

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

7:30 p.m. - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Selectman Bramley, Selectman Priscilla Pavel, Land Use Administrator Karen Nelson, three citizens, one reporter

First Selectman Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

MINUTES: Selectman Bramley made the motion to approve the minutes of August 20, 2019 with a clarification as to the purchase of pipe from Target – town will purchase two eight foot 72 inch reinforced concrete pipe. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS: First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to add to the agenda the Plan of Conservation and Development - Planning and Zoning, Invitation to Senator Murphy to the Cornwall Agricultural Fair. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Pavel had a communication concerning the stolen farmer's market signs reported by Richard Griggs. Selectman Pavel expressed her disappointment that the signs would be stolen as that is not what Cornwall is known for. There was discussion.

First Selectman Ridgway communicated to the Board thanks received from Chore Service for the contribution to them enabling help to seniors in Northwest corner. Currently 15 Cornwall residents are being helped. The contribution is critical in the face of possible federal funding cuts.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

RAILROAD SPRAYING IN WEST CORNWALL: The Board received a comment on spraying in the area of the Cornwall Bridge train station and next to the river. First Selectman Ridgway stated he has received calls from residents in West Cornwall that spraying along the tracks occurred on August 23. First Selectman Ridgway verified this and saw that spraying was also done in Falls Village along Limerock Station Road. This has been an ongoing issue; spraying was done in 2014/15. Since then trees have died and are dying. First Selectman Ridgway reported to the Board his work on this issue, information received, the need to address this issue further. The Board discussed this.

CULVERTS: First Selectman Ridgway reported a contract has been signed with Towne and Aurell for work on Cream Hill Road and Lake Road culverts. They are getting the

appropriate permits and plan to start Cream Hill next week and Lake Road in October. Detours will be needed; signs will be posted.

E BIKES: First Selectman Ridgway reported the new business in the former Wandering Moose building in West Cornwall is open and had quite a few rentals this past weekend. The Board discussed the new business and its impact on the village and the future of e bikes.

WEST CORNWALL TREATMENT TIMELINE USDA: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had met with a representative from the US Department of Agriculture, Todd Piker Chairman of the West Cornwall Water Septic Study Group and Steve McDonnell Project Engineer to discuss grant programs and time lines for application. Another round of applications opens up in October. The Board discussed the information received at that meeting and what is needed to pursue grant funding and a time line for such pursuit. Selectman Bramley made the motion to authorize WMC to make a preliminary application to the USDA for the West Cornwall waste water treatment facility. Selectman Pavel seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Study Group will meet next week to get back in motion on the project.

LANDSCAPE AT TOWN HALL/SPRUCE TREE: First Selectman Ridgway thanks Debby Bennett and crew of Kent Greenhouse who took it upon themselves to spruce up the front of the town hall. In return Ms. Bennett requests the Board consider taking down the dying, diseased spruce tree in front of the hall. There was discussion. First Selectman Ridgway will consult with the Tree Warden and ask his opinion of what may be planted in place of the spruce. Ms. Bennett suggested a crab apple.

HAMMOND BEACH EASEMENT: First Selectman Ridgway reported on his meeting with Housatonic Valley Association concerning the modification of the Hammond Beach easement. The Board reviewed and discussed the latest draft. HVA approves of the draft and will continue to monitor the beach easement. Selectman Pavel made the motion the Board of Selectmen agrees to the Hammond Beach Modification of Restrictive Covenants as presented at this evening's meeting following meetings with our First Selectman and the three heirs Lisa Nicholson, Roxana Laughlin and Edward Dodd. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board discussed when the modification will be signed.

EVERSOURCE LICENSE AGREEMENT: First Selectman Ridgway presented the Board the latest agreement with Eversource to operate the Bend which will need to be executed at a subsequent meeting. The Board discussed the agreement.

AIR MONITOR INSTALLATION: First Selectman Ridgway reported the air monitor has been installed and is operational.

COMPLETE STREETS – CORNWALL BRIDGE TRIANGLE: First Selectman Ridgway reported he had received a call from Rick Lynn of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments about a new program offered by the State that promotes designing

roadways to safely accommodate the needs of all users. First Selectman Ridgway read to the Board a description of the program. A state grant through the NWHCOG is available for the temporary demonstration program to be tried for a limited amount of time to determine how and if it works. Afterwards the changes would be removed. There is no cost to the town for the demonstration project. The Board discussed this opportunity in terms of using the Cornwall Bridge triangle area as a site. First Selectman Ridgway will pursue this program opportunity.

TAX REFUNDS: The Board reviewed three tax refund requests. First Selectman Ridgway made the motion to grant these three tax refunds upon the request of the Tax Collector of \$43.75 to William O'Donnell, \$192.38 to Jeremy Kortess and \$24.84 to Nora Prentice for overpayment of motor vehicle taxes. Selectman Bramley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT: First Selectman Ridgway presented to the Board the POCD received from the Land Use Office. Per state statute the Board has a formal role to lay in the POCD. The Board reviewed and discussed the plan. Comments were received from Karen Nelson, Land Use Administrator. This plan does not go to Town Meeting. It is voted by the Planning and Zoning Commission. There will be a public hearing in November. The Board of Selectmen will endorse or reject the plan or parts of the plan determined by what the Board thinks should be pursued in the future. There was further discussion.

INVITATION TO SENATOR MURPHY TO THE CORNWALL AGRICULTURAL FAIR: Selectman Pavel spoke to the recent denial of a visa to Senator Murphy. She would like the Senator to know he is welcomed to come to Cornwall, no denial here. The Board discussed this and the upcoming September 14 fair. Selectman Pavel made the motion to send Senator Murphy a special invitation to come here to the Cornwall Agricultural Fair as he was denied a visa to visit Russia. Selectman Bramley seconded. There was discussion. Senator Murphy doesn't need a special invitation, he is always welcomed to come to Cornwall. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Board received comments from those present concerning the Complete Streets program and traffic patterns/safety in Cornwall Bridge, the operation of the speed monitor in West Cornwall, the status of the gas station in Cornwall Bridge and local businesses. Questions from the press were answered.

BILLS were paid in the usual manner.

Motion to adjourn was made by First Selectman Ridgway, seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hart, Administrative Assistant