

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

Tuesday, May 3, 2022
7:30 p.m. – Via Zoom

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway; Selectman Priscilla Pavel; Selectwoman Janet Carlson; Beach Director Marina Kotchoubey; Ted Larson and Will Berry from the Transfer Station; two members of the press; nine 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 April 19, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Selectwoman Janet Carlson seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway reported that a bear had gotten into a few cars in Cornwall Bridge. The First Selectman recommended taking down bird feeders or anything else that might attract bears.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Selectwoman Janet Carlson moved to add (1) Health Care Update & (2) Broadband Internet Update to the agenda. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

HEALTHCARE UPDATE: Selectwoman Janet Carlson noted that the Community Health and Wellness Mobile Van, B.E.T.T.Y, will be in Cornwall from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays outside the Union on Rt. 128 in West Cornwall Village.

BROADBAND INTERNET UPDATE: The Board of Selectmen discussed Optimum's plans to install Fiber Optic lines in Cornwall. Selectwoman Janet Carlson asked if everyone in Cornwall will get fiber? First Selectman Ridgway responded that everyone Optimum currently serves will have the option of signing up for fiber to the home.

FOOD BANK: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported that the Cornwall Food Pantry has been accepted as a Connecticut Food Bank partner. This will substantially lower the food expenses for the Cornwall Food Pantry. First Selectman Ridgway thanked Social Service Director Heather Dinneen for her great work.

HAMMOND BEACH: The Board of Selectmen and Beach Director Marina Kotchoubey discussed steps to open Hammond Beach for the Summer of 2022, including hiring a number of lifeguards. Beach Director Kotchoubey informed the Board that Liv Scott has agreed to provide swim lessons at Hammond Beach. The swim lesson schedule will be flexible and based on interest. First Selectman Ridgway moved to hire Liv Scott to be the Hammond Beach Swim Instructor. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded. Selectwoman Janet Carlson asked if the positions of "swim instructor" and "head lifeguard" are in the Budget. Beach Director Kotchoubey stated that they were in the budget. The motion unanimously passed. Selectwoman Janet Carlson asked Beach Director Kotchoubey to differentiate her job as Director from that of head lifeguard. Selectwoman Carlson also discussed an application letter for the position of Beach Director from Micah Matsudaira. First Selectman Ridgway acknowledged that Marina Kotchoubey has been serving as Cornwall's Beach Director for several years and there isn't a reason for a second Beach Director at

this juncture. Beach Director Kotchoubey then provided an account of the Beach Director's responsibilities which include: budgeting, scheduling, equipment, event planning, and operational aspects regarding opening the beach in June.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES: The Board of Selectmen discussed Eversource's grant program to assist with costs for installing electric vehicle charging stations. Any installation must be completed by December 31, 2022 in order to qualify for the Eversource grant.

SECURITY CAMERAS AT HIGHWAY DEPT.: The Board of Selectmen discussed three bids received for installation of security cameras at the Town Garage. First Selectman Ridgway moved to accept Highway Dept. Foreman Jim Vanicky's recommendation to purchase security cameras and installation from Apex Communications for \$6,129.00. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

WEST CORNWALL WASTE WATER REFERENDUM SCHEDULE: The Board of Selectmen discussed the timeline to a July 9th Referendum Vote on the West Cornwall Waste Water Project. There is a regular meeting of the Sewer Septic Study Group on Tuesday May 10 at 5:00 PM. Next, the Board of Selectmen plan to consider the project proposal at their regular meeting on May 17, and the Board of Finance plans to consider the project proposal at their regular meeting on May 19. Next, an informational meeting is scheduled for June 11 @ 7:30 p.m. via Zoom, then an in-person Town Meeting will be held June 25, 7:30 p.m. at CCS. Finally, a Referendum Vote at Town Hall is scheduled for July 9, 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

TRANSFER STATION UPDATE: Transfer Station Manager Ted Larson provided an update on the ongoing construction of the new Transfer Station office. Other topics of discussion included a new water line to provide potable water to the Transfer Station; Wifi at the Transfer Station, and the possibility of town wide composting. First Selectman Ridgway noted that the current cost of having compost waste hauled away for composting would be 7 to 8 times more expensive per ton than current tip fees through M.I.R.A. The Board also discussed creating an educational video to teach and encourage people to generate less waste and recycle more. The Board also discussed the possibility of composting at the Transfer Station rather than hauling compost to a 3rd party facility. First Selectman Ridgway noted that there would be several concerns with a compost operation held at the Transfer Station, including permit issues, odors, and animals. Selectman Priscilla Pavel thanked and complimented Ted Larson and Will Berry for their excellent work at the Transfer Station.

BOTTLE & CAN FUND: The Board of Selectmen discussed the Bottle and Can Recycling Grants Program. First Selectman Ridgway noted that approximately \$17,000 has been given to Cornwall nonprofit organizations, and \$11,000 has been transferred into the General Fund over 11 years. First Selectman Ridgway moved to modify the Bottle Recycling Grants standard procedure to read as follows:

- Grant Requests are to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen
- Upon BoS approval, the Transfer Station staff will be notified.
- Recyclable bottles and cans are to be picked up by the authorized entity at the Transfer Station and redeemed at the recycling facility on a regular basis as determined by the Transfer Station Manager.
- All funds from the redemption of bottles and cans are turned in to the Finance Office.
- Upon accumulation of \$1,000 (the maximum amount each charity or nonprofit can collect) a check is released to the charity.

- In the absence of an approved grant request, all funds recovered from bottle and can redemption will automatically be deposited into the General Fund and will not be available for grant requests.

Selectwoman Janet Carlson seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

NORTHWEST CARES BOOKLET: The Board of Selectmen considered a request from Ella Clark for \$300 to be spent on printing expenses for an updated Northwest Cares booklet of community resources in the northwest corner. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway moved to grant the request for \$300. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

APPOINT MARE RUBIN TO WESTERN CT VISITORS BUREAU: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway discussed the Cornwall vacancy at the Western CT Visitors Bureau. Mare Rubin, a member of the Economic Development Committee, has expressed interest in serving as Cornwall's representative at the Visitors Bureau. First Selectman Ridgway then moved to appoint Mare Rubin as Cornwall's representative to the Western CT Visitors Bureau. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

TAX SUSPENSE LIST: The Board of Selectmen discussed the use of the Tax Suspense List. First Selectman Ridgway noted that having unpaid taxes listed on the Tax Suspense List allows the town to refer those unpaid amounts to a 3rd party collection agency. First Selectman Ridgway moved to approve Cornwall Tax Collector Jean Bouteiller's request to update the Tax Suspense List.

PUBLIC COMMENT: First Selectman Ridgway announced that the CCS Walk-a-thon will take place on Friday, May 6. Ruth Epstein of the Waterbury Republican asked what would be the dollar amount on Eversource EV charging station grants? First Selectman Ridgway replied that the amount was up to \$20,000.00 Ruth also asked about the dollar amount for the Town Garage security cameras. First Selectman Ridgway noted: \$6,129.00. Leila Hawken of the Lakeville Journal also commented on the new security cameras. Maggie Cooley complimented and thanked Ella Clark for all her work helping the community, including inventing The Chore Service, and running it for many years. Maggie Cooley also noted that Ella Clark has made a huge difference for so many people in the region. First Selectman Ridgway thanked Maggie Cooley for acknowledging Ella Clark, and stated it was certainly a well-deserved acknowledgement.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry
Administrative Assistant
Town of Cornwall