

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 19, 2010**

Present: First Selectman Tom Frenaye, Eileen Moncrief, Brian Fitzgerald, Joanne Sullivan and Timothy Reynolds. Mr. Frenaye called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 19, 2010 in the lower level conference room.

Minutes:

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 5, 2010 with a correction to the name on Page 2 to read "Demko". The motion with amendment approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment: John Murphy, co-chairman of the Republican Town Committee was concerned that the candidate's name the RTC submitted for appointment to the Conservation Commission to replace John Leahey, would not be recommended for appointment tonight. He asked the Board to reconsider who they intend to appoint to replace John Leahey.

Application for Cooperative Agreement for the Small Cities Development Block Grant Program: Present was Economic Development Director, Patrick McMahon. The State of Connecticut has opened up an application round for the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. The Small Cities Program is for communities that are less than 30,000 people. This Program is Federal Funds from the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development which are passed to the States in the form of a Block Grant. The purpose of the program is to help projects that help assist families and individuals that are low and moderate income. In the past, this Program funders were used for the new Senior Center, Park Place Elderly Housing, and also to do ADA improvements to Town Hall.

The Application is for a joint regional housing rehabilitation program with the towns of Somers and Ellington. Ellington is the lead Town who will handle all the administrative work. For families of four if household income is less than \$64,400, they can qualify for the housing rehabilitation program. It is a deferred payment loan, to be paid back after the house is sold. Some types of work to be done would be correction of Building Code violations, and other modifications to the home, which are not considered luxurious. Currently there are 18 houses in Suffield on the waiting list. Of the \$500,000 allocation, about 1/3 will be given to Suffield if the funds are awarded.

Selectman Reynolds made the following resolution:

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Towns of Ellington and Suffield have identified the need in the municipalities to provide decent housing and related conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Ellington contemplates submitting jointly with the Town of Suffield, an application for single purpose block grant funds under the small cities Program of the Connecticut department of Economic and Community Development for the purpose of meeting such needs, and,

WHEREAS, the towns of Ellington and Suffield understand that the Town of Ellington will act as the applicant and will have the ultimate responsibility to assume all obligations under terms of the grant including assuring compliance with all applicable laws and program regulations and performance of all work in accordance with the contract.

WHEREAS, it is understood that the Towns of Ellington and Suffield and DECD have access to all participants' community development block grant records and authority to monitor all activities.

NOW THEREFORE, the Towns of Ellington and Suffield agree to cooperate in the submission of an application for such block grant funds, and agree to cooperate in implementing the submitted small Cities Program, as approved by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Nothing contained in this agreement shall deprive any municipality of any power, or zoning, development control or other lawful authority that it presently possesses.

Adopted this 19th day of May, 2010.

The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Board of Education: Resolutions for Roof and Asbestos repair projects:

In the Capital Expenditure budget for 2010-2011 there is funding for four capital projects: 1) replacement of the roof over the music rooms and central office wing at the Middle School; 2) replacement of the roof over the music rooms and central office wing at the Middle School 3) replacement of the roof over 4 classrooms at McAlister Intermediate School and 4) Asbestos tile removal, abatement and replacement at the Spaulding Elementary School. In order to start the process for these projects, resolutions are needed from the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen.

RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Selectmen authorizes the Suffield Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the proposed partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School.

RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed partial roof replacement project at the Suffield Middle School;

RESOLVED, that the existing Permanent Building committee is hereby appointed as the building committee with regard to the proposed partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School.

The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Moncrief made the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Selectmen authorizes the Suffield Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the proposed partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School.

RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed partial roof replacement project at the Suffield Middle School;

RESOLVED, that the existing Permanent Building committee is hereby appointed as the building committee with regard to the proposed partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School.

The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Sullivan made the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Selectmen authorizes the Suffield Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the proposed partial roof replacement project at McAlister Intermediate School.

RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed partial roof replacement project at the McAlister Intermediate School;

RESOLVED, that the existing Permanent Building committee is hereby appointed as the building committee with regard to the proposed partial roof replacement project at McAlister Intermediate School.

The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Fitzgerald made the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Selectmen authorizes the Suffield Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the proposed asbestos tile removal, abatement and replacement project at Spaulding Elementary School.

RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed asbestos tile removal, abatement and replacement project at Spaulding Elementary School;

RESOLVED, that the existing Permanent Building committee is hereby appointed as the building committee with regard to the proposed asbestos tile removal, abatement and replacement project at Spaulding Elementary School.

The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application 2010.

Chief Bellmore was present requesting approval to apply for Fiscal Year 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the radio upgrade Project. If approved, the town will be responsible for 5% of the amount approved in the grant award. The total cost is \$122,000. The Federal share of 95% equals \$115,900 and the Town's 5% equals \$6100. The Town's share to be taken from Capital Expenditures project "Mandated Radio System Upgrade". The funding is being requested to supplement other funding opportunities to assist in covering the cost of the three phase radio upgrade project. The first phase has been funding 100% by the town in the 2009/2010 budget. Phase II has also been funded.

Phase II has also been funded in the 2010/2011 budget and a funding request has been submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Justice and State for \$600,000. This grant should cover most, if not all of the remaining balance in phase III.

Selectman Sullivan made a motion to authorize the First Selectman, Thomas Frenaye to submit an application for funding in the amount of \$122,000 through the FY2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program and if approved, authorize d the Board of fire commissioners to expend the funds, the Town's share to be taken from Capital Expenditures project, "Mandated Radio System Upgrade." The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Future Bridge Projects:

Present: Town Engineer, Gerry Turbet.

Mr. Turbet was present. There are three bridges in Suffield are eligible for 80% Federal funding: Boston Neck Road over Stony Brook, the Russell Avenue Bridge over Philo Brook and the Remington Street Bridge over Stony Brook. The State is accepting applications for bridge projects for fiscal year 2011. Two consulting firms have contacted Mr. Turbet offering to prepare the applications at no charge. In view of the free consultant offers, the economic benefit to the Town of completing a large bridge under this program (80% reimbursement) and the time it takes from Grant offer to construction (which is usually 5 plus years), it is worthwhile to look at applying for the Boston Neck Road or Remington Street bridges. Mr. Turbet was recommending that the Board of Selectmen approve the Remington Street Bridge as a first priority. The cost of the repair would be around \$3 million dollars with a local share due of about \$600,000.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion, that upon the recommendation of the Town Engineer, the Board of Selectmen approves the application for Federal Funding for the repair of the Remington Street Bridge. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to appoint Brian Casinghino to the Conservation Commission to replace John Leahey through June 2011. The motion was approved with Selectmen Frenaye, Moncrief and Fitzgerald voting in favor and Selectman Reynolds voting opposed and Selectman Sullivan abstaining. Motion carried 3-1-1.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to appoint Douglas Mayne as full member of the Historic District Commission to replace Bill Moncrief through August 2012. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to appoint Brendan Begley as alternate member to the Historic District Commission to fill the vacancy of Douglas Mayne through August 2012. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Tax Rebates:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the tax rebates of Gerald F. Begley , Jr. and Michelle M. Begley for \$1,401.74. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman's Updates:

Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony: Mr. Frenaye encouraged the Selectmen to march in the Parade which is on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st. Step off of the Parade is 9 a.m. sharp. The Memorial Day Speaker will be Matt Conway.

Town Budget Meeting: The Budget was approved on May 12th at the Town Meeting. Residents have until Saturday to petition the Budget to a Referendum.

Congamond Lakes: Milfoil treatments for the Congamond Lakes will take place on Monday, May 24th.

Congamond Dock Fees: Mr. Frenaye supplied the Board with a draft of a letter to go out to Congamond Lake front residents in West Suffield who live on the Congamond Lakes. Since there has been confusion over the dock fee issue being imposed by the Town of Southwick, Mr. Frenaye wants to send a letter to West Suffield residents explaining the situation. Southwick officials are asking Suffield's residents to voluntarily participate in their Local Permitting Program.

School Reimbursement: The town received a reimbursement of \$575,000 from the State for the old High School conversion to Middle School project.

Cell Tower: There will be an informational hearing on the proposed new cell tower in the Town Hall Conference Room on Thursday, May 20th at 7 p.m.

Relay For Life: Deborah Reynolds is the Chairperson for the Relay For Life which will be on June 5 & 6 at the Middle School, beginning at 10 a.m.

Public Input: The Board received a thank you note from Bill and Melissa Sullivan, and David & Tammy McDermott, thanking the Selectmen for their support and proclamation marking the month of April as Autism Awareness Month in Suffield.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Selectman Reynolds made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Koren, Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING: June 16, 2010 @ 7 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room