

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
March 2, 2011**

**Present:** First Selectman Thomas Frenaye, Eileen Moncrief, Brian Fitzgerald, Timothy Reynolds and Joanne Sullivan. Mr. Frenaye called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 2, 2011 in the lower level conference room.

**Minutes:** Selectman Moncrief made a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of February 16, 2011, with a amendment to the title that it was a Regular Meeting and not a Special Meeting. The motion with amendment was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to approve the Minutes of the special meeting of February 23, 2011. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Correspondence:**

Mr. Frenaye had received an e-mail from the Doran's regarding the Library.

The Board received a copy of a letter written by the Building Inspector, Ted Flanders which was sent to the Interim Superintendent of Schools complementing her for working with the Building Inspector during the gas leak incident at Spaulding School and also addressing the snow loads on the school roofs.

**Annual Report for 2009-2010:**

Mr. Frenaye said he received no input from the public on the draft Annual Report. The Annual Report has been posted on the website after February 16<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen's meeting where they opened the Public Hearing on the Report. There were corrections and comments suggested by Selectman Fitzgerald which will be incorporated in the final Report. The printed 2009-2010 Report should be available in about two weeks.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the 2009-2010 Annual Report and accept the report as amended. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**2011-12 Budget Review:**

Mr. Frenaye distributed copies of the proposed Budget which was presented to the Board of Finance last week. There has not been much of a change since last year. Since the conversion from Oil to Gas, fuel costs are down. The Selectmen commented and reviewed the budgets. There was discussion regarding regionalization of some town services. Mr. Frenaye said the budgets are about 99% complete. He has made some cuts

to the department budgets and will be discussing those cuts to the department heads in the next few weeks.

**Inclement Weather Policy:**

Mr. Frenaye distributed a draft Policy which addresses the closing some town offices during inclement weather conditions. This year, the Town Hall and Town Offices closed during the snow storm of January 12<sup>th</sup> . Mr. Frenaye said he could not find any previous policy regarding closures, such as who makes the decision to close a department, and if employees are paid for the time off. The Selectmen discussed and reviewed the Policy.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Inclement Weather Policy as provided by the First Selectman. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Tax Rebates:**

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

A. B. MASSA PAPER CORP.	\$ 169.16
A. B. MASSA PAPER CORP.	\$ 6.02
A. B. MASSA PAPER CORP.	\$2,376.26
Thomas A. or Maryfran Drakeley	\$ 58.34
Justin P. Eisenhaure	\$ 233.68
Jorge A. Messmer	\$ 23.19
Emily L. Nilson	\$ 23.04
Patrick A. Velie	\$ 371.09

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Girl Scout Week Proclamation**

Selectman Moncrief made the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, March 12, marks the 99th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, throughout its distinguished history, Girl Scouting has inspired millions of girls and women with the highest ideals of courage, confidence, and character; and,

WHEREAS, through the Girl Scout leadership experience girls develop the skills and lessons that will serve them a lifetime so that they may contribute to their communities; and,

WHEREAS, Girl Scouting takes an active role in increasing girls' awareness of the opportunities available to them today in math, science, sports, technology and other fields that can expand their horizons; and,

WHEREAS, more than 3 million current Girl Scout members nationwide will be celebrating 99 years of this American tradition, with nearly 50 million women who are former Girl Scouts and living proof of the impact of this amazing Movement;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Suffield do hereby applaud the commitment Girl Scouting has made to support the leadership development of America's girls and proudly proclaim the week of March 6, 2011, as Girl Scout Week. The Proclamation was approved by unanimous vote.

### **Selectman's Updates:**

#### **CT Resource Recovery Authority (CRRA) Recycling:**

CRRA will be refunding the Town \$5/ton for recyclables. The Town recycled about 1400 tons last year. Single Stream Recycling has made recycling easier and as a result has increased how much residents recycle. For every ton recycled that doesn't go into the trash, the town saves \$74.00 for every ton that stays out of the trash stream and goes into recycling. The total cost for disposing of regular trash is between \$300,000 - \$400,000 per year.

#### **Board of Finance:**

The Board of Education took a vote on the Board of Finance's request for a Memo of Understanding. The Board of Finance met the previous Monday and voted to recommend that the Memo of Understanding be signed by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education, agreeing that the budget will increase by only 1% this year and 3% the following two years. The Board of Education who met Tuesday night, decided that they will support a resolution that was general rather than specific. They unanimously approved a resolution stating that the Board of Education intends to work collaboratively with the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen, to control annual expenses and limit taxes. They remain committed to responsible fiscal policies; and, remain committed to provide the quality educational services deserved by the children and taxpayers of Suffield.

Selectman Fitzgerald said he was willing to agree to the 1%, 3% and 3%, but the Board of Finance is the Board who has the final decision on the budget. Selectman Sullivan felt the Board of Finance controls the budgets anyway, so they will have the final decision. Selectman Moncrief was disappointed in the spirit of this situation. She felt the Selectmen made it very clear to the Board of Finance and Education during their tri-board meeting in early Fall, that we want to move the bonding projects along. To come up now with a Memo of Understanding this late in the process is only delaying things, especially when we all agree that we are keeping the budgets as tight as we can. Selectman Fitzgerald said the Memo of Understanding is kind of a "commitment" going forward so it may help sell the bonding package when it goes forward to the voters. Mr. Frenaye said by the Finance Board's meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>, they will need to decide if what they have received from both Boards is sufficient or not. The Finance Board need to pass the capital projects resolutions and move forward or we will not be able to go to a Town Meeting.

Selectman Fitzgerald suggested that the Board of Selectmen vote on supporting the idea for the upcoming fiscal year no mil increase above 1% and for the two following years, no mil increase more than 3% unless conditions become radically different. Selectman Reynolds didn't believe we should vote on anything, but rather sign the document the Board of Finance wants.

Mr. Frenaye said the Selectmen must remember the other thing they are recommending to the Board of Finance is that they roll the trash fees into the tax rate. In doing that, it will bring the tax rate up more than 1%, off setting the \$206/year charge

Selectman Fitzgerald added that if the Board agrees to the 1%, 3% and 3% then we go forward with it, actually signing the Memo of Understanding is just a formality. At this point, Selectmen Frenaye, Fitzgerald, Reynolds and Moncrief signed the document and Selectman Sullivan was undecided and did not to sign it.

**First Selectman's Salary:**

Responding to a request from Selectman Fitzgerald at the last meeting, Mr. Frenaye said he did some comparisons in salaries with similar towns who have First Selectmen, from materials provided by the Conn. Conference of Municipalities (CCM), and felt the salary in Suffield for First Selectman is comparable and should not be increased.

**Public Input:**

Bruce and Kate Rietberg of 12 Devine Road were both frustrated with the Finance Board over the delay in approving the bonding projects. They felt that the yearly funding for roads should be at a high enough level so we don't have to bond to get the roads fixed.

They also commented on recycling and that businesses in town should make more of an effort to recycle. Mr. Rietberg suggested ways to compost waste.

The also said they were in favor of regionalizing some town departments and services.

**Executive Session:**

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Union Negotiations. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The Selectmen went into session at 8:45 p.m.

Selectman Reynolds left the executive session at 9:15 p.m.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:53. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to submit the Selectman's budget for fiscal year 2011-2012, as amended, to the Board of Finance. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Adjournment:**

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Koren, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting: March 16, 2011**