

**TOWN OF CORNWALL**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Minutes for meeting held on:**  
**Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 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  
 Press

**8 Total Attendees**

<b>Call to Order</b>	7:31 pm
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<p><u>Motion:</u>          Rocco Botto - Made motion to approve the minutes from 7/16/2024          Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion          Discussion – none          Motion passed unanimously</p>
<b>Communications / Announcements</b>	<p>Rocco Botto shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of Cornwall Days this coming weekend, contingencies for rain will be posted online</li> </ul> <p>Jennifer Markow shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of Taste of Cornwall this weekend</li> </ul> <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More reports of bear damage – be sure to secure garage and garbage</li> <li>• Food and Fuel fund – helps people in times of emergency, received substantial anonymous donation this week</li> <li>• Early voting for primary is happening this week – no votes have been cast yet – local registrars are trying to adjust staffing to minimum. Hopefully this will be redone in the next legislative session</li> </ul>
<b>Additions to the Agenda</b>	none
<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>Vacancy &amp; Appointment – Inland/Wetlands Commission</u></b>          First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received letter of resignation from Steve Hedden, long time chair on Inland Wetlands – he is the longest serving member of any Cornwall board, thank you to Steve</li> <li>• Received letter of interest from Ian Tyson to join Inland Wetlands</li> </ul> <p>Discussion ensued on ordinance and requirements for membership of Inland Wetlands</p> <p><u>Motion:</u>          Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to nominate Ian Tyson as a full member of the Cornwall Inland Wetlands and Water Course Agency for term 2025          Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion          Discussion – none          Motion passed unanimously</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>Asphalt bids South Rd</u></b>          First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received 5 bids for the work on South Road ranging from \$229,000 to \$178,023.30.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have approximately \$330,000 in town road budget as of July 1<sup>st</sup> – try to spend half on paving and half on oiling</li> </ul> <p>Jim Vanicky, Highway Foreman shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We’ve used all the companies before, S&amp;S Paving who was the low bidder, has a great reputation and they have done work on South Road last year</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u>  Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to accept the bid from S&amp;S Paving  Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion  Discussion – Paving techniques, history of reclaiming other roads in town, timeframe for paving  Motion passed unanimously</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Highway Worker Vacancy</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We still have a vacancy on the highway crew, looking for qualified candidates. We will report – looking to hire for the fall</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b><u>Highway backhoe replacement</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Received narrative from Jim Vanicky for replacing the highway department backhoe – heavily used has around 4,000 hours but has expensive repairs, used year round almost</li> <li>There is approximately \$170,000 in the highway equipment capital line, which should be enough to cover something like this</li> </ul> <p>Jim Vanicky, Highway Foreman shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current backhoe has been in service for 8 years and significantly contributes to operations, recently it has become a financial burden due to frequent repairs, some still need to be addressed. Past 2 years we spent close to \$10,000 on electrical repairs with another estimated \$21,000 - \$25,000 for replacing the wiring harness, labor, towing expense, and a rental machine. This was going to be done back in February, but it would have been a 6-week waiting period. Other issues included: blower motor, evaporator, electrical, frequent breakdowns, and starting problems</li> <li>Investing in a new machine will improve operational efficiency, ensure safety, and ultimately save us money in the long run and strongly recommend we purchase a John Deere 410P backhoe – middleclass backhoe like we currently have – have had good luck with John Deere equipment. Looking into a trade in value of current backhoe.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion ensued on usage of backhoe, alternate repair shops, repair costs, replacing vs. repairing, purchasing a used backhoe, leasing a backhoe, and alternate equipment instead of backhoe</p>
5.	<p><b><u>HRRRA / MSW</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recap of meeting with NHCOC and HRRRA (Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority) – no firm answer on the 11 towns joining HRRRA – possibly establishing a regional trash authority</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b><u>Cornwall Bridge planning</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Met with the planning group in Cornwall Bridge to look at issues in the area, primarily traffic patterns. An engineer from WMC was at meeting, they are also doing the work on the crosswalk and planning for the TRIP grant. WMC has proposed to do feasibility work for around \$7,000 – it would make sense to have same group doing work for both projects.</li> <li>There is funding left over from last time we put the sidewalks in Cornwall Bridge – should cover the expense</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u>  Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to engage WMC to work on the traffic issues and other planning issues around the Cornwall Bridge triangle  Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion  Discussion – none  Motion passed unanimously</p>

7.	<p><b><u>West Cornwall Wastewater Project</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving forward, documents being added to HUD platform, budget amendment and action plan have been submitted – will start to schedule meetings with study group in September</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 public comments received.</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Adjournment:</u> 8:21 pm</p> <p>Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant</p>