

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 4, 2009**

Present: Scott Lingenfelter, John Smith, Vicki Spellman and Brian Fitzgerald, Timothy Reynolds. First Selectman Lingenfelter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall lower level conference room on Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

Mr. Lingenfelter opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of two recent losses in Town with the passing of Al Casella who was a member of the Building Code Board of Appeals for many years and David Blackaby who served on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Our thoughts and prayers go to their families and friends as they will be greatly missed.

Minutes:

Selectman Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of February 18th. Selectman Fitzgerald made a correction to Page 5 of the Minutes of February 18th to add the words: Selectman Fitzgerald stated that the town should “follow its stated policy” and go out to bid. The motion with amendment was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Minutes of the special meeting of February 23rd with the amendment to the third paragraph to read “...up to (95,000 after the 2009 election.” The motion and amendment was approved with all voting in favor and Selectman Reynolds abstaining.

Public Input:

Doug Bender from 95 S. Main Street. He asked the Board of Selectmen to have Scott Lingenfelter provide details of his one million dollar tax revenue calculation and his relationship with CT Biodiesel.

Burill Sindler, 58 Austin Street. He supported Mr. Bender’s concerns.

Richard LeGere, 1204 Newgate Road. He read an article in the Hartford Courant of February 19th. He asked if the Power lines could be on a future Agenda to discuss about CL&P getting an Utility Attorney involved. Also East Granby sent a letter to the CT Siting Council and felt that Suffield should more quickly and also send a letter to the CT Siting Council, stating an alternative to the transmission lines.

Tax Collector’s Request For Funds:

The Tax Collector is anticipating that she will be over postage line item in her budget. There is another big mailing going out and there will also be an increase in postage fees. When there was a change over in the new software, some of the tax bills went out in July which was billed to the current fiscal year.

Transfer of Funds: ZPC

Town Planner Bill Hawkins was present. There was an error made in payroll and employee benefits which was recently discovered. The error was made in the calculation for the Administrative Secretary's salary. The budget was based on her working 20 hours a week which in fact she works 25 hours. The proposed request is to transfer funds from two line items of the Zoning & Planning budget for \$2,000 from Legal Fees and \$4,215 from Contracted Services.

Selectman Smith made a motion to recommend to the Board of Finance the approval of a transfer of funds totaling \$6,215 with \$2,000 from legal fees and \$4,215 from Contracted Services to the Payroll and Employee Benefits line items of the Zoning & Planning Commission's budget. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Olson Farm: Send to Town Meeting

The Board of Finance approved the expenditure of \$255,000 from the open space fund to purchase a conservation easement on the Olson Farm, located at 896 North Grand Street. This purchase will be a joint acquisition with the help of the DEP and their Open Space and Watershed Management Grant Program.

Selectman Smith made a motion to recommend that the Olson Farm located at 896 North Grand Street be sent to a town Meeting on March 31, 2009, for approval to purchase a conservation easement on the property for \$255,000. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Malec Farms Open Space:

The Zoning & Planning Commission approved Briarwood Homes for a 28 lot development located on Mapleton Avenue. The Town's zoning Regulations require that at least 50% of the subdivisions are dedicated as open space. In this case, 32.65 +/- acres has been proposed to be deeded to the Town as open space, and needs to go to a Town Meeting for approval and acceptance.

Selectman Smith made a motion to recommend the acceptance of 32 +/- acres of Open Space at the Malec Farms subdivision to Town Meeting on March 31, 2009, for approval as town-owned Open Space. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

Selectman Smith made a motion to appoint John Garber as an alternate member to the Board of Finance to fill the vacancy of Derek Donnelly, through November 2009. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Smith made a motion to reappoint William Somerville to the Zoning Board of Appeals through November 2012. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Tax Rebates:

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

CAB East LLC \$489.51

DCFS Trust \$232.87

Alice Epps \$305.76

GMAC for Kevin M. & Elizabeth A. Lord \$1,560.33

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

First Selectman's Update:

School Reimbursement: The Town has received \$250,000 partial reimbursement payment for McAlister Code violations from the High School Code projects.

Tri-Board Meeting: Mr. Lingenfelter reminded the Selectmen of a tri-board meeting with the Board of Education, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen to be held at the Middle School Library on March 10th at 7 p.m.

Executive Session:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss Contract negotiations and a Litigation & personnel matter. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Smith made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m., the motion was approved by unanimous vote. The Selectmen came out of session at

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to approve the amendment to the agreement between the Town of Suffield and Firefighters Local 3565 and to authorize the First Selectman to have negotiating capabilities which he may need in order to finalize the Agreement. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Selectmen, Selectman Smith made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Koren, Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2009 @ 7 p.m. Town Hall