

TOWN OF CORNWALL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for meeting held via ZOOM on:
Tuesday, August 1st 2023

Present

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

Others

- Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant
- Local Press
- Citizens

15 - Total number of attendees

Call to Order	7:30pm
Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of minutes from 7/18/2023 and 7/20/2023 meeting <p><u>Motion:</u> Priscilla Pavel - Made motion to approve the minutes Gordon Ridgway - Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
Communications / Announcements	<p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following Communications/Announcements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thanks to the fire department and ambulance squad for responding for a record of 6 calls in one day 2. Taste of Cornwall is coming up August 11th* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Corrected by Michelle Shipp, Park & Recreation Chair - 5-8pm – dinner starts at 6:00pm, Henhouse Prowlers band, vendors, nearly 30 sponsors for event 3. Rose Algrant show at the school – Friday (8/11), Saturday (8/12), Sunday (8/13) 4. Saturday night (8/2) – open reception at the historical society 5. Cornwall Day – Thanks to all that participated in Cornwall day – last Saturday (7/29) wet start but created lots to do in town
Additions to the Agenda	<p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to add four additions, 1. West Cornwall Wastewater project update, 2. Budget Transfer, 3. Tax Sale Update, 4. Tax Refund Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
1	<p><u>Storm Damages – Bridges West Cornwall</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway provided an update on the storm damage to the bridges in West Cornwall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant damage to the abutments of the bridges, especially on River Road. Engineer from WMC came out and assessed damage on River Road and Lower River Road. Engineer estimates cost could be \$140,000 - \$180,000 for repairs to just one bridge. Damage is being reported to Emergency Management. We will need to go to a town meeting to authorize this work. Procedure recommended would be to get an estimate on the two bridges, specifications on what is happening, what needs to happen, get bids from qualified contractors, schedule a town meeting, get repairs done as soon as possible. <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to get WMC involved with trying to get some repair specifications for those two bridge locations. Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
2	<p><u>“Friends of Cornwall”</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway provided an update on the “Friends of Cornwall” investigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Been in touch with State Election Enforcement Agency – investigation in to the “Friends of Cornwall” is ongoing. Because it is a municipal request, there is no expiration on investigation. Hope to have investigation wrapped up soon.
3	<p><u>Building Official Appointment, Fee Schedule</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway discussed the appointment of Building Official, Peter Russ. Peter Russ is working with Paul Prindle to transition into the new position. 4-year contract being reviewed for Peter Russ, tentatively executed next week.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u></p>

	<p>Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to hire Peter Russ, upon recommendation of Paul Prindle, upon successful completion of building inspector course, for a 4-year contract on similar terms to those that we have had with Paul Prindle.</p> <p>Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion</p> <p>Discussion – Other towns having difficulty filling these positions. We are very thankful to Paul for his many years of servicing the town. Many comments received about Paul Prindle making projects much easier, low very helpful way. Fee schedule discussed. Peter Russ will have page on Cornwall website, quicker contact, Northeast Builders - location will still be there.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously</p>
4	<p><u>Little Guild at Foote Field, 8-24 referral to Planning & Zoning</u></p> <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have settled on Foote Field site for temporary quarters. We are part of their referral to planning & zoning. Have met with several neighbors to hear their concerns. Town needs to make an 8-24 referral, any time we change the use of town property, even temporarily. <p><u>Motion:</u></p> <p>Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to do an 8-24 referral granting Little Guild temporary permission to use Foote Field for its purposes of temporary housing of their reduced pet load.</p> <p>Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion</p> <p>Discussion - none</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously</p>
5	<p><u>Highway Department Hire</u></p> <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared an update that the Board of Selectmen and Highway Foreman, Jim Vanicky met on July 20th to interview 3 well qualified candidates for the opening in the Highway Department.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u></p> <p>Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to hire David Wloch for the highway department.</p> <p>Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion</p> <p>Discussion - none</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously</p>
Addition #1	<p><u>West Cornwall Wastewater project update</u></p> <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been in touch with the engineer that has been working on the environmental assessment. Only thing to work on currently is Flood Insurance.
Addition #2	<p><u>Budget Transfer</u></p> <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following about the budget transfers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$53,000 transfers included are for: Assessor contracted services, Hammond Beach Wages, Department of Public Works equipment repair, Payroll expense, Social Service supply, Fire Department operations, Registrar wages, Town Office contracted services. Biggest one is: Town Office contracted services used for upgrading computer system and increase cybersecurity at town hall. Even with these budget transfers we will end the year with a surplus. <p><u>Motion:</u></p> <p>Gordon Ridgway - Made motion that we approve these budget transfers and send them off to board of finance.</p> <p>Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion</p> <p>Discussion - none</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously</p>
Addition #3	<p><u>Tax Sale Update</u></p> <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following about the tax sale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heard back from town attorney, moving ahead of noticing the public auction to sell the tax liens, 8 River Road South and 282 Cornwall Bridge, former River Inn. Auction will occur on October 27th 2023. <p><u>Motion:</u></p> <p>Gordon Ridgway - Made motion that upon recommendation of Town Attorney, that we proceed with a notice of property auction on the two Burkhart properties in town.</p> <p>Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion</p> <p>Discussion - none</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously</p>
Addition #4	<p><u>Tax Refund</u></p> <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following tax refund requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total \$282.75, 3 separate requests from tax collector. <p><u>Motion:</u></p> <p>Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to grant the 3 tax refund requests as requested by the tax collector.</p> <p>Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion</p>

	Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously
6	<u>Public Comment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Schlesinger – Questions about “Friends of Cornwall” • Riley Klein, Lakeville Journal – Questions on bridge locations, damage costs, timeline. Questions on Cornwall Country Market update
	<u>Adjournment:</u> 8:08pm Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant