

# TOWN OF CORNWALL

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE

Board of Selectmen

Minutes for meeting held on:

Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Present

### Selectmen

- Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman
- Priscilla Pavel
- Janet Carlson

### Others

- Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant
- Local Press
- Citizens

**7 - Total number of attendees**

<b>Call to Order</b>	7:30pm
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of minutes from 8/1/2023 meeting</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u> Priscilla Pavel - Made motion to approve the minutes Gordon Ridgway - Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
<b>Communications / Announcements</b>	<p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you to Park &amp; Rec for putting on Taste of Cornwall event last week. Motion</li> </ul>
<b>Additions to the Agenda</b>	None
<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>West Cornwall Bridges</u></b> – First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with Roger Kane, Engineer, John LaPorta, Mason, Jim Vanicky, John Field, Emergency Management, and FEMA reps to do damage assessment throughout town.</li> <li>• Some damage to the bridge abutments under the bridge on Lower River Road and more damage to the retaining wall on River Road, both over Mill Brook. Consensus was to hire WMC to get work going on a design to replace the retaining wall. Engineer proposal was \$44,500 which included surveying/boring. Met with Keegan Elder, Engineer with WMC and he has done several projects like this.</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to accept proposal dated August 4<sup>th</sup> for \$44,000 to do the design and technical analysis of what has to happen to stabilize that area around the bridge over River Road in West Cornwall. Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion Discussion – Discussion ensued on process of work, big, budget for project, and town meeting. Motion passed unanimously</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>West Cornwall Septic Update</u></b> – First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working to get flood insurance figured out and continue to work with engineers to work through Environmental Review. Only area that is in a major high flood area is the Mill Brook boarder, plant itself is not in high flood area. Town liability insurance does not cover underground structures. Will have a Stakeholders meeting with engineers with Congresswoman, DEEP, EPA, to get this resolved as soon s possible.</li> <li>• Two issues are EPA reluctant to sign off on funding a project that has flood potential and what is the Town financial responsibility of self-insuring part of the project that is in flood area or underground.</li> </ul>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>Social Service</u></b> – First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several qualified candidates have applied. Will be having interviews the night of the 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>. Have person picked by end of August and can announce it at meeting in September.</li> </ul>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b><u>Burkhart Property Tax Lien Sale</u></b> – First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft announcement from town attorney proposing tax sale of both properties 8 River Road South and 282 Kent Road. Date set for October 27<sup>th</sup> – Back taxes owed \$55,000 (River Road South) and \$142,000 (Kent Road)</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to authorize town attorney to proceed with selling the tax liens on these properties. Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b><u>Housing Meeting 8/21/2023 7:00pm</u></b> – First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing group is meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup> by zoom at 7:00pm – they do have a series of proposal actions for the Board to consider. Will bring those to our next meeting, including turning the task force into a housing commission (may require town meeting approval), and setting up funding for housing commission.</li> <li>• Discussion ensued on housing market</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b><u>MIRA Dissolution Authority</u></b> – First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many towns have left MIRA – towns will need to come up with alternate solution for getting rid of garbage. Most towns within Region 1 are still using MIRA. Will be a push in the next couple months for towns to come up with a solution. Looking for proposal for hauling from Paines.</li> </ul>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b><u>Tax Refunds</u></b> – First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 tax refund requests were, total \$7,121.65</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to approve these 5 tax refunds Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Berry – Question about Paines garbage process.</li> <li>• Riley Klein, Lakeville Journal – Question about Bridge/FEMA, Septic EPA decision</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Adjournment:</u> 8:11pm Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant</p>