

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 1, 2024
7:00 P.M.
83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT
Hybrid Meeting**

Selectmen present: Colin Moll, Kathleen Harrington, Pete Hill and Jerry Mahoney

Absent: Mel Chafetz

Also present via Zoom or in person: Town Attorney – Derek Donnelly, Director of Public Works – Lee Corbert and Landfill Lead Man - Joe Duval

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

Public Comment

None

Approval of the minutes from the April 3, 2024 Public Hearing/Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2024 Public Hearing/Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the minutes from the April 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with the correction as follows:

Page 4 – Paragraph beginning with “Selectman Mahoney commended” the word “had” should be changed to “hard.”

Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Town Right of Way Ordinance

First Selectman Moll referred to the Summary Sheet and Ordinance created by Lee Corbert, Director of Public Works, which the selectmen had reviewed prior to this meeting. He noted that the goal of the Permit and Ordinance will be to keep track of construction being performed on Town roads and ensure that when road work is being conducted, proper procedures are followed. Mr. Corbert provided an overview of the Right of Way Ordinance, proposed add-on’s and reviewed the permit application. He explained his thought process while creating it and offered examples of how this will benefit the town. Attorney Donnelly provided his legal perspective and explained why he feels this ordinance will add value. The selectmen discussed the information, expressed their thoughts and concerns and asked questions of Attorney Donnelly and Mr. Corbert, which they answered accordingly.

Discussion and approval of Landfill Policy

Joe Duval, Landfill Lead Man, joined Lee Corbert, Director of Public Works to discuss the Landfill Policy. First Selectman Moll explained that the recommended edit made by Selectman Harrington at a previous meeting had been made, and correspondence by resident Dave Gauthier regarding the Landfill Policy and a potential conflict with the charter had been received. He opened up the floor for discussion among the selectmen and also asked Attorney Donnelly to provide his opinion on the correspondence by Mr. Gauthier. Attorney Donnelly briefly commented on each concern that Mr. Gauthier had brought up with regard to the Landfill Policy and made a recommendation for additional wording at the end of section one. First Selectman Moll asked Mr. Duval to share his thoughts on the policy and to weigh in on whether or not he felt that the policy would cover the issues that he and the employees at the landfill deal with on a daily basis, which Mr. Duval did. In-depth discussion ensued between the selectmen, Mr. Duval, Mr. Corbert and Attorney Donnelly. The selectmen expressed concerns and asked numerous questions, which were answered accordingly. Attorney Donnelly noted that if the town plans to make any substantial changes, the ordinance will need to be addressed and changes will need to be made at that level. He also suggested that the selectmen consider reactivating the Landfill Management Commission to assist in long-term planning. Mr. Duval was asked to provide any further suggestions or additions to the selectmen prior to their next Regular Meeting.

Discussion and approval of Unauthorized Use and Occupancy Fee Ordinance, Permit Refund/Cancellation Policy and Re-Inspection Policy

First Selectman Moll noted that the two policies, as well as the ordinance, were discussed at the last Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. He asked if the selectmen had any additional comments or questions regarding any of the documents, which the selectmen did not.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the Unauthorized Use and Occupancy Fee Ordinance, Permit Refund/Cancellation Policy and Re-Inspection Policy and refer the Unauthorized Use and Occupancy Fee Ordinance to town meeting. 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Call Town Meeting for FY 24/25 Budget

Selectman Mahoney MOTIONED to call a Town Meeting for FY 24/25 Budget and read the following Legal Notice:

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING 2024-2025

TOWN OF SUFFIELD

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Budget Meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Suffield, Connecticut, qualified to vote in Town Meeting, will be held at the Auditorium in Suffield Middle School, 350 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT on Wednesday, **May 8, 2024** at 7:00 p.m. for the following purposes to wit:

1. To consider and act upon the report and recommendations of the Board of Finance and to make such appropriations in connection therewith as may be advisable.
2. To consider and act upon the use and expenditure of American Recovery Plan Act funds as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance.

3. To consider and act upon a motion authorizing the Board of Finance to print and distribute explanatory texts concerning the budget, if the budget is petitioned to referendum. Such texts may not advocate approval or disapproval of the budget and must conform to the Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 9-369b.

Dated at Suffield, Connecticut this 1st day of May, 2024.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Colin Moll, First Selectman
Mel Chafetz, Selectman
Kathleen Harrington, Selectman
Peter Hill, Selectman
Jeremiah Mahoney, Selectman

Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Dave Gauthier, 3219 Phelps Road – Mr. Gauthier provided his thoughts and concerns on the permitting process at the landfill and the bulky waste issue.

Selectman Updates

New Hires

The town has officially hired a new Finance Director and Library Director. The Finance Director is expected to start on June 1, 2024 and the Library Director is expected to start within a month.

Sustainable Suffield Task Force

First Selectman Moll thanked the Sustainable Suffield Task Force for their efforts in coordinating the Town-wide clean-up day on Saturday, April 27th and thanked all the residents who came out to help. He reminded all of the upcoming Town-wide Tag Sale event scheduled for Saturday, May 11th.

Rapid Platform Pedestrian Signals

Installation has begun on the Rapid Platform Pedestrian Signs. One has been installed by the Suffield Academy and another is being installed near Marbern Drive. The remaining signs should be approved by the state in the near future.

Radio Project

The RFP has gone out for the Radio Project.

Dancing Stars of Suffield Fundraiser Event

Congratulations to Community Services Director Pete Leclerc and the Parks and Recreation Department on a successful event last week. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped and to the participants who came out to support the Bowling Buddies Program.

Charter Revision Commission

The town continues to look for volunteers for the Charter Revision Commission. Members will be appointed at the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen on May 15th.

Executive Session – Litigation

Selectman Mahoney MOTIONED to enter Executive Session to discuss Litigation and invited Town Attorney Derek Donnelly to join at 8:00 p.m. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 8:17 p.m.

Action on Executive Session

None

Selectman Mahoney MOTIONED to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary