

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, September 19, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Richard Bramley, Selectman Heidi Kearns, Executive Director Women's Support Services Betsey Mauro, three citizens

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

MINUTES: Selectman Kearns made the motion to approve the minutes of September 5, 2017 as presented. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda State Budget in Small Towns and Park and Recreation Appointment. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was received concerning agenda item 2(c) – Park & Recreation – change from electing to appointment of members.

WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES: First Selectman Ridgway welcomed the Executive Director of Women's Support Services. Ms. Mauro thanked the Board for their support of WSS and spoke of the purpose of the agency presenting stats of victims of domestic violence in the Region One area and border towns and spoke of the work the agency does in the area and in the schools. Ms. Mauro answered questions from the Board.

TOWN MEETING OF OCTOBER 27: First Selectman Ridgway announced the date for the Annual Town Meeting will be October 27. The Town Report and Five Year Plan will be on the call. The Board discussed what departments to meet with to determine what is needed in the Five Year Plan. The Board signed their report for the Town Report. First Selectman Ridgway presented a request he had received from the Town Clerk to change the town ordinance concerning the election of Park and Recreation members to appointment. The other area towns appoint their Park and Recreation Board members. The Board discussed appointment versus electing and considered comment from the public requesting it remain elected position.

WEST CORNWALL WATER SEPTIC STUDY GROUP MEETING: First Selectman Ridgway updated the Board concerning the water/septic study received for West Cornwall and the Study Group meeting. Initially the whole village with the addition of River Road later had been considered. The new version is to consider the central core to start which would reduce the costs from about 6 million to 2 million. Funds would be fronted by the town to be reimbursed by user fees. The Board discussed how funds may be obtained. First Selectman Ridgway informed the Board the grant period for the study is coming up.

FIRE HYDRANTS: First Selectman Ridgway reported to the Board work will begin next week on the fire hydrant under the Cornwall Bridge cement bridge. GBW Associates, who reviewed hydrants in town, proposes another hydrant in Furnace Brook in the Cornwall Bridge area. The hydrant at the four corners on route 4 needs repair. The Board discussed these hydrants. The concept of a water tank buried on the Cornwall Bridge green is gone.

**HIGHWAY PROJECTS:** First Selectman Ridgway updated the Board the paving work scheduled for parts of Valley, Great Hollow, Clark and Great Hill roads is finished. The Board discussed the work done. First Selectman Ridgway reported the bridge on Flat Rocks Road is underway.

**TOWN DEMOGRAPHICS:** First Selectman Ridgway reported there will be a planning session October 20 for the Town Plan. The Board reviewed a graph of projected population by age groups in Cornwall based on census figures. The total population is projected to be down to 901 by 2040. First Selectman Ridgway expressed his concern and the loss of population as a top priority for the town and what can be done to encourage young families to settle in town. The Board discussed this.

**TAX REFUND:** The Board reviewed tax refund requests. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion, upon the recommendation of the Tax Collector, to refund \$21.31 to Reginald Auchincloss, \$8.06 to Dominique Lasseur and Catherine Tatge, \$29.04 to Kenneth Gladding for overpayment of motor vehicle taxes. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**STATE BUDGET IN SMALL TOWNS:** First Selectman Ridgway brought forward for discussion the impact of the state budget, and lack of, on small towns. First Selectman Ridgway reported he will be attending a meeting sponsored by Council of Small Towns where updates will be presented on the implications of the proposed State budget. First Selectman Ridgway reported he had received a request from the Northwest Hills Council of Governments to sign on to a letter addressed to Governor Malloy asking him to sign the proposed state budget. First Selectman Ridgway added his signature. All this was discussed by the Board.

**PARK AND RECREATION APPOINTMENT:** First Selectman Ridgway informed the Board of interest in filling vacancies on the Park and Recreation Commission. The Board discussed this. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to appoint Tricia Collins to replace Cara Collins as full member upon her anticipated resignation, and to appoint Erica Joncyk to fill the alternate vacancy. Selectman Kearns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Board received public comment concerning the Water Septic Study draft availability for review, support of electing Park and Recreation members, the possibility of impact a hydrant may have on the thermal refuge of Furnace Brook, the First Selectman's signature to the NHCOC letter without consulting the Board. The Board responded. Selectman Kearns and Selectman Bramley support the signing of the NHCOC letter.

BILLS were paid in the usual manner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant