


2024 NOV 18 PM 3:50

REC'D BY: 

Town of Suffield
Board of Finance (BOF)
Town Hall 1st Floor Conference Room
83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 – Board of Finance Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Eric Harrington, Michael Haines, Dr. Ann Huntington, Brian Kost, Mark Sinopoli

Members Absent: Chris Childs **Alternates Present:** Arthur Christian II, Tom Frenaye **Alternates Absent:** Mark Englander

Also Present: Finance Director Amanda Moore, Treasurer Kacy Colston, and First Selectman Colin Moll

1. Chair Harrington called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
2. Chair Harrington conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Citizen comment/Correspondence – David Gauthier – 3219 Phelps Rd. – Mr. Gauthier spoke regarding the radio project and stated that it needs to be completed soon. Mr. Gauthier stated that he is concerned about the bid package and that the Town should be looking to get a system that provides 100% coverage. Correspondence – an email regarding the radio project was sent to all board members (attached).
4. **Mr. Haines made a motion to give Mr. Childs' voting rights to Mr. Frenaye. Dr. Huntington seconded. All in favor; motion passed 5:0. Dr. Huntington made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2024, meeting as written. Mr. Frenaye seconded. Motion passed 5:0 with Mr. Haines abstaining.**
5. Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Association (SVAA) update – Chief John Spencer, President of the Board of Directors Dr. Andrew Wakefield, and Director Don Miner presented. The call volume has increased 6.2% from the prior year. Thirty percent of the calls were for the nursing home and 11% at the prison. New scales have been installed on stretchers to help with the dosage of medication to patients based on weight. Two ambulances are scheduled for delivery in March 2025. This may be delayed because the location where the ambulances are coming from was affected by the recent hurricane. SVAA has an ultrasound to use in the field. They have been responding to mutual aid calls to surrounding towns. Financially, the SVAA is in a strong position and has had strong investment earnings in the past year. SVAA ranked first out of 242 ambulatory associations based on a customer satisfaction survey. BOF members expressed interest in a scorecard that measures how SVAA is doing over time, both compared to itself and other similar organizations. The BOF members commended the presenters on a job well done.
6. Discussion and possible approval of plans to finance capital projects by bonds – a. Emergency Services Radio Project and b. Board of Education HVAC Project – First Selectman Moll stated that the Board of Selectmen approved both projects at their last meeting. A consultant was hired to collect information for the radio project. Two bids were received. One of the bidders, Marcus, did not bid according to what was needed in the proposal. The Town currently has four towers and will add a fifth. First Selectman Moll is asking the Board of Finance to bond both projects due to the need to move forward with the projects. Mr. Frenaye stated that he knows Bruce Marcus and feels that information on the radio project is being withheld. First Selectman Moll stated that the Town attorney has advised the Board of Selectmen that certain information regarding the radio project is not currently available to the public. Members of the BOF stated that they would like to have certain information and would like to have the Town's consultant available for the next step of this process, which will involve a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and BOF. It was noted that the BOF's role is to determine how these projects

These minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.

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6. **CONTINUED** - will be funded if they get approved. **Mr. Haines made a motion to approve the plans to finance the Emergency Services Radio Project and the School HVAC Projects through bonds. Mr. Kost seconded. Motion passed 5:1 with Mr. Frenaye voting against.**
7. Review and possible approval of OPEB investment policy – **Mr. Kost made a motion to approve the modified policy. Dr. Huntington seconded. All in favor; motion passed 6:0.**
8. Town Treasurer Report – Kacy Colston – There has been less activity this past month. The current value of T-Bills is based on whether they are sold on the open market. \$113,000 has been earned in interest. Interest rates continue to go down.
9. Director of Finance Updates – Amanda Moore
 - a. There were no significant changes through October 31, 2024, and there are no concerns at this time. The external audit staff were in last week. There is a possibility that their draft report may be available for the December meeting.
10. First Selectman Update – No additional update.
12. **Mr. Kost made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Haines seconded. All in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin
Recording Secretary

These minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.



Connie Irwin <noschoollikehome@gmail.com>

FW: Radio coverage discussion

1 message

Eric Harrington <ejharrington1@live.com>

Tue, Nov 12, 2024 at 8:48 AM

To: Amanda Moore <amoore@suffieldct.gov>, AnnHuntingtonMickelson <alhdvm@aol.com>, Art Christian <art.christian60@icloud.com>, Brian Kost <kostct@cox.net>, Chris Childs <calcorn@cox.net>, Connie Irwin <noschoollikehome@gmail.com>, Mark Englander <englama@yahoo.com>, Mark Sinopoli <mwsinopoli@yahoo.com>, Michael Haines <mshaines75@yahoo.com>, Tom Frenaye <frenaye@pcnet.com>, Colin Moll <colin.moll429@gmail.com>

FYI

From: Colin Moll <cmoll@suffieldct.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 8:39 AM

To: Eric Harrington (ejharrington1@live.com) <ejharrington1@live.com>

Subject: FW: Radio coverage discussion

Eric,

See below thread at the bottom from the Consultant. Appears to be chatter from Marcus and a few residents concerning the bid process. Feel free to share with your board.

Thank you,

Colin Moll

First Selectman

Town of Suffield

83 Mountain Road

Suffield, CT 06078

Telephone: 860-668-3838

Cell: 860-795-6022

From: Colin Moll

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 9:25 AM

To: Jerry Mahoney (jerrymahoney13@gmail.com) <jerrymahoney13@gmail.com>; 'Kathie Harrington' <kathiebharrington@gmail.com>; MelChafetz (45boo@cox.net) <45boo@cox.net>; PeteHill

(peterchill523@gmail.com) <peterchill523@gmail.com>

Subject: FW: Radio coverage discussion

All,

See below email thread from the RFP process. If you recall, Marcus Communications came out to our meeting Wednesday night to voice their displeasure of the RFP process and selection.

If you scroll all the way down, you'll find what our consultant said when Marcus put their initial bid in. Based off of the consultant's expertise, there were many concerns with Marcus's original bid that didn't even meet the requirements of our RFP. We consulted with the Town Attorney on a path forward and determined that we would give Marcus a chance to bid on the required specifications.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Thank you,

Colin Moll

First Selectman

Town of Suffield

83 Mountain Road

Suffield, CT 06078

Telephone: 860-668-3838

Cell: 860-795-6022

From: James Canon <jcanon@SuffieldCT.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 11:55 AM

To: Derek Donnelly <dd@sgblackburn.com>

Cc: Colin Moll <cmoll@SuffieldCT.gov>

Subject: FW: Radio coverage discussion

Attorney Donnelly,

Please see below email from our consultant relative to the RFP process for the Town Wide Radio Project. We had two bids come in and one of them didn't completely conform to the RFP, but instead provided another alternative at a lower cost. We are in the process of seeking some clarifying information relative to each of the bidders, however there is a concern as to whether or not we should be considering the lower bid that didn't conform to the RFP. If possible, I'd like to discuss with you and get some history relative to the Town on this issue and perhaps some guidance. I have cc'd the First Selectman for awareness.

Any assistance is appreciated. I can be reached on my cell at your convenience. Thank you.

Respectfully,

James Canon Jr.

Chief

Suffield Police Department

911 Mountain Road

Suffield, CT 06078

Phone: 860-668-3382

Email: jcanon@suffieldct.gov



"No one is compelled to choose the profession of police officer; but having chosen it, everyone is obligated to perform its duties and live up to the high standards of its requirements." - President Calvin Coolidge

From: Normand Boucher <nboucher@cdcg-consultants.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:04 AM

To: James Canon <jcanon@SuffieldCT.gov>

Cc: Chick Langone <Clangone47@aol.com>

Subject: Radio coverage discussion

STOP

THIS EMAIL ORIGINATED FROM OUTSIDE OF OUR NETWORK. USE CAUTION WHEN
ENGAGING WITH THIS EMAIL!

Chief, good morning - the manner in which Marcus presented their coverage proposal is concerning and unexpected. Their apparent strategy to be the lowest bidder by not adhering to the five-site requirement raises questions about compliance and fairness in the bidding process. The substantial \$1-million price difference complicates bid comparisons and ultimately the award.

Note that Marcus's had a separate pricing sheet section that included price reductions on certain items. Since their P25 three site system deviated from the expected format, the proper method would have been to bid on all five sites as specified, with an alternative three-site proposal and associated cost reductions presented separately in their 'cost reduction' section.

Their primary three site proposal introduces uncertainty into the process, and undercuts their competitor's proposals. While Marcus asserts they can achieve the coverage requirements with fewer sites, it also casts doubt on the accuracy of their coverage projection maps, which we feel are optimistic.

Given that radio coverage is the project's primary focus, it should remain the central consideration.

Radio coverage is paramount, the contract with any chosen vendor must include strong performance guarantees. This should stipulate that failing coverage tests will trigger system upgrades by the vendor, at their own expense, including all necessary equipment. However, this scenario could introduce additional complexities for the town, such as potential lease costs for private towers - who pays?

There may be some disputes if the test scores are close. Since the Town and Marcus will evaluate coverage performance together, disagreements could arise. Who will mediate the results?

Alternative remedies could involve liquidated damages, especially given the absence of a performance bond requirement. This situation could lead to extended delays and complications during the planning and implementation phases.


Requesting an updated five-site proposal from Marcus might not be fair to their competition.

Finally, it's worth noting that during our planning process, our coverage maps aligned more closely with Goosetown's conservative estimates rather than Marcus's projections.

Can we have a quick discussion today or tomorrow?

Thanks-


~n


 Normand H. Boucher


Wireless History → *Wireless History Blog*

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