

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, October 3, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Heidi Kearns, Highway Foreman Jim Vanicky, Land Use Administrator Karen Nelson, three citizens

First Selectman Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

MINUTES: Selectman Bramley made the motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2017 as presented. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda Census Coordinator and Building Painting Quote. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway reported that Pearly's Farmhouse Café opened this morning in West Cornwall and Torrington Area Health was pleased with the upgrades.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Board received a public comment and citizen concern on agenda item 2(c) Park and Recreation, appointed or elected, that this item had been discussed at the last Board meeting.

FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN WITH HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: The Board reviewed and discussed with Highway Foreman Jim Vanicky, highway budget items, road improvements and highway equipment, which roads are scheduled for next year, culvert patch and repair, and highway needs in the five year capital plan.

The Board reviewed, discussed and adjusted the five year capital plan in general.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to adopt this Five Year Capital Plan as drafted. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was discussion of the senior van funding. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN MEETING CALL: First Selectman Ridgway reported the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for October 27. The first two agenda items of reports and Five Year Capital Plan are routine. Concerning the consideration of a third item, Park and Recreation, appointed or elected, First Selectman Ridgway reported he had received letters from the Town Clerk and the Park and Recreation Director expressing their reasons why they are requesting members be appointed rather than elected. First Selectman Ridgway read the letters. Board members were appreciative of this information. With the receipt of these letters, First Selectman Ridgway had sent information to the town attorney and requested draft wording for the town meeting call for consideration. The Board discussed this change and reviewed the draft for the town meeting call and town ordinance amendment. Selectman Kearns made the motion to add this – the amendment of the ordinance regarding the Park and Recreation Commission members to be appointed - as a third item to the call for town meeting. First Selectman Ridgway seconded. The

Board discussed how to appoint members as elected terms expire and how to stagger terms so all do not expire at the same time. Motion passed unanimously.

**FLAT ROCKS ROAD BRIDGE:** First Selectman Ridgway reported on the progress of the bridge on Flat Rocks Road. It will be opened by the weekend. He was impressed by the speed of the contractor in accomplishing this project. The Board discussed the project, pull off areas at each end of the bridge, the channel underneath. The Board discussed the next bridges to be completed under the bonding for bridges – Smith Place and Gravel Bank.

**ROUTE 125:** First Selectman Ridgway informed the Board of work the Department of Transportation is doing on replacing catch basins on route 125 and paving plans for mid-October.

**GRANNY PODS:** First Selectman Ridgway brought to discussion Public Act 17-155, effective October 1, 2017, concerning temporary health care structures which may be established on homeowner's property for the care of a mentally or physically impaired person, known as "Granny Pods". Land Use Administrator Karen Nelson spoke to the topic and discussed with the Board towns who have opted out or in and when decision has to be made if at all.

**CENSUS COORDINATOR:** First Selectman Ridgway informed the Board and the public that a Census Coordinator is needed for the town's participation in the upcoming 2020 census, a volunteer to assist the federal government in preparations and verifying information, updating the residential address list.

**BUILDING PAINTING QUOTE:** First Selectman Ridgway informed the Board he had requested quotes from two contractors but only received one. The Board reviewed and discussed a quote for painting work to be done on the sand shed, town garage, pavilion, trim and doors on the town office and hall and the timing for the work to be done. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to go ahead with the quote received from Fox Painting for \$11,000. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was further discussion of the painting to be done this fall and the impact of shorter days and heavy dews. First Selectman Ridgway and Selectman Bramley voted aye. Selectman Kearns abstained stating she was not happy with the timing.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Board received comments from those present concerning clarification of item three on the town meeting call draft, the colors to be used on the town buildings – consideration of colors other than gray, how much money in the capital budget for improved technology and appreciation of the fine quality of the work done on Clark Road.

**BILLS and BANK RECONCILIATIONS** were done in the usual manner.

First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to adjourn. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant