

2025 JAN 29 PM 4: 11

REC'D BY:

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 22, 2025
7:00 P.M.
83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT
Hybrid Meeting**

Selectmen present: Colin Moll, Kathleen Harrington, Pete Hill, Klaire Bielonko and Mel Chafetz

Also Present: Derek Donnelly – Town Attorney, Bill Hawkins – Director of Planning & Development /Engineering Liaison and Kevin Sullivan – Resident Solar Consultant

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

Dave Gauthier, 3219 Phelps Road

Discussion and approval of the minutes from the January 2, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Vote: 4 in favor (Moll, Harrington, Hill and Chafetz) and 1 abstain (Bielonko). Motion passed.

Discussion and reappointment of Catherine Ellithorpe as a full member of the Permanent Building Commission through December 31, 2028

Selectman Hill MOTIONED to reappointment Catherine Ellithorpe as a full member of the Permanent Building Commission through December 31, 2028. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and appointment of Brian Baril as a full member of the Permanent Building Commission through December 31, 2028

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to appoint Brian Baril as a full member of the Permanent Building Commission through December 31, 2028. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and reappointment of Robin Zatony to the Social Services Commission through November 30, 2028

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to reappoint Robin Zatony to the Social Services Commission through November 30, 2028. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and appointment of Lauren Marino as Suffield’s Municipal Agent for the Elderly through August 31, 2028

Selectman Hill MOTIONED to appoint Lauren Marino as Suffield’s Municipal Agent for the Elderly through August 31, 2028. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Update on Solar Project at the Landfill

Bill Hawkins, Director of Planning & Development and Engineering Liaison, along with Kevin Sullivan, Resident Solar Consultant, addressed the board to provide an update on the Solar Project at the Landfill. Mr. Hawkins walked the group through the project timeline, which began in 2022, detailing the progress from the initial stages to the present and outlining the necessary next steps for successful implementation. He also shared maps to illustrate key points, highlighting the proposed location based on data gathered with the assistance of solar consultant Kurt Mayland. Additionally, Mr. Hawkins discussed the actions taken by the town and the consultants involved in the project. The selectmen asked a number of questions which Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Sullivan answered accordingly.

Discussion and approval to transfer \$75,000 from Contingency to Town Counsel and refer to the Board of Finance

First Selectman Moll requested a transfer of \$75,000 from the Contingency fund to Town Counsel, explaining that two specific items are currently reflecting two-thirds of the Town Counsel budget. Town Attorney Derek Donnelly also offered additional insights into other unusual issues that have contributed to this increase in FY 24/25.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve a transfer of \$75,000 from contingency to Town Counsel and refer to the Board of Finance. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval on Charter Revision Recommendations

First Selectman Moll reiterated the final recommendation of the Charter Revision Commission which is to move the Treasurer position from an elected position to an appointed position. Brief discussion ensued among the selectmen and Town Attorney Donnelly.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the recommendation of the Charter Revision Commission and refer it to the voters of Suffield at a regular election on November 4, 2025. Vote: 4 in favor (Moll, Harrington, Bielonko and Hill) and 1 opposed (Chafetz.) Motion passed.

Discussion and approval of remaining ARPA funds and refer to the Board of Finance

First Selectman Moll convened the ARPA committee prior to the end of the year in order to made a decision on the funds that remained. The group decided to allocate \$18,000 for the replacement or purchase of a new ATV for the Police Department and \$8,767 for a new road saw for the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Selectman Chafetz MOTIONED to approve the allocation of the remaining ARPA funds and refer to the Board of Finance. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to appoint a Board of Selectmen member to fill the ex-officio vacancies

First Selectman Moll noted that current ex-officio vacancies include WPCA, Kent Memorial Library Commission, Permanent Building Commission and the Economic Development Commission.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to appoint Selectman Bielonko to fill the ex-officio vacancies. Vote: 4 (Moll, Harrington, Chafetz and Hill) and 1 abstain (Bielonko.) Motion passed.

Selectman Hill MOTIONED to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary