

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Tuesday, January 4, 2022
7:30 p.m. – Via Zoom

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway; Selectman Priscilla Pavel; Selectwoman Janet Carlson; two members of the press; fourteen members of the public.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

MINUTES: Selectman Priscilla Pavel moved to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Selectwoman Janet Carlson seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway provided a reminder that the PCOD Update meeting is scheduled for Jan. 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. First Selectman Ridgway also noted that letters will soon be sent out to Town Committees and local organizations regarding the 2022/2023 budget process.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Selectwoman Janet Carlson moved to add Healthcare Providers to the agenda. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: First Selectman Ridgway noted that there has been an increase in the positivity rate and hospitalizations in Connecticut, as well as an increase in Covid cases in Cornwall. Elevated Covid levels are expected to continue for the next several weeks. First Selectman Ridgway also discussed the limited covid test supply recently provided by the State. First Selectman Ridgway has set up an email account – Cornwalltestquestions@gmail.com for residents to send inquiries regarding covid tests supplied by the State.

APPOINTMENTS / VACCANCIES: First Selectman Ridgway moved to appoint Oscar Anderson to the Economic Development Committee. Selectwoman Janet Carlson Seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

CT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES / HOMELAND SECURITY MOA:
Selectwoman Priscilla Pavel moved to pass the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Cornwall Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the **State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security** any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Gordon Ridgway, as First Selectman of Cornwall Board of Selectmen, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Cornwall Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Selectwoman Janet Carlson seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

CORNWALL HOUSING PLAN ADOPTION: Selectwoman Janet Carlson moved to adopt the Affordable Housing Plan that was approved and presented by the Affordable Housing Plan Committee. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the Board briefly discussed the current need for housing. The motion unanimously passed.

OPTIMUM FIBER PLAN: The Board of Selectmen discussed Optimum's recent announcement of plans to install "fiber-to-home" internet connections in Cornwall.

ARPA FUNDS: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway discussed the ARPA Fund requests received by the Town, including an application from the Cornwall Library for funds to set up hybrid zoom meeting equipment.

MOHAWK MOUNTAIN IS 75 YEARS OLD: First Selectman Ridgway congratulated Mohawk Mountain Ski Area on their 75 years of operation, and wished them a successful season this year.

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS: Selectwoman Janet Carlson announced that she will be meeting with the President of the Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Lynn Rapsilber. Selectwoman Carlson reported that Lynn Rapsilber has two candidates who might be interested in opening a practice in Cornwall.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Leila Hawken of the Lakeville Journal asked for clarification regarding the discussion about the Optimum Fiber Plan. First Selectman Ridgway clarified that Optimum's Fiber would improve internet service, but would not improve cellular phone reception in Cornwall. Richard Griggs asked if the Board could request that people use their video when attending Town Meetings. First Selectman Ridgway noted that whether or not to use the video would be left up to the individual attendees at the zoom meetings. Maggie Cooley and Deb Bennett supported individual discretion regarding zoom video use.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry
Administrative Assistant
Town of Cornwall