

TOWN CLERK
SUFFIELD, CT

MINUTES OF THE JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN & BOARD OF FINANCE
OCTOBER 15, 2024
7:00 P.M.
83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT
Hybrid Meeting

2024 OCT 22 PM 3: 50

REC'D BY: [Signature]

Selectmen present: Colin Moll, Kathleen Harrington, Pete Hill, Mel Chafetz and Jerry Mahoney (via Zoom)

Board of Finance members present: Chairman Eric Harrington, Brian Kost, Mark Sinopoli, Mark Englander, Ann Huntington, Art Christian, Tom Frenaye

Board of Finance members present: Chris Childs and Mike Haines

Also Present: Derek Donnelly – Town Attorney (via zoom), Police Chief James Canon, Police Captain Robert Palmer, ACCE Chairman Brad Belcher, Amanda Moore – Director of Finance, Becky Osleger – IT Director, Chick Langone – Communications Design Consulting Group, Normand Boucher – Communications Design Consulting Group, Sandra Dawson – Bond Counsel, Pullman & Comley, LLC and Matt Spoerndle – Municipal Advisor, Phoenix Advisors, LLC

First Selectman Moll called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance and explained the reasoning behind the joint special meeting this evening.

Public Comment

None

First Selectman Moll extended his thanks to all of those who have been involved in the Radio RFP Process which include: Chief Canon, Captain Palmer, Chief Spencer, Chief Cunningham, IT Director Becky Osleger, DPW Director Lee Corbert and Norm Boucher and Chick Langone from Communications Design Consulting Group.

Presentation and discussion of Emergency Services Radio Project

First Selectman Moll referenced a memo that all members had received with updates on the project and turned the meeting over to Chief Canon, Captain Palmer and the consultants from Communications Design Consulting Group. Chief Canon addressed the selectmen and Board of Finance members regarding the Emergency Services Radio Project, refamiliarized the members with the history of the project and where the project stands at this time. The town received two proposals for consideration. As of this date, the State has NOT submitted a proposal, despite numerous communication attempts by Chief Canon. The group reviewed documentation from Communications Design Consulting Group, LLC's Consultant Report which compared compliant proposals from Goosetown Communications, Inc. and Marcus Communications, Inc. The report included background information on the project, the evaluation process undertaken, a financial impact comparison and an award recommendation. Extensive discussion ensued with regard to each vendor, the cost comparisons, the details behind building new towers and the coverage capacity throughout town as well as other topics. Chief Canon, Captain Palmer and the consultants from CDBG, answered all questions accordingly.

Discussion with Bond Counsel, Pullman and Comley, LLC and Municipal Advisor, Phoenix Advisors, LLC

Sandra Dawson from Pullman and Comley, and Matt Spoerndle from Phoenix Advisors provided brief backgrounds on themselves and their companies and provided information pertaining to the bonding process, next steps, debt profile, credit rating, and Suffield's bond options at this time. Discussion ensued among the entire group regarding possible projects to include, timing of issuance, among other topics. Ms. Dawson and Mr. Spoerndle addressed each question, provided possible scenarios and walked the group through how the entire financing process would work.

Discussion of Emergency Services Radio Project funding, bonding and other potential projects

First Selectman Moll opened up the floor to discussion for all members with their thoughts of how they would like to proceed with this project and the funding source. The group also discussed the ACCE project list and whether some of those projects should be considered as well in the bonding process. Attorney Donnelly and Finance Director Amanda Moore participated in the conversation and provided additional guidance.

Adjournment

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary