

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 20, 2016**

Present: First Selectman Melissa M. Mack, Joanne Sullivan, Krystal Holmes and Mel Chafetz.

Police Captain Rick Brown and Human Resources Director Katherine Christopher were also in attendance. First Selectman Mack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes from the January 6, 2015 Regular Meeting

Selectman Holmes made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Public Comment

No comment

Discussion of traffic safety as related to recent accident with Eversource Energy vehicle

First Selectman Mack asked Police Captain Rick Brown and resident Peter Hill of 523 North Main to speak about an accident occurring on January 8, 2016 @ 11:45 p.m. The accident took place in front of Mr. Hill's house and involved a motorist driving through a fence on a neighbor's front yard. Eversource came to repair a telephone pole damaged in the accident, but did not request a police officer at the scene. A second accident occurred @ 1 a.m. when a motorist hit the Eversource vehicle while one of the men was in the bucket. According to Mr. Hill, state statute allows Eversource to decide whether to hire a flagger or police officer when performing work. Mr. Hill questioned why Eversource is deciding on the public safety needs of Suffield's citizens. He would like a town ordinance that would supersede the state statute so an officer would be on duty to direct traffic in these instances. Mr. Hill shared Rocky Hill's and Middletown's ordinances as points of comparison. Captain Brown indicated that accidents involving utility vehicles are not common. Capt. Brown confirmed that state statute allows utility companies to decide if a flagger/patrol officer is needed. The advantages of using a police officer include having someone at the scene who is medically trained with a radio that is traffic certified, that there is a vehicle between cars and the utility vehicle and an officer is on the site. The Town charges contractors for their use of a police officer and car. In last six months, Suffield has made approx. \$100,000 on construction details. Ordinance should be narrowly drafted. Selectman Chafetz questioned whether it was appropriate for Police Commission to review. Police Commission Chair Armata (who

was present) said not necessary as it is needed for public safety. First Selectman Mack will work with the Town Attorney, Police Commission and Chief Riello on drafting something that works for Suffield that is not too broad but seeks to enhance public safety.

Appointment of Lisa Sabbatino as alternate on the Historic District Commission to fill the remainder of Melissa Mack's term through August 31, 2016

Selectman Holmes made the motion to appoint Lisa Sabbatino as alternate to the Historic District Commission to fill the remainder of Melissa Mack's term through August 31, 2016.

Selectman Chafetz questioned the candidate's experience. First Selectman Mack noted that Ms. Sabbatino lives in the historic district (a certain percentage of the commission must live in the historic district) and has a keen understanding of the issues that residents in the district face. She renovated an older home in compliance with the Historic District Commission's requirements and understands the need to balance doing things properly with the financial constraints residents face. Selectman Holmes asked if she would be filling a Democrat seat. First Selectman Mack confirmed yes. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Appointment of Joseph Sangiovanni, Chair of Permanent Building Commission, to act as liaison to the Board of Finance

Selectman Sullivan made the motion to appoint Joseph Sangiovanni, Chair of Permanent Building Commission, to act as liaison to the Board of Finance. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Selectman Chafetz made a motion to add item 5a to the agenda titled Change to Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development Grant. Vote 4-0 in favor to add to the agenda.

Change to Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development Grant

First Selectman Mack said the change to the proposal is due to the Board of Finance amending their motion to make it more broad and flexible to include not only looking at Austin Street for the town garage but for the Town to have flexibility to look at new construction on Town owned property as well. Selectman Holmes made the motion that the Board of Selectman approve of the submission of a Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development Grant in the amount of \$2 million for the relocation of the highway garage and that the First Selectman is authorized to execute grant related documents. This motion supersedes previous motion made at last BOS meeting. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Selectmen Updates

Commission Updates

First Selectman Mack noted that the Office of First Selectman and Human Resources have officially moved to 230C Mountain Road. In addition, the Animal Control Officer has moved to the Police Department, Youth Services and Park & Rec. are scheduled shortly to move to the Town Hall Annex. Finance will be moving on approx. February 11, 2016 to 230C Mountain Road. The Minibus will be moving to the Senior Center in the near future. The Tax Collector, Registrar of Voters, Town Clerk and Assessor will be moving to 61 Ff Tyler Place once the library returns to its permanent space. IT and the servers will be the last to move at the end of June at which time serious Town Hall renovations will begin. All phone numbers are expected to remain the same.

The Tennessee Gas Easement Amendment was signed today. State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture signed off which was a prerequisite to the Town's signature. First Selectman Mack noted that the Town received a check for \$8,000 through the agreement which will be added into the general fund.

Streaming update by First Selectman noted that Valley Communications had an incorrect part ordered. The correct part is to be installed on Friday at which point the system will be tested and staff will be trained. The lower level conference room will remain open as long as possible during the renovation process with alternative locations publicized when in use.

The Library commission update from Selectman Chafetz noted there still is no move date given the EPA issues. The contractor is moving along on punch list items. A formal opening date may be delayed for warmer weather.

Selectman Chafetz attended the Board of Education meeting on January 19, 2016 where the budget (partial) was presented. The superintendent is requesting additional personnel for curriculum, to work with teachers and on professional development. Last night's meeting was for discussion only and Selectman Chafetz is unsure when BOE would be voting on budget.

Selectman Holmes reported Conservation Commission was canceled last week.

Selectman Holmes attended ACCE with First Selectman Mack last week with Economic Development and Town Engineer presenting on capital development needs moving forward.

First Selectman Mack reported that she is participating in discussions with the Fire Commission to determine how much professional development and training time for the

Fire Chief is appropriate for a town the size of Suffield. First Selectman Mack is working with Human Resources Director Katherine Christopher to identify data from other towns to see what is fair for the Town and to our excellent Fire Chief.

Selectman Chafetz made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Interim Police Chief Riello's contract. Vote 4-0 in favor. Executive session convened at 7:26 p.m. and included the Selectmen, Human Resources Director Katherine Christopher and Police Commission Chairman Kevin Armata.

At 7:57 p.m. Executive Session ended. Selectman Sullivan made a motion to go back into regular meeting. Vote 4-0 in favor

Motion made by Selectman Holmes to approve terms of Chief Riello's contract for 6 months. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Public Comment

E-mail from David Gauthier read by First Selectman Mack.

Selectman Sullivan moved to adjourn and by unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

The next regular Board of Selectmen Meeting will be Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Worthington
Recording Secretary