

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, October 17, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Heidi Kearns, four citizens

First Selectman Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

MINUTES: Selectman Kearns made the motion to approve the minutes of October 3, 2017 as presented. First Selectman Ridgway seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda 911 Number signs - Fire Department. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had received a suggestion from a citizen to allow Cornwall Market employees to park in the Cornwall Bridge Firehouse parking lot to get their cars off the roadside. This and the site lines coming out of the market were discussed. The consensus was it would be a good idea. First Selectman Ridgway will discuss this with the fire department and the market.

Selectman Kearns inquired if the Little Guild had asked permission to use the Town Hall for their 5 K run as they have in the past. First Selectman Ridgway they had asked for permission.

Judy Herkimer and Jared Haynes from Dark Entry Forest presented to the Board an inventory of 70 trees that need work done along Bald Mountain Road and expressed their concerns of these trees falling on the road and knocking out power. The Board reviewed and discussed the list. Selectman Kearns inquired about previous e-mail from DEF to the Tree Warden concerning trees along same roadside. First Selectman Ridgway updated the Board on his conversation with the Tree Warden concerning these trees. First Selectman Ridgway inquired DEF about blanket permission for any tree work to be done on Bald Mountain Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: The Board reviewed and discussed the call for town meeting. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion for the Board to sign the call and Return of Notice for the October 27 Annual Town Meeting. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board signed the call and Return of Notice.

FLAT ROCKS ROAD BRIDGE REPORT: First Selectman Ridgway presented the report received from Roger Kane on the completion of the bridge on Flat Rocks Road. The bridge was completed under time and under budget. The Board was impressed with the company and discussed the project.

WEST CORNWALL FIREHOUSE UPGRADES: First Selectman Ridgway reported on a meeting with the West Cornwall Firehouse Building Committee. The committee will be proposing to the town work to be done next spring to make more useable space. Insulation bids will be sought this fall. The Board discussed the condition of the firehouse.

TOWN EMS PLAN: First Selectman Ridgway informed the Board the state is requiring all towns to prepare a Local EMS Plan. Work is being done on a plan. The Board discussed this.

CONNDOT ROAD SAFETY SURVEY: First Selectman Ridgway reported to the Board on the hiring of a firm by the Northwest Hills Council of Governments to look at each town in the COG to review any high crash corridors. First Selectman Ridgway met with Bridget Boucaud of VN Engineers to review corridors in town and received suggestions. The Board reviewed a map of Cornwall showing 2015-2016 Crash Data and discussed what changes in town may be done.

TOWN PLAN FORUM: First Selectman Ridgway reminded those present the Town Plan Forum is coming up on Friday, October 20, 7:00 pm at the Cornwall Consolidated School. Public is encouraged to come and add their input.

PROCLAMATION RED RIBBON WEEK: First Selectman Ridgway informed the Board he had received a request from Lesly Ferris, Chairman of the Northwest Corner Prevention Network requesting the Board to join the Region One elementary schools in making a Proclamation to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles. This is a nation-wide celebration week when commitment may be demonstrated in the wearing and displaying of red ribbons. First Selectman Ridgway read the proclamation. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion for the Town of Cornwall to proclaim October 23-31 as Red Ribbon Week and to encourage citizens to participate in drug prevention education activities not only during the week but all year long. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CORNWALL BRIDGE HYDRANTS: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had received a letter from Judy Herkimer, Executive Director of HEAL, concerning the installation of a hydrant under the concrete bridge over the Housatonic in Cornwall Bridge. First Selectman Ridgway read the letter which also expressed concerns over the swing hydrant over Furnace Brook on Popple Swamp Road. First Selectman Ridgway updated the Board on his correspondence with the Army Corp of Engineers. The Board discussed the situation. The double hydrant has been installed in the river, the swing hydrant is not in yet. The Board reviewed a map of the locations of the hydrants. First Selectman read a letter received from Cynthia Rabinowitz, Executive Director of the Northwest Conservation District, reporting her findings upon inspecting the two locations. First Selectman Ridgway reported to the Board, slag is present in the area of the river hydrant indicating this is a post-industrial disturbed area. First Selectman Ridgway reported he has been in consultation with Karen Nelson, Land Use Administrator, and Mr. Humphreys of Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Fisheries. Neither have a significant problem with either hydrants. The Board discussed water levels and water sources for the Cornwall Bridge area.

NORTHWEST HILLS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING: First Selectman Ridgway shared information obtained from the NHCOC meeting of October 12. State budget impasse continues to be a concern; teacher pension funding shifting to towns continues to be a concern; Falls Village First Selectman Mechare reported there will be a town wide meeting about the future of their school in light of declining enrollment; there was an update on NWConneCT; there are two more senior vans available in the area. The Board discussed these items.

SPECIAL MEETING NOVEMBER 28: First Selectman Ridgway reported he is unable to attend the November 28 regular Board of Selectmen meeting. The Board discussed this, an alternate date and the timing of the changeover after municipal elections. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to cancel the Board of Selectmen November 21 meeting and have a special meeting on November 28. Selectmen Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

TAX REFUND: A tax refund request was reviewed. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to grant the tax refunds of \$16.73 to Walter and Heidi Kearns and \$169.98 to VCFS Auto Leasing Company. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed: First Selectman Ridgway and Selectman Bramley voted aye, Selectman Kearns recused herself from voting.

911 NUMBER SIGNS FIRE DEPARTMENT: First Selectman Ridgway reported the fire department and Agricultural Commission had a joint fundraiser campaign to get better signage marking residents' driveways. For \$20 a reflective number sign may be ordered at the Town Hall or the Library to put up by the driveway.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none

BILLS were paid in the usual manner.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to adjourn. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant