

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
September 2, 2009**

**Present:** Scott Lingenfelter, Timothy Reynolds, John Smith, Brian Fitzgerald and Vicki Spellman. First Selectman Lingenfelter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall lower level Conference Room on Wednesday, September 2, 2009.

**Minutes:**

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 19, 2009. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Public Comment:**

Susan Swor of Pine Road was present. She is working on identifying the reasons that all roads at the Lakes were assessed at a higher rate. She and the First Selectman have been communicating about this and will continue to hold meetings, in attempt to address her issues.

Tom Accartio, 1260 Farmington Ave, Berlin, CT. He is the owner of Preferred Electric who did a job on the Town Green a year ago. He claims he was never paid for the job. He was told the reason for non-payment was for inadequate workmanship. He said he is owed \$9,500 on the original invoice and \$1,700 when he had to come back and do some additional work which required re-wiring.

Art Christian, 495 Hale Street. He is the Chairman of the Conservation Commission and encouraged the Selectmen to appoint Mr. Noble to fill a vacancy on his Commission.

Bob Sullivan of 585 North Stone Street, complained that the roadside mowing on his street has not been done yet.

**Sale of Tax Liens:**

Mr. Lingenfelter made a motion to table this item until after the Executive Session. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Board of Finance -Committee's Report on rolling trash fees into taxes:**

Present were Board of Finance Chairman, Justin Donnelly, Guy Boccasile and Thomas Frenaye of the Ad Hoc Trash fee subcommittee who studied rolling the trash fee into the taxes were present and submitted their report to the Selectmen. Selectman Brian Fitzgerald was also part of this Ad Hoc committee. Selectman Fitzgerald argued in favor of rolling the trash fees into the taxes as it may have potential savings to the Town by the money received under two state grant programs. Mr. Boccasile said the biggest problem was having businesses and condo associations incur this cost when they pay privately for collection. Selectman Smith felt that raising taxes on businesses and industry would not benefit the Town. Mr. Lingenfelter said he will look into what additional costs would be involved from the haulers to renegotiate their contract and will also check with OPM on

the actual money the Town could receive if the trash fee is rolled into the real estate taxes.

Chairman Donnelly said this matter is a policy issue and will leave it up to the Board of Selectmen for a decision. He personally feels the current method is the fairest method because it charges only the users of the service.

**Long Range Plan Consultant reviews:**

Town Planner, Bill Hawkins was present. Mr. Hawkins had been asked to review all the submittals from companies who would develop a Long Range Strategic Plan. Of nearly 30 submittals, he narrowed it down to six and recommended the top three firms to the Board. Those firms are: The Mercer Group from Wethersfield for \$36,500; Scanlan & Jacobs of Worcester, MA for \$25,000 and Epiphany Enterprises of Glastonbury for \$39,000. The next step is to set up interviews with the top three firms for the first week in October. Mr. Lingenfelter said he will contact Michael Smith, Chairman of the Board of Ed and Justin Donnelly, Chairman of the Board of Finance to be part of the selection process. The top six is listed below:

Strategic Plan Rate and Ranking Sheet				
Firm	Location	Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Score
Ekman Consulting	Meridian, ID	320 hours	\$38-46,760	4.03
Scanlan & Jacobs	Worcester, MA	6 months	\$25K	4.51
The Mercer Group	Wethersfield, CT	6.5 month timeframe	\$36,500	4.71
Epiphany Enterprises	Glastonbury, CT	4 months	\$39K	4.4
Weidner, Inc.	Austin, TX	8-12 days off-site, 10-12 days on	\$45-55K	4.1
Parker Wright Group, Inc.	Stratford, CT	282 hours	\$43,500	3.98
This table is for discussion purposes only. The information presented should not be construed as a final decision.				

**Update on Town Assessor position**

Mr. Lingenfelter said he has been in negotiations with the Town of Windsor Locks regarding sharing a Town Assessor. It presently appears that an arrangement will not work for both Towns. Mr. Lingenfelter said he will continue to explore this concept with other towns, but in the interim will post the job opening for the town Assessor position.

**Appointments: Conservation:**

Mr. Lingenfelter made a motion to appoint Norman John Noble as full member of the Conservation Commission to fill the unexpired term of Barbara Chain through 2010. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Tax Rebates:**

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

Financial Ser Veh Trust \$203.06  
Financial Ser Veh Trust \$110.65  
Financial Ser Veh Trust \$508.80  
Donald P. Flynn \$ 78.64  
Julie E. Rogeness \$ 35.88  
Christine Ciszek \$160.00  
Charles F. Maule \$369.60

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Selectman's Update:**

Lake Dock Fees-The town of Southwick is planning to impose fees to Southwick residents who have a dock in the Congamond lakes. Suffield's residents will given the option to participate voluntarily in this program. All funds collected will go towards supporting the cost of Lake Patrols by the Southwick Police.

State Budget Preliminary numbers: There will be approximately \$600,000 less coming in to Suffield from the State in revenues than what was projected by the Board of Finance when preparing this year's budget. Mr. Lingenfelter said there will be meetings with the Board of Finance and Board of Education to work on spending adjustments.

Bids on the Senior Center: The PBC is currently reviewing the bids. The bids came in line with the Town's cost projection.

Suffield On The Green: September 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Lingenfelter made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Negotiations Strategy. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The Selectmen went into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

Selectman Spellman made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Sale of Tax Liens:**

This item was tabled earlier in the meeting.

Selectman Spellman made a motion not to sell any tax liens at this time, until further action by the Board of Selectmen. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Selectmen, a motion was made by Selectman Reynolds to adjourn by Selectman Smith and approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

**Next Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen:** September 16, 2009 at 7 p.m., Town Hall, lower level conference room.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Koren, Recording Secretary