

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AUGUST 21, 2024
Postponed from August 7, 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, Eric Remington – Chairman, Charter Revision Commission, Elizabeth Kaplan – Charter Revision Commission member 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

None

Approval of the minutes from the June 5, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with changes as follows:

- 1) Page 3 – First paragraph, line 4 of the Southwick Agreement should read “selectmen.”
- 2) Page 3 – Line 2 of the Right of Way should read “selectmen.”
- 3) Page 3 - Line 1 of the Planning & Zoning Regulation Ordinances should read “selectmen.”
- 4) Page 4 – Under the Vehicle Transfer section it should read “selectmen.”
- 5) Page 5 – Under section congratulating Kelly Giannuzzi is should read “Hyrox.”

Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the minutes from the July 24, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to reappoint Jonathan Carson to the Suffield Housing Authority through June 30, 2028

Discussion and approval to reappoint Andrew Joly as a full member to the Parks and Recreation Commission through June 30, 2028

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

Selectman Mahoney MOTIONED to reappoint nominees Jonathan Carson, Andrew Joly and David Rusnock as presented. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of tax abatement in the amount of \$4,805.37 to Robert Williams due to overpayment

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve tax abatement in the amount of \$4,805.37 to Robert Williams due to overpayment. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to change Waiver of Property Tax from \$25 to \$5 and refer to Town Meeting

First Selectman Moll gave a brief explanation of the agenda item and referenced a memo that was sent to the selectmen in advance of the meeting. Town Attorney Donnelly provided additional information and answered questions accordingly.

Selectman Mahoney MOTIONED to change Waiver of Property Tax from \$25 to \$5 and refer to Town Meeting. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of Town Right of Way Ordinance and refer to Town Meeting

First Selectman Moll gave a brief overview of the ordinance, noting that it has been discussed at a number of Board of Selectmen meetings over the last year. He explained why the ordinance is necessary and how it will help the town. Attorney Donnelly also weighed in and gave his opinion on the need for the ordinance and the protections it will offer. First Selectman Moll also invited Public Works Director Lee Corbert to address the board and answer any questions, which he did to the best of his ability.

Selectman Mahoney MOTIONED to approve Town Right of Way Ordinance and refer to Town Meeting. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion to re-establish Landfill Management Commission

First Selectman Moll explained the rationale behind considering the re-establishment of the Landfill Management Commission. He suggested possible ways to do this and opened up the floor for discussion among the selectmen. Each selectman shared their thoughts on the subject and clearly expressed why they thought the idea may or may not make sense. Selectman Harrington, Selectman Mahoney and Selectman Hill felt that it was not necessary to re-establish the commission while Selectman Chafetz felt that the idea made sense and would provide needed expertise. Attorney Donnelly provided commentary and pointed out that this commission is not included in the town charter and is only referenced via ordinance. It is not mandated and is simply an option available to the board. Extensive discussion ensued, however, no decision to re-establish was made at this time.

Discussion of Town property on 1440 Mountain Road

First Selectman Moll explained that 1440 Mountain Road is the current location of old Firehouse #2 which is being utilized as a storage area for the town. He described current structural issues that will need to be addressed and mentioned the option of selling the building if there were interest. He opened up the subject for discussion and the selectmen shared their thoughts and opinions on the building, the repairs needed, the estimated value of the building, and current storage needs throughout town. Public Works Director Lee Corbert gave the group specific details of the building and shared photographs for illustrative purposes. Selectman Hill and Selectman Harrington feel the building should be repaired and kept, Selectman Mahoney said he had no strong opinion one way or the other and Selectman Chafetz feels

the building should be sold, as the location is poor, and build a better storage facility. It was also noted that the building is in the Historic District and will require buyoff from the Historic District Commission prior to anything being done with the building.

Discussion and approval to transfer the following funds from FY 23-24 Contingency to the following Departments and refer to the Board of Finance:

- a. \$58,000 to the Finance Department
- b. \$2,203 to the Tax Collector Department
- c. \$132.90 to Board of Assessment and Appeals
- d. \$7,500 to Elections
- e. \$20,000 to Town Counsel

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the transfer of funds from FY 23-24 Contingency as presented. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of DPW Union contract

Selectman Mahoney MOTIONED to approve the DPW Union contract. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to transfer \$32,000 from FY 23-24 Contingency to DPW Payroll to pay for the FY 25-28 DPW Union contract and refer to the Board of Finance

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the transfer of \$32,000 from FY 23-24 Contingency to DPW Payroll to pay for the FY 25-28 DPW Union contract and refer to the Board of Finance. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects from the State of CT

Selectman Mahoney MOTIONED to approve the Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects from the State of CT and read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that The Honorable Colin Moll, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement entitled “Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects.” Adopted by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Suffield, Connecticut, this 21st day of August, 2024.

Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion with Charter Revision Commission and action on next steps

Charter Revision Commission Chairman Eric Remington walked the selectmen through a PowerPoint presentation of the work conducted by the Charter Revision Commission thus far. The PowerPoint provided an executive summary, a timeline, generalized feedback received, plans for next steps and the commission’s request for additional time to complete their work. Throughout the presentation the board shared their thoughts on the work of the commission and asked various questions which Chairman Remington and Attorney Donnelly answered accordingly.

Selectman Mahoney MOTIONED to amend the charge to allow the Charter Revision Commission to report back to the Board of Selectmen on November 6, 2024. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Call Town Meeting

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to call a Town Meeting to be held on Thursday, August 29, 2024 and read the following legal notice:

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF SUFFIELD

Notice is hereby given that a Special Town Meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Suffield, Connecticut, qualified to vote in a Town Meeting, will be held at the Auditorium in Suffield Middle School, 350 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT on Thursday, **August 29, 2024** at 6:00 p.m. for the following purposes to wit:

1. To consider and act upon a Town Right of Way Ordinance as approved by the Board of Selectmen.
2. To consider and act upon an amendment to § 270-9 of the Town Ordinances regarding waiver of property taxes, as approved by the Board of Selectmen.
3. To consider and act upon a Blight Ordinance as approved by the Board of Selectmen.
4. To consider and act upon a Farm Building Exemption Ordinance as approved by the Board of Selectmen.
5. To consider and act upon an amendment to Chapter 159 of the Town Ordinances, adding § 159-7 to the Building Construction Ordinance as approved by the Board of Selectmen.
6. To consider and act upon a resolution removing the Town Zoning Regulations & Subdivision Regulations, Chapters 310 and 315 from Town's Published Ordinances and instead publishing those ordinances on the Town website.

Copies of supporting materials may be found on the Town website at www.suffieldct.gov or by visiting the Town Clerk's Office, 83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT beginning on August 22, 2024.

Dated at Suffield, Connecticut this 21st day of August, 2024.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Sandra Janik, 380 Prospect – Ms. Janik commended Chairman Remington, Selectman Harrington and the Charter Revision Commission for all of their hard work. She also shared her thoughts on the DPW Contract and whether or not Juneteenth was considered for inclusion as a paid holiday for the DPW workers. She encouraged the board to consider it when reviewing all union contracts.

Dave Gauthier, 3219 Phelps Road – Mr. Gauthier commended the Charter Revision Commission on their hard work. He feels there are a number of issues that should be looked at above and beyond the limited charge currently being considered. He also shared his thoughts and concerns regarding the landfill policy that has recently been implemented.

Annie Hornish, 864 Thrall Avenue – Ms. Hornish commented on the Charter Revision Commission and the wonderful job they have been doing thus far. She made suggestions for them to consider based on her past experience as a member of a neighboring towns Charter Revision Commission. She expressed her concern for what she sees as a continued lack of transparency from the board.

Selectman Updates

Cervione Field Irrigation

We are in the final stages of installing irrigation at the Cervione Field Complex.

Spaulding Paving

Paving for the Spaulding parking lot is almost completed.

Permanent Building Commission – Facilities Master Plan

The commission continues to perform their evaluation of the facilities throughout town.

Library Director

Library Director Interviews were completed today and a unanimous recommendation has been made and will be presented to the commission next week for approval.

CT Water

Water line work will be conducted throughout town over the next few months.

New Superintendent

Welcome to Matthew Dunbar, the new school Superintendent.

Veterans Memorial Expansion

Work is underway on the new Veterans Monument. Thank you to all for their hard work.

New Vehicles

New town vehicles have been delivered and are in the process of being labeled at this time.

Bench Dedication

A bench has been dedicated in memory of Suffield resident Greg Honey on the town green. Thank you to his friends and family for their generous donation.

Selectman Mahoney MOTIONED to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary