

TOWN OF CORNWALL

REGULAR MEETING OF THE

Board of Selectmen

Minutes for meeting held on:

Tuesday, February 6th, 2024

Hybrid – In Person at Cornwall Library
& Remotely Via Zoom

Present

Selectmen

Others

- Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman
- Rocco Botto
- Jennifer Markow

Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant
Citizens

9 - Total number of attendees

Call to Order	7:30 pm
Approval of Minutes	Minutes from 1/16/2024, 1/22/2024, and 1/30/2024 <u>Motion:</u> Rocco Botto - Made motion to approve the minutes from 1/16/2024, 1/22/2024, and 1/30/2024 Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion Discussion – None Motion passed unanimously
Communications / Announcements	First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board will be attending the COST (Council of Small Towns) meeting on Thursday 2/8/2024 • Article in newspaper about Sharon Hospital – Nuvance was denied the attempt to close the maternity center – 3 new Cornwall kids born at Sharon Hospital in the past 2 weeks
Additions to the Agenda	None
1.	<u>TRIP Grant</u> TRIP Grant application and map was shared on the screen and First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reviewed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposed additions to Cornwall Bridge and West Cornwall to include crosswalks, sidewalks, signage, and speed tables. • First Selectmen Gordon Ridgway had a conversation with Scott Thibault from DOT about protecting the covered bridge, he shared various ideas that people had including light beams, alarms, signage • Steve McDonnell of WMC indicated that the waster water project should not impact the new sidewalks that go in
2.	<u>Essex Hill & Popple Swamp repaired & open</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road is open and work is complete • Photos of the completed work were shared • No FEMA funding available for reimbursement for Essex Hill – Region and State did not reach the required threshold for damage
3.	<u>West Cornwall Wall update</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Engineer and Contractor and the Wall Construction Company to get the design on same page, still several weeks away from getting that completed • Will have at least 1 week notice to let everyone know when the work will be happening
4.	<u>Budget – CVFD, Registrars, and more</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reviewed the proposed budget and shared the following:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft budget coming in at 5.9% - high for us – about \$135,000 increase – about half of that increase is for health insurance. • School is looking at a bigger increase than we are, our enrollment at high school is about the same, other towns are declining – our share will go up • May see withdrawal of significant amounts of funds from the town reserves to pay for storm damages • Capital – CVFD \$80,000 for trucks and \$20,000 for airpaks <p>Jayne Ridgway, Registrar shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to legislation that passed last session, the statue requires early voting for primaries and general election • Will be required to have each primary staffed • Received a grant of \$10,500 to cover the increased costs, which needs to be spent by December 31st, 2024 • Increased cost includes increased salary, paying for workers, membership meetings/conferences, and getting room ready to be a polling place and a registering spot <p>John LaPorta, CVFD President shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased budget from last year • New members need to be trained and equipment purchased for them – existing members are continuing their training • All vehicles need new tires – approximately \$8,000 cost – truck tires have lifespan and must be replaces after a certain amount of time – old tires can go to the Town Truck <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to send budget as drafted to Board of Finance, knowing that it needs work and we will decrease capital spending by \$100,000 Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – Discussion ensued on grand list and tax raises Motion passed unanimously</p>
5.	<p><u>Budget Schedule</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region 1 & Board of Finance meeting on Thursday • Board of Selectmen presents to Board of Finance 2/15/2024 • Board of Ed presents to Board of Finance 3/7/2024 • Public hearing will be mid April • Town meeting on May 17th
6.	<p><u>Solar – Letter of Intent</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of intent from the Connecticut Green Bank – this group comes highly recommended by other municipalities • Will not cost the town any money for these services and will get us going on researching the solar site <p><u>Motion:</u> Rocco Botto - Made motion to sign the letter of intent Gordon Ridgway - Seconded the motion Discussion – Discussion ensued on the details of the letter Motion passed unanimously</p>
7.	<p><u>Compost</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major breakthroughs, trying to get mapping done by professionals may help push things along • Push at state level to expand the capacity for some of the 4 existing incinerators in CT
8.	<p><u>Appointments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Markow – Housing Collaborative • L. Keskinen – Conservation Commission

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Hulburt – Municipal Elderly Agent <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received interest from Caroline Daifotis to be on the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to appoint Jennifer Markow to the Housing Collaborative as the Board of Selectmen Rep Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to appoint Lisa Keskinen to the Conservation Commission Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to appoint Becky Hurlburt as the Municipal Elderly Agent Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>
9.	<p><u>Bottle return request – MS Walk</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received a request from Jen Larson for a donation for the MS Walk – Donations come out of the Can and Bottle Fund <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to grant the donation request to Jen Larson for the MS Walk in the amount of \$1,000 Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – Discussion ensued on process and history of the Can and Bottle Fund Motion passed unanimously</p>
10.	<p><u>Tax Refund Requests</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 tax refund requests for overpayment totaling \$1,262.26 <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to grant the tax refund requests in the amount of \$1,262.26 Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – None Motion passed unanimously</p>
11.	<p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Shipp, Park and Rec Chair shared the upcoming Park & Rec events • Ted Larson asked about the TRIP Grant; snow removal on proposed sidewalks and speed monitoring in Cornwall Bridge
	<p><u>Adjournment:</u> 8:55 pm Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant</p>