

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 21, 2009**

Present: First Selectman Scott Lingenfelter, Timothy Reynolds, John Smith, Brian Fitzgerald and Vicki Spellman. Mr. Lingenfelter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on October 21, 2009 in the lower level Conference Room.

Minutes:

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 30, 2009. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 7, 2009. The motion was approved with all voting in favor and Mr. Lingenfelter abstaining. Motion carried.

Add to the Agenda: Mr. Lingenfelter made a motion to add a resolution for the Emergency Management Performance Grant to the Agenda after public input. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment:

Steve Mozden of 134 E.Bluegill Lane. Commented that he was strongly opposed of rolling the trash fees into the taxes.

EMPG:

Every year the Town applies for a EMPG grant for program funding to support Emergency Management. This grant helps pay for 50% of the Emergency Manager Director's salary, along with 50% of the telephone charges, Satellite service and cell phone charges. A resolution must be done, to file with the Grant paperwork.

Selectman Reynolds made the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Suffield may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Scott R. Lingenfelter, as First Selectman of the Town of Suffield, Board of Selectmen, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Suffield and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents. The Resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Works Commission's Recommendations:

Public Works Commission Chairman Guy Boccasile was present and told the Selectmen that his Commission made two recommendations last night at its regular monthly meeting.

The first recommendation was not to roll the trash fees into the real estate taxes. He felt this has been the best policy for the last 15 years and charging only the users of the service is the fairest way to handle the fee.

Mr. Lingenfelter began to make a motion to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Commission and not make any change to the trash fee collection process when Selectman Spellman interjected and said she felt there was no need for a formal motion, but rather that the Selectmen take no action on this matter. Selectman Fitzgerald agreed with Selectman Spellman. Therefore, no motion was made.

The next recommendation was to adopt a Snow Removal Policy. There is a more detailed document submitted and also a condensed version which the Public Works Commission reviewed and approved last evening. However, the Commission wanted the more detailed document placed on the Town's Web Site but renamed Snow Removal Operating Procedures. Mr. Lingenfelter made a few changes to the condensed document. He also added the following disclaimer statement: The town of Suffield Snow Removal Policy, as well as the town's Snow Removal Operating Procedures are for guidance purposes only. The uncertainty of the conditions and durations of a winter storm may make the Town's compliance with this Policy and the snow Removal Operating Procedures difficult and/or unworkable. The town will implement best practices when responding to all winter storm situations.

The Selectmen decided to place it on the Town's Web Site to have residents comment on it, and then place it back on a future Agenda for adoption.

Bridge Street School Committee Report:

Chairman Tom Wardell, along with members of the Committee, presented their report for the utilization of the Bridge Street School. (See attached report). Mr. Lingenfelter pointed out that the wrong figures are being used to represent the cost to rent office space at 230 Mountain Road. It does not cost the Town \$90,000 to rent this space as outlined in the Report, but rather the average rental cost is \$66,807.00 per year for rent. Mr. Lingenfelter felt that public agencies need to start using this accurate figure and not manipulate our costs.

The Committee recommended an acceptable utilization of available space in the Bridge Street School building while increasing accessibility and reducing yearly rental fees for the town offices presently located at 230 Mountain Road. They suggested the use of the first floor of Town Hall by the fire department in lieu of a building addition to the Main Fire Station. They also recommended: (1) that Asbestos abatement be accomplished regardless of the future use or disposal of the building, (2) continue the minimal heat during the winter months to avoid further deterioration; (3) pursue the selection of an architect to prepare renovations plans.

Mr. Lingenfelter said he was concerned that the proposal did not solve any problems, and in fact left us with more problems. He was also concerned that it was not the time to be spending approximately \$3 million, but wanted to hear from the Board of Finance and

public input on that. He also asked for the \$2.2 million dollar breakdown from the Architect on the cost. He was also concerned that there was no elevator, and only a Chair Lift was recommended.

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to accept the Report of the Bridge Street School Study Committee and thank them for their work in preparing this report. Mr.

Lingenfelter asked for clarification that the intent of this motion was not to follow through with the recommendations in the report, but rather simply accept the report and take any affirmative action at a later date if the Board so chooses. All agreed that was the intent and meaning behind the motion. ***The motion was approved by unanimous vote.***

Appointments to Public Works Commission:

Selectman Smith made a motion to appoint Steven H. Stoll, 643 Forest Road, West Suffield to the Public Works commission to fill the unexpired term of Bill Murty through November 2010. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Trail Stewardship Council:

The U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service was requesting that the Town of Suffield appoint two representatives to serve on the Trail Stewardship Council for the recently designated New England National Scenic Trail. This trail crosses through Suffield. The Trail Council provides oversight of the management and operations of the Trail. Suffield is being asked to appoint one individuals to represent the interests of the town and the other to represent the interests of the landowners.

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to appoint Town Planner, Bill Hawkins and Michael Stanley to the Trail Stewardship Council. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Elderly Tax Relief Program:

Mr. Lingenfelter wants the Town to explore the “Tax Deferral” options for our elderly residents. The Board of Selectmen should appoint a committee to investigate the effects of this tax deferral program and make a recommendation to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance.

Selectman Smith made a motion to appoint John G. Smith, Scott R. Lingenfelter, James R. Wood, Janet K. Frechette and Thomas J. Sheridan, Jr. to investigate and make a recommendation to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance as to whether or not the town of Suffield should enact an elderly and disabled tax relief program, and if the town should, how the program should be enacted and implemented, what impact said program would have on the Town of Suffield from a fiscal perspective and they should also work with the Town Attorney to propose an ordinance for said program. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Tax Rebates:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the following tax rebates:

Ralph Lathrop \$67.69
Ronald D. Hamann \$145.62
Honda Lease Trust \$27.66
Honda Lease Trust \$174.66
Honda Lease Trust \$136.89
Honda Lease Trust \$111.00
Honda Lease Trust \$ 58.18
Honda Lease Trust \$116.03
Peter Markowski \$9.90
Robert Sobinski \$47.11
DCFS Trust \$ 58.57
DCFS Trust \$ 29.65
DCFS Trust \$ 34.52
DCFS Trust \$ 38.59
Aspasia Tartsinis \$69.49
Annalee Munson \$60.40
Chase Auto Finance Corp \$161.82
Chase Auto Finance Corp \$ 85.89
Audrey Perkins \$332.20
Douglas K. Manfredi \$ 7.87
Mary Martha Sandefer \$ 52.07
Douglas R. Parsons \$31.95
Heber H. Lloyd, Jr. \$11.51
Valerie A. St. George \$82.50
Valerie A. St. George \$68.87
Karen A. Paquin \$ 17.67
Gina McCray \$237.92
Briarwood Homes, Inc. \$121.63
The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Board will be held on November 5th at 7 p.m. Selectman Fitzgerald asked that there be only necessary administrative matters on the Agenda.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Selectman Reynolds made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Koren, Recording Secretary