

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 21, 2010**

Present: First Selectman Tom Frenaye, Eileen Moncrief, Brian Fitzgerald, and Joanne Sullivan and Timothy Reynolds. Mr. Frenaye called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 21, 2010 in the lower level conference room.

Minutes:

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 7, 2010. The motion was approved with all voting in favor and Mr. Reynolds abstaining.

Change to the Agenda: Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to add that the Executive Session is to speak about Litigation. The motion to amend the agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence: The Selectmen had received a letter from John Luppachino of Local 559 who expressed the view of Local 559 regarding the costs incurred by the Town hiring an outside Labor Attorney for Union negotiations.

Public Comment: None

April: Fair Housing Month:

Selectman Sullivan read the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the month of April is recognized nationally as Fair Housing Month;
Whereas, Fair Housing is important to ensure all Americans the right to live in a decent, safe, and sanitary environment; and
Whereas, Fair Housing is the legal right of every American to live wherever they choose;
and
Whereas, the Town of Suffield is proud to participate in the recognition and support of Fair Housing Month;
Now therefore, we, the Board of Selectmen, acting herein by Thomas Frenaye, First Selectman, do hereby proclaim April to be Fair Housing Month in the Town of Suffield, Connecticut.

The Proclamation was approved by unanimous vote.

Recognition of WPCA Nitrogen Reduction Program:

Present was WPCA Chairman, Bruce Remington and Chief of Operations, Bernie Gooch. Mr. Gooch explained to the Board of Selectmen that new monitoring equipment and process improvements at the Sewage Treatment Plant for nitrogen reduction has made Suffield's Waste Water Facility the best performing municipal facility in the State of Connecticut, removing 95% of the influent nitrogen. The WPCA after 2.5 years of operating the Plant in accordance with the design engineer's recommendations, Suffield's staff implemented several changes beginning mid 2009. These changes have improved

the quality of the effluent discharged into the Connecticut River. The WPCA is not only meeting the more restrictive 2014 limits of 45 pounds per day for nitrogen, but averaged 14 pounds per day of nitrogen. Concurrent with the improvements in nitrogen removal, phosphorus removal has also improved. Because of these changes reduced pumping and less aeration means that Suffield is spending less for better treatment. Electrical consumption indicated annual savings of approximately \$30,000. The reduced electrical consumption means less CO₂ is emitted; thus, Suffield is operating with a lower carbon footprint.

Connecticut initiated an innovative Nitrogen Credit Exchange Program in 2002 among the 79 sewage treatment plants in Connecticut. All the municipal sewage plants fall under a single general permit. An individual plant can meet its allocated reduction either through actual reductions, or by purchasing credits generated from other treatment plants that succeed in reducing nitrogen below their discharge requirements. For 2009, due to the process improvements implemented by Suffield, Suffield removed more nitrogen than was required in the General Permit and so it will receive a check for \$1,259 from the CT DEP by August 2010.

More improvements are under consideration now that monitoring equipment and better controls have been installed. Suffield staff is working with the Water Planet Company so further process refinements can be made in order to further reduce ratepayer costs, CO₂ emission, and provide even more consistent, higher quality effluent.

The Selectmen commended and congratulated Mr. Gooch and his staff, for his excellent work along with the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Discussion regarding Capital Planning:

Mr. Frenaye has been meeting with Town Planner, Bill Hawkins and Economic Development Director, Patrick McMahon to get ideas on the Long Term Capital Planning and what things they felt were critical to start the process moving forward. An RFQ was done last year where several companies responded and Town Planner, Bill Hawkins, narrowed it down to three firms. Deciding what to do with the Library, Bridge Street, School, the Town Hall and the rent at 230 Mountain Road and Highway Garage is what Mr. Frenaye wants to mainly focus on, and help define what the Town's priorities are. Secondly, he would like to get some community consensus on these issues. Mr. Reynolds felt getting consensus from the public will be difficult because each group will feel their project has priority but believes the Board of Selectmen should make the decision on the way to go. Mrs. Moncrief feels that the Selectmen should set the priorities and then get the opinions of residents. To help set these priorities, the Board felt some outside expertise is needed. Mr. Reynolds said most of the projects will require bonding and will need to go to a referendum. Selectman Sullivan agreed we need to set priorities and decide what we are going to do with Bridge Street School. Mr. Fitzgerald felt if we

first decide what the Town will do with the Bridge Street School, some of the other projects will fall into line. What we do with Bridge Street School will link what we do with Town Hall and 230C Mountain Road rental facility.

Discussion Regarding Trash Collection Fees:

The prior Board started to talk about this issue, but never made a final decision. Mr. Frenaye found that about \$190,000/year could be received by the Town from the State by rolling the trash fee into the real estate taxes. If that was part of the budget and not a separate fee, the State would reimburse the Town at a higher level in PILOT and Pequot Casino money. However, right now the Condominiums and Businesses are not on town trash pickup, but already pay for commercial pickup. Mr. Reynolds felt this will raise the taxes for businesses if we roll this charge into the taxes. Although a change is too late for this budget year, the Board suggested further discussions on this matter with Condo Associations would be useful, and to revisit this topic later in the year.

Tax Rebates:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the following tax rebates: Michael S. Dunn \$5.16 and Donna K. Kennedy \$1,487.28. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

First Selectman's Updates:

State Budget Forum: Senator Kissel and Rep. Matt Conway will host a public hearing on April 26th at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall, to get resident's input on the State Budget.

Budget Meeting: The Public Hearing on the 2010-2011 Town Budget will take place on Wednesday, April 28th at 7 p.m. at the High School. The proposed budget reflects that the current Mil Rate will remain the same, with no tax increase. The Town Meeting vote will be May 12th at 7 p.m., at the High School.

Prison Tour:

Selectman Sullivan and Selectman Fitzgerald attended a two hour guided tour of the McDougal and Walker Prisons. They were very impressed with Warden Murphy and his facility, especially with impressed with the education program and infirmary.

Olson Property-The final closing for the development rights for the Olson Property is occurring this week. This is the parcel at Spruce and North Grand Streets.

Plan of Conservation & Development: A public hearing on the Plan of Conservation & Development will be held on May 4th, at the Senior Center at 7 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Executive Session: Selectman Reynolds made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Litigation. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The Selectmen went into session at 8:15 p.m.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:54 p.m. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Adjournment:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Koren, Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 5th @ 7 p.m., Town Hall