

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 17, 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, December 17, 2008.

Minutes:

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 3, 2008. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Amendment to the Agenda:

Mr. Lingenfelter made a motion to amend the Agenda that right after public input to include two resolutions related to the Historic Document Preservation Program. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Input: Sami Mehmed, 10 Dara Lane. He asked if Old Business can become part of the meeting agenda. He asked for information about the State reimbursement; the plan for the Bridge Street School, 2007/2008 Audit; and information about Calvary Church; and Cannon Property purchase.

Gloria Smith, S. Main Street, said more information should get out to residents and used the Bio-Diesel example. She said no one knew about the application for the plant until it was already being proposed.

Resolutions for Historic Preservation grant:

Town Clerk, Elaine O'Brien had applied for a State Historic Document Preservation Grant. Certain resolutions are required by the Board of Selectmen to complete the paperwork for that grant.

Selectman Fitzgerald made the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That Scott R. Lingenfelter, First Selectman of the town of Suffield, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality, a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant. The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Spellman made the following resolution: Nondiscrimination Certification:

RESOLVED, That the town of Suffield hereby adopts as its policy to support the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 4a-60(a)(1) and Sec. 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.

Garden Club-Signs on the Town Green:

Judy Edwards, President of the Suffield Garden Club was present. For the record, Mr. Lingenfelter said his mother is a member of the Garden Club, but doesn't feel he has a conflict. Selectman Spellman said she is a member also of the Garden Club. Mrs. Edwards requested that the town move all town signs from the center town green to the other side of Mountain Road on the south green. The reasoning behind this request is that Garden Club is committed to the beautification of the town through all their work including work on the center green. The Club cares for the flower beds around the monument and gazebo to enrich the beauty of the Town's center. The Club felt the Monument is being degraded by all the signage that is placed in front of it. By moving the signs to the south green it would still have visibility to cars and pedestrians and would also open up the visibility of the Monument.

Selectman Smith felt that moving signs to the South Green will not make them visible. However, Mrs. Edwards argued and felt that they will be seen. Selectman Reynolds felt that the purpose of the Town Green is not for signs. Selectman Spellman felt the signs are a way to communicate information in town. She felt the Town needs a way to communicate on what is going on in Town and the Green has always been the place. She didn't consider the signs to be pollution, but finds them quaint for the Town. She didn't much care where they were placed. Selectman Reynolds felt they do block the visibility of the Monument and are somewhat unsightly. Selectman Fitzgerald wants to hear from some of the agencies who place the signs on the Green and how they feel about moving them. First Selectman Lingenfelter said he agreed that they are not visibly polluting, but feels the Monument looks much better without the signs in front of it. He said the Garden Club does a lot of work around the Monument and it is nice to have it visible.

Selectman Reynolds made a motion that the advertising signs be moved to the south Green as recommended by the Garden Club. Selectmen Lingenfelter and Reynolds voting in favor of the motion with Selectmen Smith and Fitzgerald voting opposed and Selectman Spellman abstaining. Motion failed 2-2. Therefore the signs will remain on the center Green as they currently are.

Code Red:

John Woods, Emergency Management Director was present to explain the Code Red system which is now in place. The system is a telephone notification system. If there is an emergency in town and residents in town need to be notified, we can notify residents that a shelter is open and available in power outages, or other things. They currently have 4500 phone numbers in the Code Red system, which are currently all land lines. These phone numbers can be called in 10 minutes to notify residents of an emergency. We have to notify residents that this system is now in place. There is an icon on the Town's Web Site for Code Red. Residents can be a part of the Code Red system by filling out the form with home and cell phone numbers so they can be reached in emergencies. However, when the power goes out, land lines may not be working. Selectman Smith said the only phone lines that would be dependable in a bad storm will usually be the cell phones. Mr. Woods was urging residents to include their cell phone numbers.

Naming of the new road off Route 75:

The Town is nearing the completion of the new roadway on Route 75 just south of Austin Street. The town is constructing the road and has the authority to give it a name. The name Marketing Drive has been recommended and endorsed. The road is adjacent to Market Research Park and the MarketSure facility. The Town is also in the process of working with Windsor Marketing Group to further develop along the new road and in the vicinity of the roadway. This will provide the town with a strong anchor business which will attract future business development. Therefore the name "Marketing Drive" fits well with the name of the Park. The Economic Development Commission has also endorsed the name. Selectman Fitzgerald wanted to be sure this name was approved by the emergency services to make sure that the name cannot be confused with a similar name for another road.

Selectman Reynolds made a motion that the Board of Selectmen name the new road on the east side of Route 75, running just south of and parallel to Austin Street: Marketing Drive, with the condition that the name of the road is approved by the Public Safety Departments. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

First Selectman's Updates:

Calvary Church: The closing on the property is tentatively scheduled for December 29, 2008.

Purchase of Cannon Property: This purchase is on hold, with a hope to bring it to a town meeting at the end of January 2009. We are waiting on matters that the School Superintendent is addressing with the Cannons regarding clean up of the land. We are also waiting for clarification on the Grant before sending this to a Town Meeting.

USA Hauling: Our trash hauler is reviewing different options to move the town towards single stream recycling. Towns that have moved in this direction save money because more people recycle, resulting in less municipal waste being thrown away. There will be larger dump carts for the recycling which will be supplied to residents that will also result in a cost to the Hauler to supply them. The basic idea of single stream is that residents don't have to sort their recyclables, it can all be thrown together in the same cart. This will encourage people to recycle even more than they do now.

School reimbursement: Mr. Lingenfelter reported he received a message from CREC today who is working on the reimbursement. Essentially, there are 8 projects in total when the Town did the new school and the renovations projects. There were 3 Code projects at Spaulding, McAlister and the Middle School addressing all the Code Violations, then the regular construction/renovation projects at those same schools and also the building of the new High School and the other was the Vo-Ag. The first Code project at Spaulding has been completed and closed out. For McAlister's Code Violations, the State Bureau of School Facilities is currently reviewing what has been submitted and all the documents have been submitted for that. As for the Middle School Code, the State has requested additional documents from CREC who is preparing to submit that information to the State. As for Spaulding renovation project, this is ready to

be closed out, but still a few documents which CREC has to submit, which should be submitted prior to January 1, 2009. As for McAlister and the Middle School renovation projects, the Board of Ed approval of the project should be completed in January 2009 which would allow for the close out of the project prior to Feb. 1, 2009. The High School is currently pending. CREC is waiting for Legislative approval regarding different reallocations with the amount of land that was purchased. Mr. Lingenfelter will be meeting with Representative Matt Conway and Senator Kissel regarding this issue in January.

Revaluation Notices: Evaluation notices have gone out for residential. Many are meeting with Vision Appraisal to discuss their evaluation. The average residential increase is about 30%, with commercial approximately the same.

Potential Federal Stimulus Package: The President elect has announced several million dollars for money possibly to go to municipalities. We don't know any further details on this, but CCM has asked the towns to submit potential "shovel ready" projects which this money could be used for. We have submitted some projects to CCM for their review. The Governor has also asked First Selectmen and Mayors throughout Connecticut of a list of potential projects which we are compiling now. The list will contain several projects, such as the Library, Senior Center, Bridges, and other infrastructure projects such as Town Hall HVAC issues, Town Roads, drainage issues, etc. Mr. Lingenfelter will copy our Congressional Delegates on his letter to the Governor on these potential projects so we can have our hand out for as much money as possible. Selectman Spellman also suggested adding improvements to Babb's Beach and Bridge Street School.

Unaudited 2007-2008 figures: The estimate for the unaudited undesignated Fund Balance is \$8,090,930 which is 16.76% of the current year budget of \$48,431,752. If that is reduced by \$386,000 for Calvary Church, the undesignated Fund Balance will be \$7,704,930 or 15.9%. The Selectmen wanted more detailed figures on what was budgeted and what was spent.

Mr. Lingenfelter, Justin Donnelly, Chairman of the Board of Finance and Michael Smith, Chairman of the Board of Ed will meet tomorrow morning to discuss the upcoming budget.

Adjournment:

Selectmen Reynolds made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Koren, Secretary