

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 19, 2008**

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, November 19, 2008.

Minutes:

Selectman Smith made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 5, 2008, with an amendment to page 3 under executive session, by adding the words “and meeting” to read: Selectman Spellman left the executive session “and meeting” at 8:30 p.m. The motion and amendment was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Input:

Craig Horrigan, commented on the Calvary Church purchase and its conversion to a Senior Center. He said he understood how a project that was had a A/B ranking in the Long Range Plan became a “A” priority, based on this opportunity. He asked if this project takes top priority what project get pushed back? He also asked how doubling the size of the Senior Center was justified and was concerned over the impact it will have on operating costs. Mr. Horrigan felt the STEAP grants received for this project should be used for other projects. He also asked if the balance of the money from Mach I project could be used for other projects in town?

Mr. Horrigan also feels the Selectmen should set some standard on major projects, and when a project should go to a Referendum and when it doesn't. He also felt that we should figure in all the Capital requests for the next budget before we decide whether to move forward with this project.

Selectman Reynolds wanted to answer some of Craig's comments. He said the Library was going to cost the taxpayers several million dollars and that is why the Selectmen chose to send it to a Referendum, however, the Senior Center project could cost taxpayers anywhere from \$386,000 to zero, depending on the grants received, and didn't believe it was necessary to hold a costly Referendum for this amount of money. Selectman Reynolds also said he had asked Charter Revision to outline or define when a project should go to a Referendum either by a percentage of the total budget or by a specific dollar amount.

Jack Muska, Public Works Director urged the Selectmen that when appointing members to the Permanent Building Committee, not to politicize the people being appointed to it, but only appoint highly qualified building professionals so they can work with design professionals and contractors on major building projects that come before the Town.

Mini Bus Resolutions:

Mini Bus Coordinator, Denise Winiarski, asked the Selectmen to accept a Grant for the purchase of a new Mini Bus. This is a reimbursement grant up to 80% of the purchase price. The additional 20% will come from other funds which the Mini Bus has already received from outside sources. No tax dollars will be used. Selectman Spellman made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board of Selectmen for the Town of Suffield:

RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Selectmen authorize the First Selectman, Scott Lingenfelter, to negotiate and execute all necessary Agreement/Contract documents on behalf of the Town of Suffield with the Department of Transportation of the State of Connecticut for a cash grant toward the purchase of Wheelchair-accessible motor vehicle for services to elderly and disabled persons, FTA Grant #CT-16-X034 State Project DOT 01702851RS, and to affix the corporate seal. The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Spellman made the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Town of Suffield hereby adopts as it policy to support the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under Connecticut General Statutes Sections 4a-60(a)(1) and Section 4a-60a(a)(1), as amended in State of Connecticut Public Act 07-245 and sections 9(a)(1) and 10(a)(1) of Public Act 07-142. The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

SENDING CALVARY CHURCH TO TOWN MEETING:

Mr. Reynolds made the following motion to send to a Town Meeting on December 2, 2008, to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of a \$750,000 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant, the acceptance and expenditure of a \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program Grant, the expenditure of \$185,000 from Small Cities Program Income, and an expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$386,000 from the undesignated fund balance to be used for the purchase, renovation and conversion of the Calvary Church located at 145 Bridge Street, the purchase price of which \$675,000, with the remaining funds of \$1,146,000 to be utilized for the renovation and conversion into a permanent senior center facility, and further to authorize the First Selectman to execute any and all documents related to such acquisition, renovation and conversion.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

CALL OF THE TOWN MEETING:

Mr. Reynolds made a motion and read the Call of the town meeting:

Notice is hereby given that a Special Town Meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Suffield, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting, will be held in the auditorium at the Suffield High School, 1060 Sheldon Street on Tuesday, **December 2, 2008** at 7:00 p.m. for the following purpose to wit:

1. To discuss and vote upon a resolution to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of a \$750,000 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant, the acceptance and expenditure of a \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program Grant, the expenditure of \$185,000 from Small Cities Program Income, and an expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$386,000 from the undesignated fund balance to be used for the purchase, renovation and conversion of the Calvary Church located at 145 Bridge Street, the purchase price of which \$675,000, with the remaining funds of \$1,146,000 to be utilized for the renovation and conversion into a permanent senior center facility, and further to authorize the First Selectman to execute any and all documents related to such acquisition, renovation and conversion.
 2. To see what action the Town will take with respect to accepting Clay Creek Crossing, Cedar Crest Lane, and Windbrook Drive of the Silver Creek Crossing Subdivision, as Town Roads;
 3. To see what action the Town will take with respect to accepting Stratton Farms Road and Edgewood Drive of the Stratton Farms Subdivision as Town Roads.
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT:

Mr. Lingenfelter said he is looking to apply for additional grants for the Senior Center project. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving advised that the town apply for a \$200,000 grant through them. Mr. Fitzgerald made the following motion:

That the Board of Selectmen authorize the First Selectman to apply to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for a \$200,000 grant to be utilized for the renovation of 125 Bridge Street, commonly known as the Calvary church, into a permanent Senior Center. Further move that the First Selectman be authorized to seek and apply for any other grants or funds that may be available for this project. Further moved that the First Selectman is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary for the aforementioned grants and funding sources. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Development Application Process:

Bruce Remington, Chairman of the WPCA was present who entertained an idea to help streamline the application process for development. He asked to hold joint meetings with Conservation, Zoning & Planning, Economic Development and the WPCA. This would be an initial informational non-formal meeting to learn about new applications coming into Town. Mr. Remington said that the WPCA has been left out of the loop and usually learns about new applications which may effect their operation at the WPCA, much too late in the normal process. The Selectmen felt this was a good idea, however, Selectman Spellman felt that instead of involving the Commissions, to hold these meetings with Town Staff instead, such as the Town Planner, Economic Development Director, etc., and a staff member from the WPCA, who reports back to their Commission on a proposed application.

Selectman Spellman asked Mr. Remington if the WPCA will terminate when the Bonds expire two years from now. Will the WPCA then be replaced with a Sewer Department? This needs to be looked into.

Appointments:

Selectman Smith made a motion to appoint the following people to the Permanent Building Commission (PBC) for a term to expire November 2012:
Joseph Sangiovanni, Glenn Neilson, Kevin Goff, Mark O’Hara and Laurie Foster.
The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Lingenfelter said he will set up their first organizational meeting and give them some guidance on what will be required of the PBC. Mr. Fitzgerald asked that the Ordinance on the PBC be reviewed also.

Tax Abatement:

A request for tax abatement was received by James & Julia Godfrey requesting a waiver of the interest and late fees on a tax bill which dates back 8 years ago. In order to qualify for an abatement, taxpayers must follow a procedure to supply the Board of Selectmen with certain information. Selectmen in turn, must determine that the taxpayer is “poor and unable to pay.” Selectman Spellman was concerned that there is no criteria which determines what “poor and unable to pay” is. Selectman Spellman will look into this further. *Selectman Reynolds made a motion to table this matter until certain criteria for abating taxes can be put into place. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

Tax Rebates:

Selectman Spellman made a motion to approve the following tax rebates by the recommendation of the Town Assessor:

Scott D. Brew	\$306.85
Cab East LLC	\$315.32
Porsche Leasing LTD	\$597.87
Richard St. John	\$ 42.59
Matthew P. or Amy L. Stone	\$ 356.07
Michael D. Hopkins	\$ 21.41
Louise C. or Robert F. Wilson	\$ 159.71

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

First Selectman’s Update:

Election Audit:

The Town of Suffield was selected by the Secretary of State to audit the accuracy of the voting tabulators by hand counting the ballots and votes processed through the tabulators at the Presidential Election. The audit will take place on November 20th at 9 a.m. at the Suffield Middle School.

Biodiesel:

CT Biodiesel withdrew its appeal of the a decision by the Zoning & Planning Commission.

Revaluation:

A public forum will be held on November 24th at 7 p.m. in the Suffield High School Auditorium. Vision Appraisal will give a presentation at this forum and will answer questions from the public. Notice will be sent out notifying property owners of their evaluation also on November 24th. Hearings will be held for those concerned with their evaluation between December 3rd and December 19th.

Preserve America Designation:

Suffield has been granted Preserve America Designation. This program recognizes and designates communities which protect and celebrate their heritage, use historic assets for economic develop and community revitalization and encourage people to appreciate local historic resources. This designation makes Suffield Eligible to apply for certain grants.

Southwick Dock Fees:

On December 1, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Southwick Town Hall Auditorium to hold a public meeting regarding the local permitting program for the Congamond Lakes. First Selectman Lingenfelter will attend and has invited Senator Kissell and State representative Conway to also attend on the behalf of Suffield.

Meeting Schedule:

Mr. Lingenfelter said the Selectmen's regular meetings for December will be on the 3rd and December 17th.

Executive Session:

Mr. Lingenfelter made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The Selectmen went into session at 8:16 p.m.

Selectman Smith made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:45 p.m. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Selectman Smith, made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Koren, Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 3, 2008 TOWN HALL