

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 6, 2011**

Present: First Selectman Thomas Frenaye, Eileen Moncrief, Brian Fitzgerald. Absent: Timothy Reynolds and Joanne Sullivan. Mr. Frenaye called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on April 6, 2011 in the lower level conference room.

Minutes: Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting of March 2, 2011. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Meetings of March 8, 2011. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 23, 2011. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Change to the Agenda:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to add to the agenda after item 6, a request to transfer of funds for the Tax Collector for tax rebates and a transfer of funds for Legal Fees. He also moved that the following be added to the agenda after item 10 consideration for changes to the Benefit Policy for the Executive Group. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment:

Tony Roncaioli, Randall Drive. Asked if the Retirement Commission has the ability to amend the Town's Pension Plan. He asked if there is a way to modify the Town's Pension Plan and if so, what is the process to change it from a Defined Benefit Plan to a Defined Contribution Plan? He said some members of the Retirement Commission could not give him an answer. Mr. Frenaye said the Pension Plan was established and is part of the Town's Charter and can be amended by a Town Meeting. It is an Ordinance also. Mr. Frenaye said he will get back to him on this. Selectman Fitzgerald said that even if the Pension Plan was amended, it would also have to be negotiated with the Unions. It is a two step process.

Mel Chaftez, Mapleton Avenue announced that there will be a Public Forum on the new Library at 7 p.m., on April 13th presented by Joe Sangiovanni and James McShane to answer any misconceptions or questions regarding the proposed new Library.

He also said that there is a lot of misinformation being circulated on the actual cost of the library. He said that there is an e-mail circulating that the new Library will be \$8.9 million dollars plus \$5 million to renovate the existing old Library for Town Offices. Mr. Frenaye said that there are no plans to renovate the existing Library.

Month of April-Autism Awareness Proclamation

There were many families present with their children in support of this proclamation.

Selectman Moncrief made the following Proclamation:

WHEREAS, Autism is a complex pervasive development disorder that affects a person's social, learning and behavioral skills and manifests itself uniquely in each affected individual; and

WHEREAS, Autism affects not only the diagnosed individual, but the entire family and community at large; and

WHEREAS, Autism is one of the fastest growing developmental disabilities in the world. Autism affects 1 in every 110 children born today. Over 1.5 million Americans today have some form of Autism, including some members in our community of Suffield; and

WHEREAS, it is known that with proper education, training and community living options, individuals with Autism can lead distinguished, productive lives in their communities and strive to reach their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, Suffield supports increasing awareness of this challenging disability and brings vital and important information to the community and other parents who have a child with Autism.

NOW THEREFORE, We, the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Suffield, Connecticut, do hereby proclaim APRIL, 2011 as Autism Awareness Month.

The proclamation was approved by unanimous vote.

Also present were State Representative Elaine O'Brien and Senator John Kissel in support of Autism Awareness. Ms. O'Brien presented parent, Doriana Vicedomini, with a Citation from the State of Connecticut recognizing April as Autism Awareness month, in support of the parents and families in town who struggle with autism.

A Walk for Autism will be held on June 5th at Rentschler Field at 10 a.m.

Recommendation from Public Works Commission:

Present from the Commission was Vice-Chairman Ron Rookey and Tony Roncaioli. The Commission were asking the Selectmen to reconsider the practice of mowing and maintaining private sports fields. Mr. Roncaioli explained that the Commission has been discussing changes to the Highway Department with possibly bifurcating the Department into different divisions to better allocate resources. When the Commission discussed outsourcing mowing, it came out that the Town is mowing the Little League fields, i.e., Christian Field. The Soccer Club mows the Town-owned field. Mr. Frenaye said the Soccer Club actually leases some of the town fields which was a trade-off for mowing them. They have first use of the fields in exchange for maintaining them for the town. Mr. Rookey said traditionally it was always mowed by the Club itself, but for the last 15 years or so, the Town assumed responsibility. Mr. Frenaye felt that if Christian Field wasn't there for the Little League, they would be putting pressure on the rest of the playing fields for them to use. Over time, Little League has donated mowers and other equipment to the Town in exchange for the compensation of time that the Town puts in. Mr. Rookey said there is talk about cutting down public works employees and it really

becomes the question on what you would rather do? What benefits most of the Townspeople? Mowing fields or maintaining roads? What are the priorities?

Selectman Fitzgerald said we do a lot of things public and private such as plowing private roads, maintain the cemeteries, etc.

The Selectmen thanked the Commissioners for their input.

Fair Housing Resolution:

Selectman Moncrief made the following Resolution:

Whereas, the month of April is recognized nationally as Fair Housing Month;

Whereas, Fair Housing is important to ensure all Americans the right to live in a decent, safe, and sanitary environment; and

Whereas, Fair Housing is the legal right of every American to live wherever they choose; and

Whereas, the Town of Suffield is proud to participate in the recognition and support of Fair Housing Month;

Now Therefore, we, the Board of Selectmen, acting herein by Thomas Frenaye, First Selectman, do hereby proclaim April to be Fair Housing Month in the Town of Suffield, Connecticut.

The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Transfer of Funds: Tax Collector

Tax Collector (not present) Jill Schechtman was requesting \$25,000 from Contingency for the tax rebate line item.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to transfer \$25,000 from Contingency for the Tax Collector's tax rebate line item and forward the recommendation to the Board of Finance. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Transfer of Funds: Legal fees

Due to a larger than normal need for legal services, the First Selectman was requesting that the Board transfer \$25,000 from Contingency.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to transfer \$25,000 from Contingency to the Town Counsel legal fees line item. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Tax Rebates:

1. Financial Service Vehicle Trust	\$ 55.40
2. Financial Service Vehicle Trust	\$417.99
3. Financial Service Vehicle Trust	\$513.07
4. Financial Service Vehicle Trust	\$ 32.76
5. Financial Service Vehicle Trust	\$ 41.84
6. Sandra L. or Timothy D. Goulet	\$ 31.14
7. Donald C. Loveless	\$ 38.85
8. Richard V. & Mary M. McCarthy	\$205.80
9. Richard V. & Mary M. McCarthy	\$205.80
10. Amber L. McFarland	\$214.83
11. Pamela S. Omeara	\$122.70
12. Snap-On Credit	\$1,562.16
13. Paul Suzenski	\$ 1.93
14. Paul Suzenski	\$ 4.23
15. CAB East LLC	\$ 379.55; \$253.03; \$167.54; \$102.90; \$139.48; \$297.25

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Reappointments:

Economic Development:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to reappoint Howard Orr, Sue Thorner and Brian Banak, alternate member to the Economic Development Commission for a 4-year term through March 2015. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Technology Committee:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to table the reappointments to the Technology Committee. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman's Updates:

Suffield Street Road Closure:

Suffield Street is closed due to Bridge repairs. Additional directional signs have been installed on the north and south ends of Suffield Street. The road will remain closed through November 2011.

Citizens Restoring Congamond:

The CRC will host its annual meeting on Tuesday, April 12th and invited the Board of Selectmen to attend. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Crabby Joe's Restaurant.

State-Dept. of Transportation:

The State-DOT will be doing some paving of State Roads in Town this summer. The roads earmarked for paving are Mountain Road between Babb's Road and the State Line, Sheldon Street from Mountain Road to South Grand and also the State's portion of Bridge Street which is to start the week of April 18th.

Public Comment:

Sami Mehmed of 10 Dara Lane asked if the design for the bridge that will be installed on the agri-science property has been changed. Mr. Frenaye said instead of having culverts they will do an end-to-end bridge for a full spanned bridge, which is going to cost more,

but is included in the cost of the project. This design change was required by the CT DEP.

Police Commission:

Present was Don Miner, Chairman of the Police Commission and Captain Craig Huntley.

Ford has discontinued making the Crown Victoria for police vehicles and moving towards a Police Interceptor which is on a Taurus frame. These new vehicles can be considerably higher in price. The Commission felt it would be wise to commit to the purchase of two Crown Victoria's now, while they are still available. This would save us some money from the price increase. In order to issue a purchase order to do this, we will need budget money to encumber the funds. Mr. Miner said there are funds available in the Off Duty Account which could be used to purchase the vehicles. The Police Commission voted in favor of this just earlier this evening, and if the Selectmen approve it, he will take to the Board of Finance on April 11th.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to approve the transfer \$47,000 from the Off Duty Police Officers Fund for the purchase of two vehicles as they become available, and transfer the funds to the Police Department's Vehicle Purchase line item and forward to the Board of Finance for consideration. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Heritage Committee:

At the last meeting of the Selectmen, there were discussions regarding the Heritage Committee. Mr. Frenaye distributed materials on the background of the Committee when they were appointed in the year 2000. Some of what the Committee was set up to do has been accomplished, but they have been working on Open Space and Farmland Preservation. Town Planner, Bill Hawkins is working on Open Space and Farmland programs for Zoning & Planning. Mr. Frenaye suggested a new Committee might focus on Open Space/Farmland Preservation.

US Census:

Suffield has 15,735 town residents as of April of last year. This includes 2100 inmates from the Prison. It is 2183 more than the Census 10 years ago. From 2000 – 2010 Suffield grew by 16.1%.

Execute Session:

Selectman Moncrief made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The Selectmen went into session at 8:30 p.m.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:01 p.m. the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Selectman Moncrief made a motion that the Board of Selectmen approve the modifications to the Executive Agreement between the Town of Suffield and members of the Executive Group, and authorize the First Selectman to execute any and all documents pertaining to said Agreement, which changes will be effective July 1, 2011. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Adjournment:

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Koren, Recording Secretary