

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 6, 2021
7:00 P.M.
HYBRID MEETING
Town Hall Meeting Room, 83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT
And
Via Zoom Teleconference**

Selectmen present: Melissa M. Mack, Kathleen Harrington, Peter Hill, Jerry Mahoney and Tim Reynolds

Present in person or via Zoom teleconference: Town Attorney Derek Donnelly

Also in attendance: Friends of Suffield Members: Becky Tobiasz, Lori Sych, Leslie Marx, Maria Andrade and Knights of Columbus President Rich Sych

First Selectman Mack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acknowledgement of Fire Prevention Week and Proclamation for Captain Ron Carlson's 50 years of Volunteer Service to Town of Suffield Fire Department

First Selectman Mack invited all to join her in recognizing Ron Carlson on his 50 years of Volunteer Service to the Town of Suffield Fire Department, thanked all of the first responders for being here this evening and for their service to the Town of Suffield. She proceed to give the following speech:

"We are here today to honor Ron Carlson's distinguished service and outstanding 50 year volunteer contribution to the Town of Suffield."

- *1970 Graduate of Springfield College with a BS in Health, Physical Education & Recreation*
- *Joined Suffield Fire Department September 13, 1971*
- *Firefighter of the Year 1976*
- *President Suffield Firemen's Association 1979*
- *Deputy Fire Marshal 1979*
- *Volunteer LT 1981*
- *Volunteer Captain 1982*
- *Responsible for Public Fire Safety/Fire Prevention Education and presented to every single Suffield public school student since 1977*
- *He is remembered by most for his EDITH presentation*

"I have a story about this. Ron grew up on Hillside Street in Newington next door to my uncle. So I called my uncle to tell him that we were going to honor Ron for his incredible service and devotion to Fire Prevention education and asked if he had any childhood stories that foreshadowed Ron's impressive career. My uncle started laughing, prefaced that it was a different time back then, and proceeded to tell me more than a few stories about how as kids they used to blow things up in the backyard. So, apparently Captain Carlson started training for his role as Fire prevention educator through first hand experiments assuring that he really knew what to tell the kids about how to be safe!"

- *Ron retired from Hamilton Standard as Assistant Fire Chief*
- *He has been a State of CT Fire Academy Adjunct Instructor since 1995*

- 1998 CT Public Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year presented by the State of CT Commission on Fire Prevention and Control
- Recognized in 2002 by the CT Association of Public School Superintendents Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to CT's public schools
- Ron was instrumental in developing confined space entry training during emergency operations for the CT Fire Service.

*"I was humbled to hear Captain Carlson along with his Suffield Fire Department colleagues Frank White and Lew Cannon speak at the 20th Anniversary 9/11 Memorial Service last month. In Captain Carlson's own words, he "joined the fire service in the beginning because he wanted to help people and make sure that they are safe." He noted that fire service is a very action-oriented organization. His approach to his 50 years of service has been to gain knowledge, understand what that knowledge was telling him, then do an action and reevaluate to make sure he was doing it correctly. This has been his driving force as he's witnessed the evolution of fire service over the last 50 years. At the start of his career, he fought fires. In the 1970's, they added the medical aspect, in the 1980's they began mitigating dangerous hazardous materials, the 1990's saw a worldwide increase in terrorism and use of weapons of mass destruction. On September 11th, 2001, in response to the terrorist attacks on our nation, Captain Carlson wanted to do whatever he could to help our nation's recovery. So, he, along with Suffield Fire fighters White and Cannon volunteered to do overnight shifts at St. Paul's Chapel Incident Command Center helping out in any way to assist the effort. Captain Carlson was awestruck by this experience that emphasized the strength and power of emotion he could feel as a First Responder. I think we can all agree that Captain Carlson's 50 years of duty, honor, dedicated service and sacrifice makes him a **true** hero."*

*"I did a rough calculation and with Monday night and minimum trainings, special trainings, community activities and fire calls (day or night), Ron Carlson and his family have dedicated over **10,000** hours to the Town of Suffield over 50 years. That is more than a year of his life."*

"On behalf of the Town of Suffield, words are inadequate to thank you for your and your family's commitment "to help the people of Suffield and make sure that we are safe." Thank you."

Former **Fire Chief Bellmore** and current **Fire Chief Flynn** provided words of gratitude for Mr. Carlson's service to the Suffield Community.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of the minutes from the September 22, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Harrington motioned to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. **Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

Selectman Hill motioned to add agenda item 4A "Approval of the minutes from the September 29, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. **Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the minutes from the September 29, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Harrington motioned to approve the minutes from the September 29, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. **Vote: 4 in favor (Mack, Harrington, Reynolds and Mahoney) and 1 abstain (Hill.) Motion passed.**

Approval of the minutes from the September 29, 2021 Joint Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning and Zoning Commission

Selectman Hill motioned to table the approval of the minutes from the September 29, 2021 Joint Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning and Zoning Commission. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of Charter Revision Explanatory Text

Attorney Derek Donnelly presented a brief overview of the purpose of the Charter Revision Explanatory Text to the board.

Selectman Mahoney motioned to approve Charter Revision Explanatory Text as presented. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Hill motioned to add agenda item 6A “Discussion and approval of tax abatement for Joseph S. Adams Sr. due to overpayment in the amount of \$1,428.14. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of tax abatement for Joseph S. Adams Sr. due to overpayment in the amount of \$1,428.14

Selectman Harrington motioned to approve tax abatement for Joseph S. Adams Sr. due to overpayment in the amount of \$1,428.14. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Hill motioned to add agenda item 6B “Discussion and approval of tax abatement for J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. due to overpayment in the amount of \$2,148.15. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of tax abatement for J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. due to overpayment in the amount of \$2,148.15

Selectman Reynolds motioned to approve tax abatement for J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. due to overpayment in the amount of \$2,148.15. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Proclamations for Town of Suffield’s 350th Anniversary

Selectman Harrington motioned to table the reading of the 350th Anniversary Proclamations. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Hill motioned to add agenda item 7A “Recognition of Friends of Suffield. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of Friends of Suffield

The Board of Selectmen honored the Friends of Suffield for its 50 year history. In particular, all of its volunteers past and present, including former President Becky Tobiasz, current President Lori Sych and members Maria Andrade and Leslie Marx who were in the audience. **First Selectman Mack** noted that the Friends of Suffield have done so much to support the Suffield community, including recently partnering with the Town to host the 350th Anniversary fireworks display Suffield has ever seen in October 2020 and they will once again be assisting with the 350th Celebration fireworks scheduled for the Big Weekend on October 9th. Over the years the Friends of Suffield have been known for arranging holiday visits with Santa to Suffield homes, the Senior Valentine Social (which will be continuing on with the help of Suffield Academy students,) Easter Egg Hunt and photo ops with the Easter Bunny and most notably Suffield on the Green, a beloved Suffield community tradition which was its greatest success ever last month! Moving forward, the Knights of Columbus, led by President Rich Sych, will be taking the reins along with the Suffield Rotary. On behalf of the Town of Suffield, we thank them for their 50 years of service.

Selectmen Updates

350TH Anniversary

The Big Weekend has finally arrived. Many events happening this weekend including the 350th Anniversary parade, a community block party along with an evening fireworks display. First Selectman Mack encouraged all residents to come out and enjoy the celebration!

Meeting Cancellation – 10/20/21 Regular Meeting of Board of Selectmen

The October 20, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen has been cancelled. The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021. If town business requires a meeting prior to the November 3rd meeting a Special Meeting will be scheduled.

Tamers Witness Stone

Resident Dave Gauthier had questioned the Veterans Memorial Park property boundaries and in light of this question the Town Attorney and Director of Planning and Development are in the process of confirming the boundaries. The Department of Transportation denied the Town of Suffield's request for an encroachment permit. Bill Sullivan, of the Suffield Academy, also requested that the Town of Suffield hold off from any further actions pertaining to Tamers Witness Stone until the boundaries are confirmed.

Public Comment

None.

Selectman Hill motioned to add agenda item #10 “Executive Session to Discuss Hornish Settlement Offer and invited Town Attorney Derek Donnelly to join at 7:47 p.m. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 7:54 p.m.

Selectman Mahoney motioned to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary