

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 8, 2014**

Present: First Selectman Edward G. McAnaney, Joanne Sullivan, Brian Fitzgerald, and Mel Chafetz. Selectman Timothy Reynolds was absent. Ted Flanders, Building Official was also in attendance. First Selectman McAnaney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: Selectman Sullivan made a motion to accept the December 18, 2013 minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 27, 2013 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Public Comment:

Dave Gauthier of 3219 Phelps Road West Suffield was in attendance to discuss the CL&P Home Energy audit. Mr. Gauthier attended the Board of Selectmen meeting on September 5, 2012 to request the Town to participate, This is a low cost (to no cost) home energy audit with a portion of the fee to be donated to the Emergency Aid Fuel Bank (\$25). At the next Selectmen meeting (9/19/12) the minutes stated that a letter was being sent to residents to make them aware of the project. Mr. Gauthier asked if the letter was ever sent. Mr. McAnaney stated that the final draft was never received from CL&P so the letter was never sent. Mr. Gauthier urged the Board to resurrect the letter since the project will not help our budget but will help people.

Mr. Gauthier also discussed pay raises and compensation for Town employees. At the last meeting the Selectmen voted in a 2% raise for all non-union employees when prior minutes (April 3, 2013) stated a 1%. He questioned whether or not elected officials would receive the increase including the First Selectman position which received a large increase post election He said that there are no guidelines, no clear procedures or processes. He stated that raises should not be automatic. He urged the Selectmen to step up and make a better process for compensation.

Tax Rebates:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve a tax rebate for Edward and Patricia Keyes in the amount of \$2,758.09. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Library Commission appointments:

Mr. McAnaney stated that there were three candidates recommended for two positions. Recommendations were made by the Town Committees and the Library Commission. After a brief discussion, Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to appoint Benito Cuevo to the Library Commission to fill the vacancy left by Mel Chafetz through November, 2017. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Selectman Sullivan made a motion to appoint Rebecca Fuller to the Library Commission to fill the position of Joyce Wilson through November, 2015. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Selectman's Update

Update on Budget Submissions:

The First Selectman reported that he has received budgets from most Town departments. Meetings will begin next week to review their submissions. Selectmen Fitzgerald and Chafetz have offered their assistance.

Selectman Chafetz asked about goals for budgets. The First Selectman noted that the Operating budget doesn't change much but the Capital portion requires more discussion. Mr. Chafetz noted that there should be discussion regarding whether or not staffing levels and salaries are appropriate. It was agreed to add a budget goal discussion item to the Agenda for the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Selectman Fitzgerald also asked that the Selectmen discuss a plan for maintenance of the lake roads in West Suffield. First Selectman McAnaney agreed to add it to the next Board of Selectmen meeting agenda.

The Special Meeting regarding Bridge Street School was confirmed for Thursday, January 16th at 1:00 p.m.

Large Animal Facility Status:

There are three major items impeding the completion of the Large Animal Facility. There are cracks in the floor, a crack in a wall and roof issues. The contractor, Haynes Construction, entered the building without permission to repair the cracks and those repairs need to be inspected. First Selectman McAnaney reported that he has contacted the bond company to initiate the process of calling the bond. We have sent the bond company volumes of requested information regarding the project. There will be a meeting next week with the bond company.

The Fire Pump is still an issue. The bid period closes on January 14th to determine a new contractor to repair the pump house. Selectman Fitzgerald stated that the whole Board is impatient as they expected to open the building in September 2012. First Selectman McAnaney noted that the Town is holding about \$250,000 in payments due for each of the two projects. There is no bond on the Pump project which is why we are soliciting a new contractor. The Selectmen agreed that in the future, contracts need to be written to give the Town more leverage to complete the projects. It was noted that the contract for the Boston Neck Bridge was written with deadlines and penalty clauses and that worked well.

The Audited Financial report was received and is available for the Selectmen to pick up.

Selectman Fitzgerald moved that the board enter Executive session to discuss

Litigation. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Executive session convened at 7:40 pm and ended at 7:58 pm. There being no further business, Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Next Board of Selectmen Meeting will be Wednesday, January 22, 2014.

Lisa Trase
Recording Secretary