

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 1, 2010**

Present: First Selectman Tom Frenaye, Eileen Moncrief, Brian Fitzgerald, Joanne Sullivan and Timothy Reynolds. Mr. Frenaye called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 1, 2010 in the lower level conference room.

Mr. Frenaye asked for a moment of silence in memory of Alexa Crosby of Suffield, who recently died from a tragic automobile accident last week.

Minutes: Selectman Moncrief made a motion to approve the minutes of July 21, 2010. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of August 2, 2010. The motion was approved with all voting in favor and Selectman Sullivan abstaining.

Correspondence: A letter from Leo Smith of 1060 Mapleton Avenue was received and discussed. He complained that CVS & Dunkin' Donuts and other several businesses such as the Food Bag and Suffield Hardware were placing promotional signs near the road. He also complained that the Zoning Enforcement Officer was not enforcing the sign regulations on local businesses. A letter was also received from Janet Banks of the Heritage Committee regarding this matter.

Mr. Frenaye said he spoke with the ZEO and the ZPC Chairman and agreed that this is a ZPC matter. Chairman Frank Bauchiero and Charles Sheehan of the ZPC were present and said the Zoning Commission has dealt with this issue since 1999. When a complaint is received that a Zoning Regulations has been violated, the ZEO will act on it. The ZEO does not drive around Town or go walking into businesses in Town looking for violations. Selectman Reynolds felt in light of the sluggish economy most area businesses are struggling to stay in business. To pester them about promotional signs because one resident in Town disapproves, is not a favorable way to treat the area business owners.

Selectman Moncrief, however, asked if the ZPC regulations should be looked at again. Chairman Bauchiero said when the Zoning Regulations were being reviewed, the ZPC asked Leo Smith for his opinion, but he never offered any or attended any workshops for drafting the regulations. Mr. Bauchiero said the signs in town have not been an issue with anyone but Leo Smith and ZPC shouldn't have to review their regulations again because of one unreasonable complaint from one resident. Selectman Sullivan felt that the Zoning Commission should keep an eye on the signs and the regulations because she was afraid it could get out of control. Mr. Frenaye said he will continue to work with the ZPC on this issue.

Public Comment: None

Town Planner: Request for Open Space transfer of funds

Bill Hawkins was present seeking the Board's approval to transfer \$30,000 from the Open Space account into the appraisal services line item. The purpose of the transfer is to obtain appraisals, surveys and environmental studies for potential future farmland preservation and open space initiatives.

Mr. Hawkins explained that there is no cost impact to the Town for this request to transfer funds into appraisal services line item of the Open Space Fund which has a balance of approximately \$504,000. The anticipated cost to the Town is \$30,000 and it is expected that all of the funds will be utilized over the next few years. Surveys can cost several thousands of dollars as can the cost of environmental studies and property appraisals typically cost \$4,000- \$5,000.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$30,000 from the Open Space Fund to the appraisal services line to pay for potential surveys, appraisals and environmental studies needed for the farmland preservation program and forward to the Board of Finance for approval. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Senior Center Fund Raising:

Present was Ernie Petkovich, Chairman of the Social Services Commission.

Mr. Petkovitch was requesting that the Board establish the cut off date of December 31, 2010 for Fund Raising for the new Senior Center. The maximum cost to the town for the Senior center was \$380,000. The Fund Raising brought in \$288,673.33 leaving a balance of \$97,326.67 to come out of the undesignated Fund Balance for the new Senior Center. The Selectmen was very pleased with the outcome of this project. The Town was able to obtain a beautiful new Senior Center for less than \$100,000.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve a formal end date of fund raising for the Senior Center to be December 31, 2010 and forward to the Board of Finance. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

CL&P: Request to approve remediation project at Hilltop Farm

Dave Lukehart of Northeast Utilities was present asking for the Board of Selectmen to approve of the wetlands creation and enhancement project at Hilltop Farm. There are Agreements for this project drawn up. Present also was Ed McAnaney, the Town's Attorney in this matter, and various members of the Friends Of The Farm at Hilltop. Attorney McAnaney said he has an Agreement in draft, which is not finalized yet, that lists the anticipated approvals that must be obtained first. After the approvals have been obtained, work will start in the Spring of 2011 and because of the Bald Eagle nesting sites, there will be times when no work will be conducted. The work will need to be phased in over several years. The Northeast Utilities representatives asked the Selectmen for authorization to approve the Agreement going forward after finalizing the details with the FOFAH, and then begin obtaining the necessary approvals for the local and state agencies.

Selectman Reynolds made the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Suffield enter into an Agreement with the Connecticut Light & Power Company and the Friends of the Farm at Hilltop to effectuate the creation of wetlands and wetlands enhancement at the Hilltop Farm property owned by the Town of Suffield;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman be and is authorized to enter into such written agreements, in his discretion, as are necessary to facilitate the creation of such wetlands and wetlands enhancement. The Resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Appointment: Town Assessor

Selectman Sullivan made a motion to appoint Helen Totz as Suffield's Assessor for a four year term through August 2014. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Reappointment: Ethics

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to reappoint Ellen Taylor Stearns to the Ethics Commission for a term through June 2014. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Discussion on Ad Hoc Committees

Mr. Frenaye distributed a list of a number of Ad Hoc Committees and wanted to review their activity, origin and history. Selectman Reynolds said that since there were 12 listed, he thought it would be more time efficient if Mr. Frenaye would supply more detail on the Committees later. Mr. Frenaye will supply more information as to when the Committees were created, what their charge was and how active they are.

Set date for Public Hearing on the Plan of Conservation & Development:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion that the Board of Selectmen set a public hearing on the Plan of Conservation & Development for September 15, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman's Updates:

Recap of Town Meeting of August 17, 2010

The Town Meeting passed the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority Ordinance and the Lease with Clearwire for the Water Tower.

Retirement of Deborah Howe

Deb Howe who was the Director of the IT Department, retired on August 31st after 25 years of service with the Town.

Suffield On the Green Sept. 11 & 12

Mr. Frenaye said the Town will have a Booth for Suffield On The Green weekend and invited the Selectmen to attend and meet and greet people and talk about the town.

9/11 vigil & Parade Sept. 11th @ 6 p.m. The Emergency Services will hold a Parade and Vigil on September 11th which will march from Ff Tyler Place to the Veteran's Monument.

Construction projects:

- Library Roof: Still waiting to hear from the State of CT on the STEAP Grant which the Town applied for to fix the Library roof.
- **School reimbursement:** The last of the project reimbursement requests did go into the State. The Town needs to wait for the audits to be complete before we can get much of the reimbursement money.
- **Vo-Ag:** The approval from the State on the revised Education Specifications were received. The reimbursement for the purchase of the Cannon property was submitted for reimbursement.
- **ADA violations at the High School:** The State said a number of issues had to be addressed by the Town concerning these violations. A significant number of the issues have been corrected, however, there are still some outstanding which will cost money to correct. There will be a request in this next budget year to fund the cost for some of those corrections. The town may have to finance the corrections and then deal with who's responsible for payment later on.
- **CT Siting Council Public Hearing:** The Siting Council has an application for a Cell Tower on private property on South Grand Street. There is a public hearing scheduled for September 28th at 7 p.m. at the High School.
- **Early Retiree Reinsurance Program Grant:** Congressman Joe Courtney has informed the Town that it is currently on the list for application approval. This was for funds which became available to help pay for retiree health care. The money has to be used to either reduce employee health costs or put towards the Other Post Employment Benefits for future retiree medical costs.

Executive Session:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to go into executive session at 8:21 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:01 p.m. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Koren, Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING: September 15, 2010