

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 17, 2011**

Present: First Selectman Thomas Frenaye, Eileen Moncrief, Timothy Reynolds and Joanne Sullivan. **Absent:** Brian Fitzgerald. Mr. Frenaye called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on August 17, 2011 in the lower level conference room.

Minutes: Approval of the Minutes of July 20th was postponed.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

Request from CL&P for temporary easement through Landfill:

The Town is still working with CL&P on this easement. Originally, CL&P was looking for a permanent easement to their right-of-way next to the Landfill, however, a permanent easement would require Town Meeting approval. The Town Attorney is working with CL&P's attorney to finalize the document. Mr. Frenaye should have a temporary easement document for approval for the Board's next meeting. On September 21st, CL&P will hold a public informational hearing at the Suffield High School from 6 – 8 p.m. Any property owner who has a direct impact or within 300 feet of the right-of-way will be personally notified.

Follow-up on Energy Recommendation from Alternative Energy Committee:

As a follow up from the Board's last meeting when the Alternative Energy Committee recommended a program offered by Direct Energy that might save town residents money on their electric bills, Town Attorney Alfano has given the Direct Energy contract a preliminary review.

The question for the Selectmen is whether they want to proceed to work with Direct Energy in first place. Direct Energy is asking for a one year commitment that we not promote any other energy supplier and they will then offer town residents pricing that is roughly 7% lower than that offered to residents individually today. A typical residential CL&P customer spending \$75.00 a month who switches to Direct Energy might see a savings of \$45 a year, but if the Town joins with Direct Energy, that customer might save an additional \$60 a year.

It appears that this program will offer enough of a discount to town residents to be meaningful and that the town would benefit by the education of what options are available for energy suppliers and by offering residents a real savings for energy pricing. Residents can switch to or away from Direct Energy at any time.

Mr. Frenaye asked the Board if we would like to proceed and if so, between now and September he can have the Town Attorney get in touch with Direct Energy to work on a

contract. Selectman Sullivan was not comfortable with the language that the Town not promote any other energy supplier. Selectman Moncrief recommended to move forward and have the Town Attorney review the contract language to exclude exclusivity language.

Discussion on future funding for Sidewalks and Bicycle Trails:

The Town's Plan of Conservation and Development contains a section related to sidewalks and bike trails. As a Town we have some trails and sidewalks in the Plan and the way we funded roads in the past is similar to how the State has been funding roads over the years. Starting in 2009 the State is putting 1% of road money into improving pedestrian and bike trails.

If the Town models PA 09-154 (An Act Improving Bicycle and Pedestrian Access) using one percent of funds allocated for roads in the town budget each year, would be a start. If sidewalks are a priority, it may make sense to set aside more substantial funding through the budget process. On average, new sidewalks can cost approximately \$32.00 per linear foot.

Sidewalks currently on Kent Avenue and Day Avenue are very old and have never been repaired. Mr. Frenaye said the Town should think about connecting the center of Town to the Bike Trail which goes from Enfield all the way to Windsor Locks. The Town would also like to connect downtown to the High School sidewalks or bike paths. Selectman Reynolds felt it should be in an area which would get a lot of use. There is also sidewalk on Kent Avenue which connects with Main Street to Ellison Street. Selectman Moncrief said many people use the Main Street sidewalks. They park at the King House and start walking well before dawn. Selectman Moncrief said she was approached by a woman who lives in West Suffield and asked why there are not any sidewalks in West Suffield Center.

The new bridge which has been recently constructed behind the High School will help pedestrians connect from the High School to Bruce Park. Mr. Frenaye we may wish to consider setting aside a percentage for this in the road funding in next year's budget. Since sidewalks and bike trails is part of the Plan of Conservation and Development, we should start planning for it. Mr. Frenaye said this is the type of project that is possible to get grants for, such as STEAP grants.

Recommendations from Central CT Solid Waste Authority for disposal services:

All the work which has been done in the last year looking at contracts, vendors and looking into individual town needs, came together with output that said here's the best choice for each of the Towns who are participating. The CCSWA has recommended that the Town stick with its current trash collector when its Agreement expires next year, but contract with a new company for recycling. The pricing is in line or a little less than what we are paying now. The problem with CRRA is that they do not guarantee prices. Murphy Road Recycling offers something that has similar pricing. The recommendation is that CRRA is best for Suffield for regular municipal waste, but for recycling, Murphy

Road Recycling LLC of Hartford is a little better. However, Murphy Road Recycling pricing would be contingent on State approval of a proposal to expand the Babylon Recycling Center facility on the Suffield-Windsor Locks town line.

Suffield's contract with CRRA for trash collection and recycling that expires in November 2012, but they require the Town's commitment sooner. The town could save roughly \$27,000 over the three year contract if it decided to hire Murphy Road Recycling LLC of Hartford for recycling, while continuing to use CRRA just for trash collection.

Mr. Frenaye plans on talking with other companies in the near future about prices for recycling and trash disposal.

Tax Rebates:

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

Augeri, Adriana M	11.74
Banak, Brian R	22.24
Betancourt, Lauren C	53.59
Blighton Interiors LLC	6.04
Bourque, Dana L and David	82.19
Cochrane, Rebecca L	102.72
Cochrane, Rebecca L	82.30
Condon, John F Jr or Holly	35.53
Domashinski, Michael P	60.97
Dunphy, Corrine A or Jeannine	34.84
Ferrari, Richard and Diana	11.80
Fleming Transportation Inc	422.90
Fleming Transportation Inc	575.82
Fleming Transportation Inc	15.14
Foley, Edward H and Deborah	14.50
Frane, Maria A	103.28
Gemme, Michael S	36.69
Girouard, Arthur F Jr	11.23
Goodman, Geraldine M	45.66
Lyman Family Trust	111.30
Makowski, Leo J or Leo	8.62
Newby, Robert W	47.90
Rotondo, David A	36.81
Stefanowicz, Frederic	15.76
Supinski, Robert T or Bartholomew, Anne	22.68
Tavino, James L	21.92
Tavino, James L	10.37
Tavino, James L	35.09
Ulitsch Mechanical Svs LLC	10.78
Ulitsch Mechanical Serv	15.63
Water Specialist LLC	69.32
Young, Brian S	24.08

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman's Update:

Temporary Library Update: The door was reopened in the lower level Conference Room in Town Hall to avoid having to add a sprinkler in that area. To have the public in a room, you either need a sprinkler or a two door exit. So it was more feasible to just have the door which was sealed years ago, reopened.

There was a construction meeting held for the Library Roof repairs this week and they will begin next Monday, August 22nd, on the outside of the building. After the September 7th Selectmen's meeting, the remaining meetings will be held at the Ambulance Building for September, October and November.

The Library will do a press release describing the services offered and their hours for business. They are encouraging people to take out books before the Library is closed for a few months.

Road Project status:

CT State Department of Transportation has completed all their paving projects consisting of a portion of Bridge Street, Sheldon Street and Mountain Road near the Congamond Lakes area.

The Suffield Street Bridge work continues to be on schedule with a completion expected in November.

Road Crack Sealing continues with a second round which will include sealing almost 14 more miles of town roads this fall.

Pavement Management for fiscal year 2011 budget will reconstruct the remaining portion of Bridge Street and Suffield Meadow Drive is scheduled for completion by the end of August. We are still on target to do a half mile of Phelps Road east of Copper Hill Road and Spruce Street east of North Grand Street this fall. Cain Street has also been added to the project.

Pavement Management funds approved at Referendum for \$3.1 million for 7 miles of road construction will be used for engineering work this fall and bids will be solicited for construction next spring.

The Town's highway crews have also been repairing a large number of potholes around town that developed last winter.

STEAP Grant: The Town applied for a STEAP grant for \$500,000 from the State for funding to pave Harvey Lane and Canal Road, which are in rough shape that primarily serve town businesses.

There was a meeting with the State DOT because they are working on a final design for a railroad crossing on Harvey Lane.

Water Line Upgrade: The Connecticut Water Company is upgrading the up to 80-year old water main that runs along Mountain Road from the Town Green to Spaulding School and should finish up their work in September.

State Reimbursement for School Projects:

Mr. Frenaye doesn't believe the Town has received any funds from the State in over a year. The Town finished submitting all of its paperwork in June 2010. The town is due \$1,682,000 from the State, mostly from the High School Project, but also the school renovation projects at the other schools.

Year-end Financial Estimate: Mr. Frenaye received some preliminary figures last week and it looks like there is approximately \$600,000 that was not spent on the Town's side.

Suffield On The Green-9/11 Candle Light Vigil: Mr. Frenaye met with Vic Mathieu who is doing the organizing of this event with John Woods and Laurie Foster from the Friends of Suffield for the ten year anniversary of 9/11. The event will occur Saturday evening at 6 p.m. on September 10th. They are going to have a long list of people attending the Parade, many attending from out of state. The Department of Correction is sending their Horse Guard and several other Towns are sending other Units and Equipment.

The Town has a new Superintendent of School, Karen Bladwin, who started a few weeks ago. Mr. Frenaye said that Mary Greenlaw-Dixon who served as interim-superintendent for 18 months did a wonderful job and was great to work with. She will be greatly missed.

Public Comment: None

Executive Session:

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and contract negotiations at 8:15 p.m.

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:41 p.m. 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 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Koren, Recording Secretary
*Transcribed from tape recording

Next Meeting: September 7, 2011 at 7 p.m., lower level conference room Town Hall.