

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 20, 2013**

Present: First Selectman Edward G. McAnaney, Joanne Sullivan, Eileen Moncrief, and Brian Fitzgerald. Selectman Timothy Reynolds was absent. First Selectman McAnaney called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Also in attendance: Patrick McMahon, Director of Economic Development; Michael Debay, Southwick Lake Management Committee; John Smith of White Light Visual Systems.

Minutes: Selectman Moncrief noted that a reference to Carnegie Library Fund should be changed to Carnegie Library Foundation. Selectman Moncrief made a motion to accept the March 6, 2013 minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen as corrected. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Public Comments: Cindy Nicholson, 385 Lakeview Drive, Vice Chair of the Park & Recreation Commission presented a letter to the Board of Selectmen stating their interest in utilizing the Bridge Street School for Park & Recreation usage. Their programs rely on availability of space which limits and challenges their scheduling. They recommended using Bridge Street school for multipurpose rooms, equipment storage, athletic fields, and office space for Parks & Recreation employees allowing other departments to move from rental areas. First Selectman McAnaney suggested that they attend upcoming Suffield Speaks Open Houses and Forums to aid in determining the future use of Bridge Street School.

Tax Rebates:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the tax rebates as recommended by the Tax Collector: Fleury, Scott C & Heidi M & Surv, \$405.56; Arce, Armand, \$3.75; Bishop, Lorraine, \$9.29; Daimler Trust, \$288.64; Delisa, Robert M \$213.18; Kida, Gayle F, \$41.11; LeBlanc, Stacie, \$5.65; Nowak, Robert F, \$372.60; O'Hanley, Andrea E, \$8.16; Stanly Jonathon R & Kathleen & Surv, \$11.68; Total \$1359.62. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Fair Housing Action Plan:

This item was tabled until the April 3rd meeting since it cannot be acted upon until April. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Receive Draft of Annual Report 2011-2012

John Smith provided the Selectmen with a draft copy of the Annual Report. He said that Board and Commission data was difficult to obtain due to software changes with the retirement of the Admins system. Mr. Smith requested that the Selectmen review and provide him with changes. The charter needs to be reviewed for the acceptance procedure. Selectman Fitzgerald asked Mr. Smith how the process could be completed faster to be in compliance with the charter. Mr. Smith suggested that the RFP be created in July/August and that the departments create their submissions by September.

Then when the finance audit is complete the financial data can be inserted. Presently, no work begins until the financial audit is complete. The Board thanked Mr. Smith for his work.

Ellington Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program

Patrick McMahon, Director of Economic Development, explained that the program provides low to moderate income families with deferred loans for home improvements. Currently there are 15 Suffield homes on the waiting list. Typical requests are for repairs and energy efficiency improvements. The maximum funding is \$450,000 with a split between the three towns. Selectman Moncrief made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to enter into the agreement with Somers and Ellington. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Selectman Fitzgerald also asked Mr. McMahon if grants can be pursued to fix sidewalks on Day Ave. Mr. McMahon responded that the grants may not be targeted to a street but to a specific neighborhood that needs improvement. He said that more grants are available for ADA purposes than for road improvements. The Selectmen discussed the Suffield Housing Authority needs. Selectmen Moncrief asked about possible generators. First Selectman McAnaney said he would speak of these items in his update later in the meeting. Selectman Fitzgerald commented on the lack of financial information regarding the Suffield Housing Authority. He knows it is regulated by the state but questioned if there is information they could see. Selectman Moncrief asked if there is anything we can do as Board of Selectmen to help the Housing Authority.

Computer Use Policy

In response to an item on the financial audit, IT Director Dan Beaudoin has provided a draft version of the Policy on Personal Use of Town Office Equipment. The First Selectman asked the Board to review the document and provide feedback. The planned implementation date is in two weeks.

Weir Gate Funding Request

Michael Debay from the Southwick Lake Management Committee was in attendance to provide input to the Board of Selectmen. He gave a presentation in January requesting that the Town of Suffield contribute 25% of the expected \$40,000 project cost to replace the Weir Gates. The current gates have been in place for 25 years. This matter was tabled in January so funding options could be investigated. The First Selectman said the money could be moved from the other Purchased Services account (50590) if the Board was agreeable. Selectman Moncrief made a motion to approve up to \$10,000 for the Weir Gate funding request. The First Selectman stated that this was not meant to be an approval for future dredging nor to underwrite the cost of dredging. Selectman Fitzgerald said he was in favor of the motion, but would like Southwick to inform Suffield of changes being made that would affect Suffield residents. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Selectman's Budget Update

The First Selectman passed out a summary document for the Town portion of the budget. The balance of the Town (not including Education) proposed budget shows an increase of 3.36% or about \$455,000. \$204,971 is an increase in employee insurance and benefits.

\$147,705 is for Town-aid-road, which is fully reimbursable. \$100,000 is in the Public Works budget for increased burn fees and a mandated landfill employee salary increase. The First Selectman is expecting \$30,000 income for recycling rebates. The Town receives \$22.50 per ton of recycling. Increasing Condo recycling is an item the Town is currently pursuing. The Assessor's budget shows a 44% decrease which was explained as savings due to revaluation. The ACCE project recommendation was also reviewed. Selectman Moncrief commended ACCE on their efforts since they were late being appointed. First Selectman McAnaney applauded Selectman Fitzgerald's suggestion to ask Ryan Anderson to join ACCE as his Board of Finance view was helpful to the committee. An item will be added to the agenda of the April 3rd meeting for the Board of Selectmen to endorse the budget.

Selectman's Update

The First Selectman is considering fixing the sidewalks on Day Ave with internal Town resources. The Town Arborist and Highway Dept will work together to remove tree stumps as a first step. There is also a sidewalk on the west side of the Fire Station that needs to be repaired. The Boston Neck Bridge is on schedule to be completed by June. In a meeting with CL&P, the circuit serving Maple Court was identified as the first priority for restoration in Town. The Town was awarded \$16,400.80 in a Police Video Equipment Technology (PVET) Grant this week. The funds will be used to conform with Public Act 11-174 which requires the electronic recording of interrogations in certain situations beginning on January 1, 2014. Additionally, two Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) were awarded today to aid in Town Emergency Preparedness costs. Finally, we are considering joining other Towns in a prescription drug discount program. This program is offered to current members of Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), which Suffield is a member. The program offers discounts on prescriptions, Vision, Lasik and hearing to Town residents who are without health insurance or a traditional pharmacy benefit plan or have prescriptions not covered by insurance. There is no cost to the Town. The discounts are negotiated directly with participating pharmacies. After the agreement is reviewed and signed, a card is designed and a mailing is sent to all town residents in about 6 weeks

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing union negotiations. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Executive Session convened at 8:23 p.m. and adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Selectman Fitzgerald moved that the meeting adjourn. Vote 4-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be Wednesday, April 3, 2013.

Lisa Trase
Recording Secretary