

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

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

7:30 p.m. – Via Zoom

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway; Selectman Priscilla Pavel; Selectwoman Janet Carlson; Town Clerk Vera Dinneen; Ted Larson and Will Berry from the transfer station, Park ‘n Rec Director Jen Markow, one member of the press; 18 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 June 7, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Selectwoman Janet Carlson seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported that the upper wooden rail on the Cogswell Bridge has been installed by the Town Highway Dept. First Selectman Ridgway thanked Duke Besozzi for donating the locally sourced wood.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway moved to add two items: (1) Ag Commission request for Can / Bottle Recycling Funds, and (2) Optimum Fiber. Selectwoman Janet Carlson included a Mobile Healthcare Update to the motion. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

HOUSING UPDATE: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway gave an update on the Housing Plan Implementation Committee’s plan to create a community trust fund for housing purposes. First Selectman Ridgway moved to send background information and the Salisbury housing trust ordinance to Attorney Perley Grimes, and request Attorney Grimes to draft a proposed housing trust ordinance for Cornwall. Selectwoman Janet Carlson seconded, and the motion unanimously passed. The Board discussed: (1) creating a Housing Advocate position, (2) using ARPA funds for site development costs, and (3) pursuing acquisition of State-owned land for housing. First Selectman Ridgway also reported that the Cornwall Planning & Zoning Commission has recently opted-out of the State’s new statute governing accessory dwelling units.

TOWN MEETING JUNE 25, 2022; Referendum July 9, 2022: First Selectman Ridgway discussed the Wastewater Project Special Town Meeting scheduled for June 25, 2022 at CCS and the Wastewater Project funding referendum on July 9, 2022 at Town Hall -12:00 Noon – 8:00 PM.

“FRIENDS OF CORNWALL”’: The Board of Selectmen discussed filing a complaint with the State Elections Enforcement Commission against the Friends of Cornwall. Friends of Cornwall sent out a flyer which potentially violates CT General Statutes “Chapter 155 Elections: Campaign Financing”. First Selectman Ridgway read a letter from Town Attorney Perley Grimes of Cramer and Anderson LLP: First, CGS Sec. 9-621 requires groups of two or more individuals who produce a printed communication in opposition to a referendum to include on it a disclaimer with the words ‘paid for by’ followed by the ‘name of the group and the name and address of its agent’. CGS 9-621 (c)(4). Second, CGS Sec. 9-605 requires a group which spends more than \$1,000 to influence a referendum to register with the Town Clerk as a “political committee”. Attorney Grimes letter noted: If a group spends less than \$1,000 to oppose a referendum, CGS Sec. 9-603(c) may nevertheless require them to file a certification with the town clerk. Also, CGS 9-623 ‘Penalties’

specifies that “the town clerk shall notify the State Elections Enforcement Commission of any such violation...”. Next, the Board discussed the possibility of publishing an F.A.Q. document regarding the wastewater project.

TRANSFER STATION UPGRADE UPDATE: The Board discussed progress on the new office space at the Transfer Station. The anticipated move-in date is July 1st. First Selectman Ridgway stated that he would seek a cost estimate for a new water line from Josh Tyson. Next, First Selectman Ridgway shared details regarding John Bevans’ proposal to install Wifi at the Transfer Station for \$775.00, and moved to accept the proposal. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

TOWN OFFICES RENOVATIONS: The Board discussed renovations at the Town Offices on Pine Street. The work includes painted shingles siding, insulation, painting the trim. Jim Terrall has provided a bid of \$36,000 to do the renovation. First Selectman Ridgway moved to accept the bid of \$36,000. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES: The Board discussed bringing an electric vehicle charging station to town. First Selectman Ridgway noted that the quicker electric charging stations are more expensive than the slow charges.

ELECTRIC TOWN GREEN: The Board discussed the prospect of installing electric outlets on the town green in Cornwall Village. The electric access could be used for the Ag Fair and concerts on the green.

TAX REFUND RECOMMENDATION: The Board received two tax refund recommendations from Cornwall Tax Collector Jean Bouteiller: (1) \$803.78 for duplicate payment of real estate taxes, and (2) \$12.46 for overpayment of motor vehicle tax.

AG COMMISSION REDEEMABLE BOTTLE / CAN FUND REQUEST: The Board of Selectmen received a request from the Ag Commission for money from the redeemable bottle/can fund. First Selectman Ridgway moved to grant \$1000 from the bottle / can fund to the Ag Commission for the Ag Fair. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

OPTIMUM FIBER: First Selectman Ridgway reported that Optimum’s agent has been in touch with Town Building Official Paul Prindle to get their permit applications needed to install fiber optic cables in Cornwall. The First Selectman also noted that he is awaiting answers to several questions he sent to Optimum regarding the fiber. Selectwoman Janet Carlson asked when the fiber installation will be complete. First Selectman Ridgway stated that the schedule for installation was one of his pending questions, but the word earlier was that the fiber would be installed this year.

HEALTH CARE UPDATE: Selectwoman Janet Carlson provided an update on the mobile healthcare unit from Community Health and Wellness. The mobile unit has a new schedule and will be in West Cornwall outside the Union on Thursdays from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Selectman Priscilla Pavel thanked Richard Griggs for making videos of town events, including a recent video of the Cornwall Association’s presentation of a Cornwall flag and book to the CCS eighth grade. Park ‘n Rec Chair Michelle Shipp announced that there will be music on the Village Green with a food truck and ice cream truck on July 1st – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and then again on August 12. Richard Schlesinger of Cornwall also thanked Richard Griggs for his

efforts, and said Richard Griggs was “a true friend of Cornwall, who doesn’t mind saying he’s a friend of Cornwall”.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry
Administrative Assistant
Town of Cornwall