

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
September 15, 2010**

**Present:** First Selectman Tom Frenaye, Eileen Moncrief, Brian Fitzgerald and Timothy Reynolds. Mr. Frenaye called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on September 15, 2010 in the lower level conference room. Absent: Joanne Sullivan

**Addition to Agenda:** Selectman Reynolds made a motion to add under item #5 appointments to the North Central District Board of Health and the Public Works Commission.

**Minutes:** Selectman Moncrief made a motion to approve the minutes of September 1, 2010 with a correction to Page 2 under Senior Center Fund Raising change \$380,000 to \$386,000. The motion with amendment was approved by unanimous vote.

**Public Input:** Leo Smith of Mapleton Avenue addressed some of the comments which were made at the last Selectmen's meeting in reference to a letter he sent to the Board of Selectmen regarding signs. He said a lot of comments were made regarding that the Town needs to support businesses. He felt that "good signs" help businesses as well as the Town. He said businesses on Mountain Road in the Village District should be helping the Town presentable image. Mr. Smith said the Town doesn't have anything set up where we can be sure that a new business knows ahead of what exactly the rules are for signage. He felt the Town should have a mechanism in place where sign permitting involved some type of "pre-notice" to the businesses. Mr. Smith then asked the Board of Selectmen to review a process under which we could take a careful look at what the town wants to do with sign regulations. If we do want regulations, then some mechanism should be set up to enforce them.

Janet Banks, 9 Randall Drive said there has been a number of comments from members of the Heritage Committee. This is a situation the Committee struggled with for a long time. There has been a lot of concern and discussion among the members of the Heritage Committee for many years about how to get a handle on some of these issues.

Mr. Frenaye said that he did receive input from Bill Moncrief and Jack Quinn, Arnie Magid and Bill Hansen which are all members of the Heritage Committee with comments on this issue.

**Police & Fire Radio Systems Upgrade Realignment:**

Present was Dan Kehoe is working with the Police and Fire Departments on the Radio project. Mr. Kehoe is an independent radio and technology consultant who is assisting the Police, Fire and EMS with the Radio Upgrade Project. This is a 3-phase project. Phase 1 is completed and updated the Selectmen as to Phase 2. They want to flip Phase 2 and 3 around. This would not change the scope of the project in any way, but it does change what is going to be done and in what order. ACCE and Board of Finance all gave their approvals. This is a multi-year project. Phase 1 was completed and spent \$270,000

to replace 20 year old equipment. FCC mandate made it necessary to convert to narrow band technology which required buying new equipment. When approaching Phase 2 slated for this Fall, they are asking to expend \$610,000 to replace all the fire and police radios, which will bring the system nearly to completion. Phase 3 will finish up the project by adding additional receiver sites which will fix all the dead spots in town.

The radio vendor, WPCS, said the town could save \$27,300 if we purchase a large portion of the equipment during Phase 2 by the end of September. Rather than purchase the radios in Phase 3, they are asking to do that in Phase 2 to save the \$27,300.00.

Selectman Reynolds made a motion that the Committee again be authorized to combine the Police and Fire project Phase II budgets (\$357,000 and \$278,000 respectively) as a single amount for purchasing the products and services in the new Phase II. The authorized limit for Phase II would then be \$635,000. Such a combination was approved for Phase I. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Reynolds made a motion that the committee be authorized to “flip” the products and services of the two remaining project phases, particularly because it offers the Town a substantial cost savings (\$27,300) provided this is authorized and allowed to happen before September 30, 2010. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

#### **Historic Preservation Grant Application:**

The Town Clerk could not be present due to a conflict. The State offers a Grant for \$3,000. This Grant would be to scan and microfilm older maps so they can be converted to a digital format and become accessible on the public computer in the Clerk’s Office. There would be scanning of over 1000 maps and convert them from paper to electronic format. This requires no town matching funds.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion that the Board of Selectmen authorize Elaine O’Brien, Town Clerk, to be the designated applicant for the Town of Suffield for a Historic Preservation Targeted Grant in the amount of \$3,000. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

#### **Appointments:**

Social Services Commission:

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to appoint Sharon Kozaczka to the Social Services Commission to replace Linda Formanek through November 2010. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

North Central District Board of Health:

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to appoint Michael DiLorenzo as a member of the North Central District Board of Health through June 30, 2012. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Works Commission:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to appoint Albert J. Pastula to the Public Works Commission for a term through November 2012. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Plan of Conservation & Development Input:**

Based upon the public hearing on this matter earlier, there were a few good comments made by the public on the Plan of Conservation & Development. The Thompsonville Road area behind Krupa Oil was a concern by one resident and he asked for more detail. Another comment was a concern on what Boards or Commissions would be responsible and watch over and manage different areas of the Plan of Development. Mr. Frenaye said if the Selectmen had any comments, he would pass it along to the Zoning & Planning Commission.

**Tax Rebates:**

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the following Tax Rebates:

CAB EAST LLC	\$290.99	
CAB EAST LLC	\$ 58.22	
CAB EAST LLC	\$137.65	
CAB EAST LLC	\$ 53.32	
CAB EAST LLC	\$185.09	
CHRISTINE L. STONE	\$ 225.99	
CARRIEANN T. LIQUORE	\$ 35.16	
INDYMAC BANK	\$1,443.76	
NISSAN INFINITY LT	\$ 353.63	
IRON MOUNTAIN INCORPORATED		\$ 2,390.71
DANA E. SOUCIER & HOLLY A. FIDRYCH		\$ 81.90
IRON MOUNTAIN INFORMATION MGT INC.		\$3,147.02

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Selectmen's Updates:**

Fire Grant:

The Town did not qualify for the Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. The Grant, if awarded, would have given us two years worth of funding for a new firefighter and the town would have to fund the third year.

Capital Planning:

What we need to do long term planning with Town office space. Last year there was a recommendation to keep Bridge Street School and use it for town offices. In a year from now, the rental space at 230 Mountain Road lease will expire. Also the Town Hall needs work, as there have been problems with the HVAC. We repaired the roof last year, and in October the windows will be replaced through Grant Funding. The HVAC will have to go through a capital process of either getting it into the budget or possibly borrow money to do the work. Between that project and a number of other capital projects that didn't

make it through the budget process last year, we should begin talking more seriously about whether it is appropriate to Bond for some of the projects.

The Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant that was applied for to do Library repairs we are still waiting to hear on. If we are successful on obtaining the STEAP Grant, we should have enough money to fix the roof, but not the other issues at the Library. Also, the road repair work still needs funding.

Selectman Fitzgerald felt this was the best time for the town to borrow money because of the interest rates being so low. We know what the Town's needs are because of all the past studies on the Bridge Street School, the Town Hall, the Library renovations and Road and Bridge repair surveys, etc. Selectman Fitzgerald felt the Selectmen should make a recommendation on what should be done and go forward with it and try and convince the Town this is what needs to be done. Mr. Frenaye said any project over a million dollars should be brought to a Referendum for approval. Mr. Frenaye said he will visit discussion on this topic again in October at a regular meeting or hold a special meeting of the Board to move this along.

**Public Comment:**

Janet Banks, 9 Randall Drive. Felt that the Selectmen should state what projects needs to be done and promote them. Some people who vote in a Referendum may not be fully informed about what they are voting on. If they go to a Town Meeting to hear a presentation, then that is a different story. Mr. Frenaye said that we need to make a better effort to get information out to people and make sure they are well informed before voting.

**Executive Session:**

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The Selectmen went into session at 8:00 p.m.

Selectman Frenaye made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:20 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 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Koren, Recording Secretary

**NEXT MEETING: October 6, 2010 @ 7 p.m. Town Hall**