

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 7, 2010**

Present: First Selectman Tom Frenaye, Eileen Moncrief, Brian Fitzgerald, and Joanne Sullivan. Absent: Timothy Reynolds. Mr. Frenaye called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 7, 2010 in the lower level conference room.

Minutes:

Selectman Sullivan made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 17, 2010. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment: None

April: Autism Awareness Month:

Present supporting Autism Awareness at the State level was Senator John Kissel, Representative Matt Conway and Representative Karen Jarmoc. Also in attendance were several families with Autistic children.

Selectman Moncrief read the following Proclamation:

WHEREAS, Autism is a complex pervasive development disorder that affects a person's social, learning and behavioral skills and manifests itself uniquely in each affected individual; and

WHEREAS, Autism affects not only the diagnosed individual, but the entire family and community at large; and

WHEREAS, Autism is one of the fastest growing developmental disabilities in the world. Autism affects 1 in every 150 children born today. Over 1.5 million Americans today have some form of Autism, including some members in our community of Suffield; and

WHEREAS, it is known that with proper education, training and community living options, individuals with Autism can lead distinguished, productive lives in their communities and strive to reach their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, Suffield supports increasing awareness of this challenging disability and brings vital and important information to the community and other parents who have a child with Autism.

NOW THEREFORE, We, the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Suffield, Connecticut, do hereby proclaim APRIL, 2010 as Autism Awareness Month.

The Proclamation was approved by unanimous vote.

First Selectman Frenaye presented the Proclamation to Melissa Sullivan, who was the advocate for organizing and promoting April as Autism Awareness Month. She helped by placing signs on the town's green, blue ribbons on trees at the Schools and attending the ceremony at the State Capitol. State Rep. Conway presented the town with a Proclamation. The Senator and State Representatives thanked the Board of Selectmen for their effort in promoting awareness of Autism in our community.

Add to the Agenda:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to add to the Agenda an appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to appoint Joseph Grimard to the Library Commission to fill the vacancy of Ruth Zimmerman through November 30, 2013. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to appoint Lisa Trase to the Technology Committee to fill the vacancy of Ernest Begin through April 2011. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to appoint Mark Blackaby to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate, to fill the vacancy of Matthew Hoberman through June 2012. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Request to combine two Spaulding School roof projects:

Replacement of a roof for Spaulding School was set up as two projects in the budget. Projects were separate in case both could not be done at the same time. One is for the Kindergarten area and one is for the Library/Music area. These projects are considered one project by the State of CT Dept. of Education School Construction Grants Management. These projects were bid out as a single project and the bids received do not distinguished between the two section. It would be easier to manage if the line items were combined into one line item.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to approve the merging of the School Roof Project-Spaulding School-Kindergarten (1088102-59100) \$100,000.00 and School Roof Project-Spaulding School-Library/Music (1088102-59101) \$25,000.00 to School Roof Project-Spaulding School-Kinder/Lib/Music (1088102-59112) \$125,000.00. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Capital Planning:

Previous Boards of Selectmen had started a process to address a long range capital plan for the Town's facilities. There was a lot of progress, but the plan was never finished. Mr. Frenaye would like to get this started again as there are many unresolved issues such as what we want to do with the Library, Bridge Street School, Town Hall and space rental issues. Therefore, he wants to move forward with the planning process. The Plan for Conservation and Development is currently being done to look at the town's long term growth for non-town facilities and how to deal with zoning issues. This Plan is separate and different from the long term capital plan. He felt there should be a Committee involved and more citizen input. An RFP was sent out last year with 25 firm responding to develop a 10 year plan. It was narrowed down to three consultants, but nothing further was decided. He would like to have something in place before next year's budget planning process, so it can be provided to ACCE and the Board of Finance as part of the capital planning process.

Tax Rebates:

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

Douglas E. Halladay	\$ 30.10
Douglas E. Halladay	\$ 37.40
New England Bank	\$ 809.44
Bruno Kaplan	\$ 4.52
Daniel W. Webber	\$ 1,624.46
Raymond B. & Margarita Williams	\$ 112.63
Donald A. & Tammy M. Bacon	\$ 1,800.00
Ronald & Karen Carlson	\$ 110.66
David F. or Evelyn Colson	\$ 31.76
Paul E. & Janet E. Martin	\$ 500.00
Richard Simmons	\$ 52.96

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

First Selectman's Updates:

Recycling Update: Since the Town instituted single stream recycling last May, our recycling has increased since a year ago. This fiscal year, we are up 22%. Single stream has made recycling much more convenient, and saves the Town money in dump fees. As of May 1st, CRRA will be adding Plastics #3-#7. Suffield is above the average as compared with other towns for recycling. Selectman Fitzgerald encouraged recycling because the Town gets a credit on recyclables per ton. Mr. Frenaye said the town spends about \$500,000/year in trash tipping fees at CRRA, so the more residents recycle, it will bring down this cost.

Household Hazardous Waste Day: The town is sponsoring Household Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, April 10th from 8 a.m. to Noon. Residents can bring their hazardous waste for disposal.

2010 Census: Everyone should have received their Census forms by now. It is important that everyone sends it back. It is important to the town because it will determine how Suffield is represented in Washington and it also impacts State Grants for funding. Grants are usually apportioned by the amount of people in each town and the Census Bureau is an important part. Suffield is currently at 69% returning the form, with the State of Connecticut as a whole at 63%. The national average is 62%.

The CT Siting Council: The decision on the power line expansion proposal along Newgate & Phelps Roads and N. Stone Street was received. The Citing Council has rejected the request that the transmission lines go underground. The State of Massachusetts has not yet made a decision.

State Budget: Senator Kissel and Representative Conway asked the Town to set up a meeting on Monday, April 26th at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall inviting residents to meet with them for their input on the State Budget and to hear about what is going on in the Legislature. Representative Conway (who was still present) said he would like to know what people are willing to sacrifice and believes that everyone should have an opportunity to voice their opinion on the budget.

Vo-Ag: The Agri-Science Expo will be held at the Vo-Ag on April 14th and 15th. The entire Board of Selectmen has been invited to attend.

Public Input:

Richard Legere of Newgate Road said the Citizen Group opposing the power lines will file a formal Appeal of the Siting Council's decision. He asked the Selectmen if the Town wishes to join them in the Appeal. He expressed several concerns about the decision to put the power lines overhead and raised a number of safety concerns with the A-Frame design for these power lines. He said they cause stronger Electro-Magnetic Fields.

Executive Session:

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations at 8:12 p.m. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Invited into Executive Session was Attorney Lisa Lazarek and Human Resource Director, Joyce Feeney.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to come out of executive session 9:45 p.m. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Selectmen, Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully,

Christine Koren, Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 21, 2010 @ 7 p.m. Town Hall Conference Room