BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023

		Selectmen	Others
Present	**Y**	Gordon M. Ridgway (First Selectman)	Barbara Herbst - Clerk Pro-tempore
	Y	Priscilla Pavel	citizens
	Y	Janet Carlson Sanders	local press

Call to Order 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

Minutes for the December 20th meeting were provided to all members via email as well as were available at the meeting.

Motion

Priscilla Pavel Made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

Gordon Ridgway Seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Communications

Communications

a) Selectman Pavel shared that a photo taken by Lazlo is featured on the cover of Main Street magazine. The photo is of the top of Mohawk Mountain ski area and features the ski lift and a beautiful sunset.

Additions to the Agenda

Municipal Composting

Motion

Janet Carlson Made a motion to add "Municipal Composting" to the agenda.

Priscilla Pavel Seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

 # 1 Winter Storm

Winter Storm Eliot

A BIG THANK YOU to all citizens and multiple organizations for pulling together and assisting during this storm. There were multiple power outages in many locations and 30+/- instances of damaged power lines.

The EMD (Diane Beebe) was tracking all town outages, the UCC opened their warming room and Rocco Botto kept the Cornwall CT website updated with storm information.

Everyone is reminded to consider a backup plan for heat and water as the winter storm events continue.

 # 2 Covered Bridge

West Cornwall Covered Bridge

Unfortunately, the West Cornwall Covered Bridge has been damaged once again by a vehicle. The damage is from one end to the other, the trusses, rafters and lighting all were damaged. The state DoT has already engaged Mohawk Construction to start the repair work. There is no formal estimate for the completion of these repairs. All are encouraged to remember the retail businesses remain open during this time.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the issue and covered the following points;

a) What steps can be taken to prevent this in the future?

b) Additional signage.

c) Bridge warning systems or a beam rail.

d) The inconvenience of having the Bridge closed for local residents and businesses.

e) Public safety concerns when the Bridge is closed.

 # 3 Interview Schedule

Administrative Assistant Interview Schedule

The Selectmen's office has received queries from four or five interested candidates. Once all resumes and job applications are received, the BoS will start conducting interviews.

 # 4 Budget

Budget Season

Worksheets have been issued to all departments and letters have gone out to all organizations. All submissions are to be returned by February 1st and shortly thereafter a full budget proposal of the Selectmen's portion will be issued.

The Selectmen's office will be working with DPW and the Transfer Station first and then with any other departments desirous of a consult before submitting their request.

5 ARPA

Report of ARPA

First Selectman Ridgway thanked the ARPA committee for all their work and reiterated that the balance of the funding has been distributed as follows;

$100,000	Grant to Cornwall Housing for site development on housing lots.
$38,000	Grant to the Cornwall Food and Fuel fund to help with fuel assistance this winter.
$35,000	Grant to Little Guild to support their efforts of building a new facility.
$5,000	Grant to Greenwoods Counseling for the Community Outreach program which is focused on addressing the opioid epidemic here in the NW Corner.

6 Housing

Housing Task Force Meeting January 10

The next meeting of the Cornwall Housing Task Force will be via Zoom on 1.10.23 @ 4:00 p.m., an agenda with a Zoom link will be posted on the website so all interested people may attend.

7 COST

COST Town Meeting January 11

The annual COST Town Meeting will be held on January 11 at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT. First Selectman Ridgway is planning to attend. This annual meeting is very informative and provides municipal leaders with an opportunity to network, exchange ideas and problem solve in a collaborative environment as well as learn about the new legislative agenda.
Selectwoman Carlson expressed interest in attending as well so when the signup is undertaken by the Selectmen's office both will be registered.
On a side note, there will be a CoG legislative breakfast on January 17th, 2023.

Composting

Municipal Composting

Selectwoman Carlson reported that she has had a casual conversation with a company called ***Curbside Compost***.
Curbside Compost collects food scraps from residential and commercial locations in Connecticut and New York. Their process ensures that food scraps are brought to compost facilities, not burn plants or landfills. This decreases waste and pollution, and produces healthy, rich soil to give back to the earth. This is the original and oldest method of recycling. At the end of the composting cycle, compost delivery is offered so participants can the use and enjoy the fruits of their efforts. Curbside Compost is one company but there are others with varying programs. This is a good way to reduce waste and reduce the cost burden of municipal waste by removing food scraps.

This conversation will be ongoing and additional research will be shared.

6 Public Comment

Public Comment

Riley, reporter for Lakeville Journal requested additional information regarding the Bridge damage, what was being towed that created the damage as well as a contact at DOT so he could request additional information directly.

Richard Griggs, queried if there may be any compensation for financial losses sustained by local businesses due to the Bridge being closed.

Michelle Shipp updated everyone on the Park and Recreation plans for *Movie Night* programs to continue through the winter with the first one to be held on January 22 and a second scheduled for February 25th. Please see the P/R website or the Cornwall CT website for additional information.

Adjournment

Motion

Gordon Ridgway Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Priscilla Pavel Seconded the motion

Motion passed unanimously 7:55 PM

Submitted: Barbara E. Herbst, Clerk pro tempore
Note: Minutes remain "Draft" until approved at the next regular Selectmen's meeting. See future minutes for any corrections.