Field. The letter requests that regional games no longer be held on Hubbard Field. The Board discussed the use of the field by town teams and regional program, the number of games some of which are back to back, the traffic and the disruption of the neighborhood. John Sanders, Park and Recreation Commission Chair, spoke to the issue. The Park and Recreation Commission will look into alternate sites for some of the games.

CONTRACT WITH NORTHWEST HILLS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT: The Board reviewed and discussed an agreement to be entered into with the NHCOCG for their services in working on the Plan of Conservation and Development with the town. Planning and Zoning Commission has expressed a need for technical help putting together the plan and recommends the Board sign the agreement. The Board discussed the agreement and the complaint received in the letter received earlier in the meeting of the town outsourcing rather than making use of the talent in town. The Board members spoke their thoughts. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion the Board sign the Fee-For-Service Agreement with the Northwest Hills Council of Governments to help with the town's process of compiling the Plan of Conservation and Development. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was further discussion. Ms. Wojtusiak spoke to her concern the Board not enter into this agreement. Selectman Bramley brought forth a point of order that since First Selectman Ridgway will be the signor of the agreement, is it proper he be the one to make the motion? First Selectman Ridgway withdrew his motion. Selectman Bramley made the motion the Board sign the contract with the NHCOCG for their services on the Plan of Conservation and Development, the Fee-For-Service Agreement. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Inquiry was received and addressed concerning who is paying for the repair work on the Covered Bridge – it is a state bridge, no town money is involved – and will the First Selectman ask for economic reimbursement for the bridge closure. A parry of words ensued.

BILLS and BANK RECONCILIATIONS were done in the usual manner.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant