

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 1, 2024

The duly warned and notified Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Cornwall was held on Friday, November 1, 2024, at 7:30 p.m., in the Cornwall Consolidated School Gathering Room. First Selectman Gordon M. Ridgway presided. Approximately 15 townspeople attended.

Scott Cady was elected Moderator and Town Clerk Vera Dinneen read the call of the meeting.

The first order of business was to receive the Town Report for the year ending June 30, 2024. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway thanked Barbara Herbst, Finance Director, for compiling the report. He explained that by state statute, only the financial statements of the town are required in the report. Mr. Ridgway gave a brief overview of each section of the report. He stated there is increased activity in all departments. There were no questions or comments.

First Selectman Ridgway made a motion to adopt the Five-Year Capital Plan for the Town of Cornwall as recommended by the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. Rocco Botto seconded the motion. Ridgway noted that Storm Damage Reserve Fund and Tree Removal have been added. There will be a major renovation of the town hall. Insulation will be installed. It was unanimously voted to adopt the plan.

First Selectman Ridgway made the following motion: Upon recommendation of the Board of Selectmen, to adopt an ordinance to change the Cornwall Tax Collector position from an elected official to an appointed position. Jennifer Markow seconded the motion. The position has become more complicated and requires more training. Many other towns have taken this step. The position would be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Perhaps the position could be shared with another town. Someone will be in place when Jean Bouteiller, our current Tax Collector retires next November. She has been in office for seventeen years. The motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway made a motion to amend the ordinance, made effective April 22, 1973, Establishment of a Conservation Commission, to increase the number of commission members from 6 to 8. Rocco Botto seconded the motion. Recently three people were interested in filling one vacancy, so an increase was requested. The motion passed unanimously.

Gordon Ridgway made a motion to adjourn. Priscilla Pavel seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Vera L. Dinneen, Town Clerk

BE IT ORDAINED by the electors and citizens qualified to vote at town meetings of the Town of Cornwall at a duly warned Town Meeting the following ordinance is hereby adopted

An Ordinance Changing the Tax Collector Position from an Elected Official to An Appointed Position

1. Pursuant to the authority conferred by Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 9-185 and Sec. 189, the Tax Collector position shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, rather than elected as hereinafter provided.
2. The Tax Collector shall be appointed for a term of four years and the Board of Selectman shall enter into an agreement with the Tax Collector setting out the duties, compensation, performance standards, and termination of such position. The Tax Collector shall have such duties as are prescribed by the Connecticut General Statues, Chapter 204 and such duties as the Board of Selectman may prescribe from time to time.
3. The first person so appointed to the Tax Collector position shall be appointed upon the expiration of the term of office of the Tax Collector in office at the effective date of this ordinance or the occurrence of a vacancy in said office, whichever first occurs.
4. Any vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Selectmen. During the period of any vacancy in the office of the Tax Collector, the Board of Selectmen may appoint an interim Tax Collector to serve until the Board of Selectmen appoints a person to fill the position.
5. This ordnance shall be effective fifteen (15) days after publication in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes.