

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
September 3, 2008**

**Present:** Scott Lingenfelter, Timothy Reynolds, John Smith, and Brian Fitzgerald.  
**Absent:** Vicki Spellman. First Selectman Lingenfelter called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Suffield Senior Center on Wednesday, September 3, 2008.

**Minutes:**

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 20, 2008. The motion was approved with all voting in favor and Mr. Fitzgerald abstaining.

**Public Input:**

Craig Horrigan, Chairman of ACCE, 52 South Main Street. Craig again stressed the importance of the Selectmen finishing the Long Range Plan.

**CL&P Powerline Proposal:**

Representatives from Connecticut Light & Power were present to discuss CL&P's Greater Springfield Reliability Project which will upgrade the power lines to increase its reliability in the region. Residents from Suffield, West Suffield and East Granby listened to the presentation and asked questions and provided comments. Residents addressed their concerns about the height of the new towers, alternatives to the proposal, electromagnetic field levels and the effect all this would have on their health and property values. CL&P said their application to the Connecticut Siting Council would detail the Company's plans to add 345 kilovolt lines to its existing right of way. First Selectman Scott Lingenfelter said the Town would submit its final response to CL&P sometime before their application is submitted. The Town and residents can offer their opinions about the project before a decision is made by the Siting Council. Residents were pushing for the lines to go underground. Scott Newland an engineer hired by CL&P said that underground transmission lines would be more expensive and would require large transition stations to be constructed every 1,500 to 1,800 feet when lines switch from underground to overhead. Jeff Towle, project manager for CL&P said that they are not anti-underground or pro-overhead, but would probably recommend overhead in their application to the Siting Council. Residents continued to address their concerns about the construction process and the equipment needed to clear another 300 feet of the Right Of Way and the impact this would have on storm water runoff by clear cutting the vegetation during the construction. (Attached is a list of the public in attendance).

After hearing questions and comments for over 2 ½ hours, Mr. Lingenfelter closed public comment at 9:35 p.m., so the Board of Selectmen could address the recommendations from the public. The Board of Selectmen then asked questions to CL&P.

Selectman Smith was concerned over who would be financially responsible if damage occurs from the construction work and asked why there were no firm figures for the

additional cost should the lines be placed underground. Without the hard facts, he doesn't feel the Town will be successful in attempting to convince the Siting Council to put the lines underground. Mr. Lingenfelter said he has compiled a great deal of facts as he has been working on this issue for several weeks now, and will be ready to address these before the Siting Council.

Selectman Reynolds asked if CL&P will recommend one proposal for overhead with another option of placing them underground. He also asked what does the Siting Council look at for facts to help them make a decision.

Selectman Fitzgerald asked if CL&P looked at other alternate routes, like the Ludlow to Manchester corridor. He also felt that the devaluation of property could be more like 20%-30% not the 5%-10% CL&P claims. He also felt that there should be some coordination with Agawam. He would like to see a backup plan if the Siting Council insists of going overhead with the lines. Mr. Fitzgerald said the width of the clear cutting should not be anymore than what it is currently cleared. The widening of the right of way will look bad and the erosion will cause a lot of problems.

Mr. Lingenfelter said he would like the Town to file an Appearance before the Massachusetts equivalent of the CT Siting Council, as an abutter to this project.

First Selectman Lingenfelter asked if there would be any compensation to residents for the devaluation of their property and also to the Town for the loss in taxes. CL&P stated that compensation was paid at the time the Easement was acquired. He also asked them to pursue other alternatives so not to infringe upon the Metacomet Trail.

**Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to that if there are any power lines added to the right of way for the full length of the project in Suffield, that the lines be placed underground. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.**

Selectman Reynolds suggested the Town Attorney write a letter to the Connecticut Siting Council and CL&P asking if the power lines can not be located in another location, then the lines should be installed underground.

### **SELECTMAN'S UPDATES:**

#### **Long Range Planning:**

First Selectman said the Board of Selectmen cannot continue to wait for Selectman Spellman to find a paid professional to work on a Long Range Plan. At the next meeting of the Selectmen, he would like to get into discussing the Capital Projects and where the Board wants to go with them. He asked the Selectmen to bring in their information on the Capital Projects for the next meeting. This project needs to be a top priority and can no longer be unnecessarily delayed.

#### **CREC:**

There was a meeting held today at Town Hall with members of CREC, and also the Finance Director, Debbie Cerrato, Board of Finance Chairman, Justin Donnelly, the School Business Administrator, Ed Basile and Jack Muska regarding their progress on the School Reimbursement issue. They have a vast amount of change orders with no backup detail to them. They are attempting to meet with O&G's Project Manager, Ken Hunt, of the School project to try to obtain all the change order backup paperwork.

**Suffield On The Green:** This weekend a Booth for Town Hall will once again be on the Green giving out information to residents. Mr. Lingenfelter invited the Board to attend.

**September 11<sup>th</sup> Exhibit:** An exhibit and ceremony will be held at the SVAA remembering the victims of 9/11. A special ceremony will take place on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**EDC Workshop:** The first of a series of workshops involving the Economic Development Commission, Zoning & Planning, Heritage Committee and Board of Selectmen was held on September 28<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Suffield Senior Center.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Selectman Smith made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Koren, Recording Secretary

**NEXT MEETING: September 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m., Town Hall  
Conference Room**