

**MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 7, 2011**

Present: First Selectman Thomas Frenaye, Timothy Reynolds, Joanne Sullivan, and Brian Fitzgerald. **Absent:** Eileen Moncrief. Mr. Frenaye called the emergency meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 7, 2011 in the Suffield Town Hall, second floor conference room. (recording secretary, Chris Koren, was absent). Also present was John Woods, Mark Cervione, Deb Cerrato, Elaine O'Brien, Charles Alfano, Jr., and the members of the entire Board of Finance.

The only item on the Agenda for the emergency meeting is to consider an emergency appropriation of \$990,000 from the Town's General Fund for expenses associated with the October 29-30 Snow Storm and Power Outage, under Town Charter Section 804D.

Under Charter section 804D, the purpose of an emergency meeting is to make emergency appropriations with the Board of Selectmen's recommendation to the Board of Finance, can approve up to 2% of the budget transfer in an emergency situation threatening the lives, health and property of citizens.

The Town activated its EOC and Emergency Shelters while CL&P restored power. The Town's Emergency Shelter and the Senior Center were set up to accommodate residents who were in need of emergency assistance. The Town had to clear roads from downed trees. Many volunteers helped in the Emergency Operations Center to answer phones and help people with their problems while being without power. Many residents had special medical and physical needs which needed to be addressed.

The Town now needs to address debris removal. The State of Connecticut has contractors in place which can be used on a local basis if the Town decides to do so. The Town has met with a number of companies that do clearing as well as monitoring the debris removal process. FEMA representatives were in Town looking at the damage. They were preparing a preliminary damage assessment which helps them support the Federal Disaster Declaration. It was estimated by FEMA to be over 1 million dollars in terms of damage and costs. The Federal Government through FEMA will reimburse the Town 75% of the actual total of expenses. These costs will cover over time costs for the landfill, highway department, shelter costs including nursing costs, food and costs for fuel for generators, etc. Emergency Management Director, John Woods stated that the Town has already spent \$150,000 on things that were outside the budget which we hope to get reimbursed from FEMA. Now we will need to spend about 1 million for debris removal. So, we may need to actually appropriate \$1.5 million. Mr. Frenaye explained that the \$990,000 being requested comes from the 2% of the budget, but does not mean this is the total expenses. This appropriation is possible without having to go to a town meeting which would delay the process another week or more. This way we can get started immediately on the debris removal process.

Selectman Reynolds made the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Board of Selectmen authorize the expenditure of up to \$1,066,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance, for the expenditures related to the clean up from winter Storm Alfred, since an emergency exists in the Town which threaten the lives, health, safety and property of citizens, subject to the approval of the Board of Finance. 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 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Koren, Recording Secretary
(*transcribed from tape-recording)