

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2015**

**Present:** First Selectman Edward G. McAnaney, Joanne Sullivan, Brian Fitzgerald, Timothy Reynolds and Ed Basile. First Selectman McAnaney called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

*Bruce Rietberg of 12 Devine Road* asked if the referendum took place and all projects were approved can the Town decide not to complete a project? First Selectman McAnaney stated that the Town would be committed to doing the project. He added that if the actual cost of project was higher than the appropriation, the scope could be modified to fit the appropriated funding.

*Ernie Petkovich of 40 Valley View Drive* encouraged the Board of Selectmen (BoS) to send the recommendations of the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) forward to a town vote. He added that the CRC spent a lot of effort on their proposals and although he doesn't agree with all of their recommendations, they should be voted on by the 8,300 voters and not just five selectmen. He said that if the recommendations were rejected by the BoS it may be difficult to find Charter Revision Commission members in the future.

*Jim Sheridan of 1390 North Grand Street* asked about the procedure to propose that Bridge Street School be converted into Town office space. Mr. McAnaney said that there were proposals in previous years that considered that particular use. Selectman Fitzgerald noted that the proposal was too expensive at \$10 Million. Mr. Sheridan stated that he wished the proposal was to allow the voters a choice between using Bridge Street School as a Community Center or as Town offices.

*Vernon Taylor of 632 Thompsonville Road* was in favor of moving forward with the Bridge Street School rather than leaving it empty to deteriorate.

**Approve a resolution to submit appropriation and bonding resolutions to referendum.**

Selectman Basile made the motion to approve the resolution to submit appropriation and bonding resolutions as printed. First Selectman McAnaney reported that all items passed at last night's Town Meeting. Selectman Fitzgerald noted that the polling place would be the Middle School. **Vote 5-0 in favor.** The full resolution is listed below:

TOWN OF SUFFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT APPROPRIATION  
AND BONDING RESOLUTIONS TO REFERENDUM

BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION 1. That the following appropriation and bonding resolutions submitted to and decided by a Special Town Meeting on September 2, 2015 shall be, pursuant to Section 1009 A. of the Town Charter, submitted to a referendum vote on the voting machines or paper ballots by Town electors and qualified voters for approval or disapproval on Thursday, October 8, 2015 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (E.S.T.):

1. Resolution to Appropriate \$9,100,000 for Road and Drainage Improvements and to Authorize the Issue of Bonds, Notes or Temporary Notes in an Amount Not to Exceed \$9,100,000 to Finance Said Appropriation.
2. Resolution to Appropriate \$5,130,000 for Renovations and Improvements to Suffield Town Hall and to Authorize the Issue of Bonds, Notes or Temporary Notes in an Amount Not to Exceed \$4,385,000 to Finance Said Appropriation.
3. Resolution to Appropriate \$8,400,000 for Renovations and Improvements to Bridge Street School for Conversion to a Town Community Recreation Center and to Authorize the Issue of Bonds, Notes or Temporary Notes in an Amount Not to Exceed \$8,400,000 to Finance Said Appropriation.

SECTION 2. That the polling places used by the Town for the election shall be utilized by Town electors for purposes of the referendum vote on the voting machines or paper ballots. Voters qualified to vote who are not electors shall vote at the Suffield Town Hall in accordance with the procedures contained in Section 9-369d of the Connecticut General Statutes, which procedures the Town hereby chooses to apply. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's Office.

SECTION 3. That the appropriation and bonding resolutions approved above shall be placed upon the voting machines under the following heading:

QUESTION 1

"SHALL THE TOWN OF SUFFIELD APPROPRIATE \$9,100,000 FOR ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS, NOTES OR TEMPORARY NOTES OBLIGATIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,100,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?"

YES

NO"

QUESTION 2

"SHALL THE TOWN OF SUFFIELD APPROPRIATE \$5,130,000 FOR RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO SUFFIELD TOWN HALL AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS, NOTES OR TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,385,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?"

YES

NO"

QUESTION 3

"SHALL THE TOWN OF SUFFIELD APPROPRIATE \$8,400,000 FOR RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO BRIDGE STREET SCHOOL FOR CONVERSION TO A TOWN COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER AND AUTHORIZE

THE ISSUE OF BONDS, NOTES OR TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$8,400,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?

YES

NO"

SECTION 4. That the Warning of the referendum vote shall state that the full text of the resolutions adopted by the Board of Selectmen heretofore at this meeting are on file and open to public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office.

**Approve a resolution to authorize the town to prepare explanatory text and additional explanatory materials for the referendum questions.**

Selectman Fitzgerald read the resolution (below) from the BoS packet.

Discussion followed about who would prepare the texts and it was agreed that Board of Selectmen would. First Selectman McAnaney asked if Mr. Fitzgerald would accept an amendment to change the words Town Clerk to the Board of Selectmen in the Section 1 sentence. Selectman Basile further modified the motion to say instead of the "Town Clerk is" to the "Board of Selectmen are". The modified resolution was :

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN  
TO PREPARE EXPLANATORY TEXT AND ADDITIONAL EXPLANATORY  
MATERIALS FOR THE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION 1. That, in their discretion, the ~~Town Clerk is~~ Board of Selectmen are authorized to prepare a concise, explanatory text of the following appropriation and bonding resolutions which, by vote of the Board of Selectmen, have been submitted to a referendum vote on the voting machines of the Town, and the First Selectman is authorized to prepare additional explanatory materials regarding said resolutions, such text and explanatory materials to be prepared in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-369b:

1. Resolution to Appropriate \$9,100,000 for Road and Drainage Improvements and to Authorize the Issue of Bonds, Notes or Temporary Notes in an Amount Not to Exceed \$9,100,000 to Finance Said Appropriation.
2. Resolution to Appropriate \$5,130,000 for Renovations and Improvements to Suffield Town Hall and to Authorize the Issue of Bonds, Notes or Temporary Notes in an Amount Not to Exceed \$4,385,000 to Finance Said Appropriation.
3. Resolution to Appropriate \$8,400,000 for Renovations and Improvements to Bridge Street School for Conversion to a Town Community Recreation Center and to Authorize the Issue of Bonds, Notes or Temporary Notes in an Amount Not to Exceed \$8,400,000 to Finance Said Appropriation.

**Vote 5-0 in favor.**

**Approve the Warning of a Referendum for Thursday, October 8, 2015.**

Selectman Sullivan made the motion to approve the Warning of a Referendum for Thursday, October 8, 2015 as printed. Vote 5-0 in favor. The resolution follows:

WARNING  
REFERENDUM  
OCTOBER 8, 2015

The electors and persons qualified to vote in the Town of Suffield are hereby warned that a referendum vote will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2015, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (E.S.T.). The polling places used by the Town for the election shall be utilized by Town electors for purposes of the referendum vote. Voters qualified to vote who are not electors shall vote at the Suffield Town Hall. The referendum vote shall be on the appropriation and bonding resolutions approved by a Special Town Meeting on September 2, 2015, which resolutions shall be placed upon the voting machines under the following headings:

QUESTION 1

"SHALL THE TOWN OF SUFFIELD APPROPRIATE \$9,100,000 FOR ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS, NOTES OR TEMPORARY NOTES OBLIGATIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,100,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?

YES

NO"

QUESTION 2

"SHALL THE TOWN OF SUFFIELD APPROPRIATE \$5,130,000 FOR RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO SUFFIELD TOWN HALL AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS, NOTES OR TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,385,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?

YES

NO"

QUESTION 3

"SHALL THE TOWN OF SUFFIELD APPROPRIATE \$8,400,000 FOR RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO BRIDGE STREET SCHOOL FOR CONVERSION TO A TOWN COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS, NOTES OR TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$8,400,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?

YES

NO"

The full text of the resolutions are on file and available for public inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's Office.

Dated at Suffield, Connecticut this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

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Kathy Dunai, Town Clerk  
Town of Suffield, Connecticut

**Discussion on Charter Revision Commission (CRC) final report and vote to approve the proposed charter amendments and submit to the electors for approval at the 11/3/2015 municipal election.**

First Selectman McAnaney noted that the BoS recommended three items for reconsideration to the CRC. CRC Chairman Bob Brooks was in attendance and explained the CRC results. He noted that the BoS asked the CRC to reconsider the non-budget referendum petition signature requirement be changed from 7% to a flat 500. Mr. Brooks reported that the CRC was more comfortable with a percentage and approved a reduction to 6%. Regarding the recommended change in section 611 the Director of Finance, the CRC rejected that change. Regarding the BoS language change in 1009 for an adjourned Town Meeting, the CRC recommended a new section (1010) to address the Adjourned Town Meeting.

Selectman Reynolds said he was happy that the CRC reduced the referendum petition signature requirement.

Selectman Fitzgerald made the motion to accept the CRC final report and to approve the Charter amendments. **Vote 5-0 in favor.**

Selectman Basile made the motion to submit the changes to the electors for their approval at the November 3, 2015 municipal election. **Vote 5-0 in favor.**

**Approve the ballot questions for the Charter amendments.**

First Selectman McAnaney suggested that there were two methods to define the ballot questions. Option 1 is to have two questions, one for substantive changes and a second for non-substantive changes. Option 2 is to create 14 different questions where thirteen would represent individual substantive questions and one question for the non-substantive changes. Discussion followed regarding how past Charter questions were packaged in the past and it was noted that they were separate in 2001. Selectman Reynolds made the motion to approve the detailed questions as presented. **Vote 5-0 in favor.**

**Approve a resolution to authorize the town to prepare explanatory text and additional explanatory materials for the charter questions in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-369b.**

Selectman Fitzgerald made the motion to approve a resolution to authorize the town to prepare explanatory text and additional explanatory materials for the charter questions in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-369b. **Vote 5-0 in favor.**

**Approve a tax rebate for Brian and Holly Banak in the amount of \$4,091.02 due to an overpayment.**

Selectman Sullivan made a motion to approve a tax rebate for Brian and Holly Banak in the amount of \$4,091.02 due to an overpayment. **Vote 5-0 in favor.**

**Appoint Brian Benito, Jr. as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission through August 31, 2019.**

First Selectman McAnaney said that Mr. Benito, an unaffiliated voter, approached the Board of Selectmen directly with his interest. Selectman Fitzgerald made the motion to appoint Brian Benito, Jr. as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission through August 31, 2019 to replace Michael DiLorenzo whose term expired. **Vote 5-0 in favor.**

Selectman Basile moved to adjourn and by unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Trase  
Recording Secretary