

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 7, 2011**

Present: First Selectman Edward G. McAnaney, Eileen Moncrief, Timothy Reynolds, Joanne Sullivan, and Brian Fitzgerald. Mr. McAnaney called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on December 7, 2011, in the Suffield Ambulance Building, 205 Bridge Street.

Also present from the public: Don Miner, John Zavisza, Gary Paganelli, Linda Stevenson, Fire Chief Tom Bellmore, Capt. Craig Huntley and Chief Michael Manzi.

Minutes:

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 16, 2011. The motion was approved with all voting in favor and Mr. McAnaney abstaining.

Public Comment:

Mr. McAnaney asked for any public comment regarding any item on the Agenda.

Chief Michael Manzi of the Suffield Police Department distributed a report to the Board regarding the agenda item to reduce the number of sworn Police Officers from 20 to 18. Also present were members of the Suffield Police Commission, and Police Captain Craig Huntley.

Chief Manzi stated that to assess patrol requirements properly, guidelines and departmental policy preferences must be explicitly considered and applied. In order to create an effective deterrence to crime, Chief Manzi feels we need to provide a visible presence and also devote a large percentage of police time to proactive policing and crime prevention. He also noted that a large amount of their calls are medical calls which the department is legally obliged to take. These calls have more than doubled in a 10-year period.

Selectman Fitzgerald told the Chief that Management needs to decide what staffing levels are adequate. Selectman Tim Reynolds said he needs to weigh public safety and financial concerns and consider the financial effectiveness of increasing the overtime budget versus hiring new officers.

According to Police Commission Chairman Don Miner, there are 15 full-time Officers currently in active service with the department. Although the department has been authorized to have a total of 20 officers since 2008, they've had trouble reaching that number. Typically, the department is at the 16-18 Officer level. However, the department expects the two Officers currently on leave to return to full-time duty by the middle of December. The recruitment process for two new officers is currently underway, although the final decision by the Selectmen could end that process without new hires. The Selectmen agreed they would reach a final decision at its next meeting, scheduled for

Dec. 21, after they have had a chance to review the actual pros and cons of staff reduction and associated costs.

Designation to act on the behalf of the First Selectman:

Mr. McAnaney made a motion to designate Selectman Timothy Reynolds be appointed as the acting officer on the behalf of the First Selectman in his absence. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. McAnaney also informed the Board of Selectmen, that there is no requirement for a second to be made on any motion of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. McAnaney made a motion that the Selectmen adopt the Roberts Rules of Order with the exceptions as set forth in the Town Charter which require certain things such as three affirmative votes to pass any motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. McAnaney made a motion that any Special Meetings of the Board of Selectmen, will be called by the First Selectman after proper notice to the Board of a Special Meeting with appropriate posting requirements. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. McAnaney said that the Selectmen have 30 days to appoint representatives to act in behalf of the First Selectman to certain Boards and Commission, if the First Selectman so wishes to appoint them. According to the Charter, the First Selectman is the Ex Officio member of all boards and commissions and he can appoint other members of the Board of Selectmen to act on his behalf on those Board and Commissions. If no one is appointed within 30 days, they cannot be appointed later on. This item will be placed back on the Agenda and he asked the Selectmen for their preferences to what Board or Commission they would like to be appointed to.

Approval of 2012 meeting Calendar:

Mr. McAnaney expressed an interest to the Board about making one meeting per month at 4 p.m., instead of 7 p.m. However, the Board for various reasons preferred keeping both meetings at 7 p.m. Mr. McAnaney made a motion, which was unanimously approved, that the Board's meeting calendar as follows: The Board of Selectmen will meet on the first and third Wednesdays in the Town Hall lower level meeting room at 7:00 p.m., as listed below:

- January 4 & 18
- February 1 & 15
- March 7 & 21
- April 4 & 18
- May 2 & 16
- June 20
- July 18
- August 15
- September 5 & 19
- October 3 & 17
- November 7 & 21
- December 5 & 19

Designated Signer of Checks:

Mr. McAnaney made a motion to designate himself and Selectman Fitzgerald and Town Treasurer Christine Davidson, as the designated signatories on checks for the Town. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Purchase of Fire Truck:

Fire Chief Thomas Bellmore was present. At the time of the Bonding Referendum, the Town approved the purchase of two new fire trucks with approval of the Board of Selectmen before purchasing the trucks. The Fire Commission requested bids and two bid proposals were received. One was Sutphen Corporation, and the other was Pierce Manufacturing. Although Pierce was not the low bid for the truck itself, the Fire Commission believes the monetary value and safety features lost in the Sutphen truck proposal, exceed the cost difference in their proposal over Pierce's truck. Therefore, they were recommending the purchase of the Pierce Fire Truck with options for \$598,540.00.

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to award and enter into the contract for the purchase of a Pierce Arrow XT Rescue Pumper and related equipment as outlined in the detailed bid proposal plus accessories for a total amount not to exceed \$598,540.00. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

230C Mountain Road Lease Renewal:

The Building Department, Town Engineer, Conservation Office, Zoning & Planning, Public Works and Parks & Recreation Offices occupy 230C Mountain Road. The lease is up the end of December and a Lease Amendment needs to be negotiated.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to negotiate the Lease Amendment regarding the property located at 230C Mountain Road, subject to approval of the Board of Selectmen. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Bridge Street School Expression of Interest Proposals:

The Town solicited expression of interest on the Bridge Street School in September with a return date on submittals of November 18th. The town received three submissions. The Economic Development Commission will discuss these submissions at their next meeting on December 15th. They hope to provide a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting.

Historic Document Preservation Grant:

The Town Clerk has received a Grant for historic document preservation, and was requesting that the Board accept the grant and authorize the First Selectman to execute a contract with the Connecticut State Library.

Selectman Reynolds made the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That Edward G. McAnaney, First Selectman of the Town of Suffield, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality, a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Document Preservation Grant. The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Reduction of number of sworn Police Officers from 20 to 18:

Mr. McAnaney said earlier in the meeting the Selectmen received extensive presentations by the Chief and Chairman of the Police Commission. Therefore, Mr. McAnaney made a motion that the Board of Selectmen reduces the number of sworn Officers from 20 to 18. Discussion on the motion followed. Selectman Fitzgerald said although we are considering going to 18 Officers, this doesn't mean that we will remain at that level forever. This is something the Selectmen feel we can get by with for now and then look at other ways to be more efficient. Until we can get a handle on the Town's financial side, we should go with the 18 Officers and come up with some creative ways and ideas to supply the town with the kind of services that we need.

Selectman Reynolds said he believes there is a balance between public safety and finances. He would like to see what the overtime costs will be, because if the cost is going to be the same at 20 or 18, because of the overtime, then we may as well leave it at 20. So, he would like a report from the Finance Director to come up with the figures what the overtime would be with 18 Officers. Selectman Moncrief said she is astonished by the amount of overtime costs with the Police Department and would also like to see cost comparisons. Selectman Sullivan agreed she would also like to see the cost figures before voting on this matter. She also said it should be clear that we are not laying off any Officers if we go to 18, we are just not filling the two vacancy positions. It is not like anyone is losing their job and she wanted to be sure that was clear. It's just that they may not be hiring two new Officers.

Selectman Fitzgerald made an amendment to the original motion to table this matter until the Board's next meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Inter-Local Agreement with East Granby for an Animal Control Officer:

The Selectmen have a proposal to have an Inter-local Agreement with East Granby regarding the use of the Animal Control Officer. Mr. McAnaney has had discussions with First Selectman Jim Hayden of East Granby who has indicated that the Town is willing to pay Suffield \$15,000 a year from their budget plus \$1,000 for fuel costs to use a portion of our Animal Control Officer's time. The Agreement sets forth the terms of the arrangement. Chief Manzi added that Suffield has been housing East Granby's animals over the past several years at our Pound anyhow, but wasn't getting compensated sufficiently for that, so he feels Suffield will make out fairly well with this new arrangement.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an Inter-Local Agreement with the Town of East Granby for an Animal Control Officer. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

The appointment to the Economic Development Commission was withdrawn at this time until the Selectmen receive a recommendation from the Republican Town Committee.

Re-Appointment:

Selectman Sullivan made a motion to reappoint Michael Alexopoulos to the Library Commission through November 2015. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Tax Rebates:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion, which motion was approved by unanimous vote, to approve the following tax rebates:

Catherine D. Edward	\$105.72
David Bielonko	\$ 28.87
Brittany J.& Marlys A. Brown	\$ 5.70
Dennis W. Cordiliko	\$ 31.16
Robert or Theresa Crescitelli	\$ 41.81
Robert or Theresa Crescitelli	\$ 20.42
Rodney J. Dillman	\$ 16.25
Honda Lease Trust	\$320.67
John C. or Josephine Salamone	\$ 12.45
Buela Sylvia	\$ 7.08
Toyota Motor Credit Co.	\$225.09
VW Credit Leasing LTD	\$211.90
VW Credit Leasing LTD	\$136.20
Nissan Infiniti LT	\$181.51
GMAC	\$ 99.71
GMAC	\$273.51

Selectman’s Updates:

Debris Removal: The Board of Finance authorized \$1,066,000 for debris removal, which has been mostly spent. We are now using the Highway Crew for removal of any added debris which is being taken to the Town’s Landfill, but we are also encouraging residents to take the debris to the Landfill themselves. Tree Crews sent by CL&P are also working in Town cutting limbs and addressing tree issues around the powerlines. The removal of this trimming will also be done by the Town crews.

Development Rights on Quarry & Phelps Roads:

The development rights for 164 Acres at Quarry & Phelps Roads was purchased. Meadow View Farms from Southwick will be farming the land. A gathering was held last week with Town and State Officials to celebrate the development rights being purchased and the property continues to be farmland preservation. The Town will also acquire an acre of land which will be used as a parking lot for the Farmington Valley Bike Trail.

Termination of the State of Emergency:

Mr. McAnaney made a motion to officially terminate the State of Emergency for the Town of Suffield regarding Storm Alfred which hit on October 29 & 30, 2011. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Executive Session:

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m., to discuss Contract Negotiations. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Human Resource Director, Joyce Feeney, was invited into the Executive Session.

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:58 p.m. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Vote:

There is a tentative agreement with the Highway Union before the Selectmen for consideration. Selectman Reynolds made a motion that the Highway Union Contract, Teamsters Local #559, dated November 11, 2011, be accepted by the Board of Selectmen. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Selectmen, Selectman Reynolds made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Koren, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: December 21st @ 7 p.m., Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Building