

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 5, 2024
7:00 P.M.
83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT
Hybrid Meeting**

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

Also Present: Lee Corbert – Director of Public Works and Derek Donnelly – Town Attorney

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

Sandra Janik, 380 Prospect Street – Ms. Janik thanked the Suffield Police Department and Suffield Emergency Services for their assistance during a recent medical emergency at her home recently. She expressed continued concerns regarding the Board of Education and the climate at our schools as it relates to the LGBTQ+ community and a lack of inclusion. She also voiced concerns for People of Color and Indigenous People, sharing a story relating to the targeting of a student in the Suffield school system. She urged the Board of Selectmen to look into these ongoing issues and do what they can to create change.

Approval of the minutes from the May 15, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to add Agenda Item 24a “Discussion and approval of Dairy Abatements to Brick Turf LLC in the amount of \$2,821.85, and Home & Stiles Farm, LLC in the amount of \$3,308.39, David P. and Deborah Coulter Fusiek in the amount of \$1,875.57 and Lawrence R. and Susan R Hastings in the amount of \$3,970.32. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Moll asked the selectmen if they had any concerns with agenda items 4 through 18. In order to save time he recommended approving the agenda items as presented in one motion.

Discussion and approval to reappoint Gary Phelps to the Conservation Commission through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint Patrick Reilly to the Conservation Commission through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint Maria Silvestri as an alternate member of the Economic Development Commission through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint William Gozzo to the Building Code Board of Appeals through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint Kevin Goff to the Building Code Board of Appeals through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint Catherine Ellithorpe to the Building Code Board of Appeals through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint Crystal Quandt as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint Mark Messenger to the Suffield Housing Authority through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint Brian Casinghino as a full member of the Parks and Recreation Commission through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint Sam Lombardo as a full member of the Parks and Recreation Commission through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint William Boucher as a full member of the Parks and Recreation Commission through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint Jackie Guzie as an alternate member of the Parks and Recreation Commission through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint John Schwemmer as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint Gerard Chase as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint Victor Roy as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals through June 30, 2028

Selectman Mahoney MOTIONED to approve Agenda items 4 through 18 as presented. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to appoint new member to the Kent Memorial Library Commission to fill the remainder of Cameron Lisk's term through November 30, 2027

Detailed discussion ensued regarding the three candidates and which candidate would be the best choice for the position.

Selectman Chafetz MOTIONED to appoint Fred Sweitzer to the Kent Memorial Library Commission to fill the remainder of Cameron Lisk's term through November 30, 2027. Vote: 2 in favor (Hill and Chafetz) and 3 opposed (Moll, Mahoney and Harrington.) Motion failed.

Selectman Mahoney MOTIONED to appoint Joe Craven to the Kent Memorial Library Commission to fill the remainder of Cameron Lisk's term through November 30, 2027. Vote: 3 in favor (Moll, Mahoney and Harrington) and 2 opposed (Hill and Chafetz.) Motion passed.

Discussion and approval to appoint Amanda Moore as Director of Finance effective 6/6/2024

First Selectman Moll explained the process for appointing Ms. Moore as Director of Finance and gave a brief overview of her background and qualifications.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to appoint Amanda Moore as Director of Finance effective 6/6/2024. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of Local Permitting Program agreement with Southwick

First Selectman Moll provided an overview of the agreement and explained the rationale behind the original contract which will be expiring this year. During negotiations for the new contract he asked the Town of Southwick for additional conditions/requirements to be included, which he outlined in detail. He noted that the document would not be signed until all conditions have been met. The selectman shared their thoughts and asked questions, which First Selectman Moll answered accordingly.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the Local Permitting Program agreement with Southwick pending the resolution of the two conditions noted by First Selectman Moll. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Town Right of Way ordinance

First Selectman Moll invited DPW Director Lee Corbert to participate in the discussion involving the proposed Town Right of Way Ordinance. Mr. Corbert gave the selectman an overview of the proposed ordinance, why it is necessary, what it will cover and how it will be applied to various situations. The selectmen asked questions pertaining to the ordinance which Mr. Corbert answered accordingly.

Discussion and approval to remove zoning regulations from the Town's published ordinance book and publish on the Town's website

First Selectman Moll referenced a memo from Town Attorney Derek Donnelly, sent to all selectman, which outlined the current issues with the zoning regulations in the town's published ordinance book. The major issue is that the regulations are never updated on eCode360 and, therefore, individuals are receiving inaccurate information. Removing them will allow the town to post updates on the town website which will provide the most accurate information and will make sense for all. Attorney Donnelly provided background on the ordinance book and how the inclusion of the zoning regulations came to be. He feels removing them from the ordinance book and placing them on the town website is the proper action to take. The selectmen asked numerous questions which Attorney Donnelly answered accordingly. He explained the process for removal in detail and noted that such action requires referral to a Town Meeting. He provided the following language for approval:

- A. The Town of Suffield shall remove the text of the Subdivision Regulations (Ch 310) and Zoning Regulations (Ch 315) from the Town Ordinance and delete the entirety of Part III: Rules and Regulations from the Town Ordinance.
- B. The Town of Suffield or the Town of Suffield Planning and Zoning commission shall publish, or cause to be published, the Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Regulations on the Town's website for public access and shall ensure that any amendments to such regulations are published within a reasonable time.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the language to remove zoning regulations from the Town's published ordinance book and publish on the town's website and refer to town meeting. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion and approval to transfer funds from Contingency to replace Town Hall and Facilities vehicles and refer to Board of Finance

First Selectman Moll provided details on the proposed transfers. The selectman asked questions which First Selectman Moll answered accordingly.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the transfer of funds from Contingency in the amount of \$50,000.00 to replace two (2) Town Hall and Facilities vehicles and refer to Board of Finance. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of Dairy Abatements to Brick Turf LLC in the amount of \$2,821.85, and Home & Stiles Farm, LLC in the amount of \$3,308.39, David P. and Deborah Coulter Fusiek in the amount of \$1,875.57 and Lawrence R. and Susan R Hastings in the amount of \$3,970.32

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve Dairy Abatements to Brick Turf LLC in the amount of \$2,821.85, and Home & Stiles Farm, LLC in the amount of \$3,308.39, David P. and Deborah Coulter Fusiek in the amount of \$1,875.57 and Lawrence R. and Susan R Hastings in the amount of \$3,970.32. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Tess McCool, 10 Sutula Road - Ms. McCool thanked the board again for considering her for a position on the Kent Memorial Library Commission. She shared her thoughts and concerns relating to the Kent Memorial Library, the Kent Memorial Library Commission and the actions of First Selectman Moll and members of the board.

Fred Sweitzer, 165 South Stone Street – Mr. Sweitzer expressed his disappointment at what seems to be happening with the selection process of members of the Kent Memorial Library Commission and what appears to be a very politically driven process. He also mentioned concerns he has about the lack of acknowledgement by the town government relating to Pride month.

Dave Gauthier, 3219 Phelps Road – Mr. Gauthier expressed his concerns with the proposed Landfill Fees which will become effective July 1, 2024. He feels it has not been properly noticed and therefore will not be able to legally meet the effective date of July 1, 2024.

Selectman Updates

Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony

First Selectman Moll thanked all those who attended the recent Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. In addition, he acknowledge the IT Department, Department of Public Works, Kris Lambert, the VFW, Fritz King, Bill Moryto and all First Responder Units for their assistance.

FOIA Training

First Selectman Moll thanked all of those who attended the recent FOIA Training and gave thanks to Kris Lambert and Attorney Donnelly for coordinating the training.

Suffield Summer Fair

The Suffield summer Fair is less than three weeks away. It will be held on June 21st, 22nd and 23rd.

July Board of Selectmen Meeting

There is no regular meeting for the Board of Selectmen in the month of July.

Contract Negotiations

Contract Negotiations are underway for the DPW and Fire Union.

Suffield High School Graduation

Congratulations to all the Suffield High School seniors who will be graduating this Saturday, June 8th.

Charter Revision Commission

The first meeting of the Charter Revision Commission has been held, the regular meeting schedule is set and there will be a Public Hearing and Regular Meeting tomorrow evening at the Suffield Police Department. Selectman Harrington will be acting as ex-officio member.

Library Director Update

An offer was made to a qualified candidate for the Library Director position, however, the candidate chose to turn it down. The search will continue.

Youth Services Director

Selectman Harrington congratulated Youth Services Director Kelly Giannuzzi as she recently competed in a high rocks fitness competition in New York City and came in second in her age group and 7th overall, which qualifies her for the world championships.

Executive Session – Litigation

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation and invited Town Attorney Derek Donnelly to join the discussion at 7:47 p.m. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive session ended at 8:21 p.m.

Action on Executive Session

No action taken.

Selectman Hill MOTIONED to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary