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**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING &  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
APRIL 9, 2025  
6:45 P.M. Public Hearing  
7:00 P.M. Regular Meeting  
83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT  
Hybrid Meeting**

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

**Selectmen absent:** Klaire Bielonko

**Also Present:** Derek Donnelly – Town Attorney, Lee Corbert – Director of Public Works, Bill Hawkins – Director of Planning and Development, Scott Cunningham – Fire Chief and Paul Christian – Chairman, Board of Fire Commissioners

First Selectman Moll called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Open Public Hearing on Landfill Fees Increase**

First Selectman Moll opened the Public Hearing on Landfill Fees Increase.

Dave Gauthier, 3219 Phelps Road (Written correspondence submitted via email)

Tom Frenaye, 489 Warnertown Road

**Close Public Hearing on Landfill Fees Increase**

First Selectman Moll closed the Public Hearing on Landfill Fees Increase.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to amend the agenda to move item 13 “Discussion and approval of Landfill Policy and Fee Schedules Changes” to 4a. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and approval of Landfill Policy and Fee Schedule Changes**

First Selectman Moll acknowledged the presence of Lee Corbert, Director of Public Works, who was available to answer any questions from the board. He also noted that resident Dave Gauthier had submitted an email containing several recommendations, some of which Mr. Corbert incorporated into the updated document. The selectmen proceeded to ask Mr. Corbert questions about the updates, which he addressed appropriately.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the Landfill Policy and Fee Schedule Changes as presented. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and approval of the minutes from the March 12, 2025 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen**

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2025 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and approval of the minutes from the March 19, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen**

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Vote: 3 in favor (Chafetz, Harrington and Moll) and 1 abstain (Hill.) Motion passed.

**Discussion and reappointment of Susan Mayne, Anita Wardell, Todd Mervosh, Joyce Zien, Connie Murray, Danna Gauntner an Judith Hanmer to the Helena Bailey Spencer Tree Fund Committee through March 31, 2026**

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to reappoint Susan Mayne, Anita Wardell, Todd Mervosh, Joyce Zien, Connie Murray, Danna Gauntner an Judith Hanmer to the Helena Bailey Spencer Tree Fund Committee through March 31, 2026. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and reappointment of Maria Silvestri as a full member of the Economic Development Commission through March 31, 2029**

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to reappoint Maria Silvestri as a full member of the Economic Development Commission through March 31, 2029. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and reappointment of Jeff Girard as a full member of the Economic Development Commission through March 31, 2029**

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to reappoint Jeff Girard as a full member of the Economic Development Commission through March 31, 2029. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and approval of tax abatement in the amount of \$2,637.53 to CoreLogic due to overpayment**

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve tax abatement in the amount of \$2,637.53 to CoreLogic due to overpayment. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and approval to renew open space lease with Nowak and Bielonko Farms at the Stratton Farms and Malec Farms properties and refer to Town meeting**

Bill Hawkins, Director of Planning and Development, addressed the selectmen and explained that Stratton Farms and Malec Farms are two existing town owned agricultural fields that have been leased to two local farmers for the past five years. The first property is approximately 10 acres of land known as the Stratton Farms open space, which is currently leased to Nowak Farms, LLC. The second property is approximately 15 acres to the east of the Malec Farms subdivision (Lise Circle) located off Mapleton Avenue. This property has been leased to Bielonko Farms, LLC for the past five years. Mr. Hawkins is seeking approval from the Board of Selectmen to lease these two pieces of farmland to the same entities

for another five-year term as the current leases expire March 31, 2025 and to refer this request to a town meeting for consideration.

Selectman Hill MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen approves the five-year lease renewal through March 31, 2030 for the 10.11-acre Stratton Farms open space property to Nowak Farms, LLC and refers the request to Town Meeting. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Hill MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen approves the five-year lease renewal through March 31, 2030 for the 15.2-acre Malec Farms open space property to Bielonko Farms, LLC and refers the request to Town Meeting. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Discussion and approval of Right to Farm Ordinance and refer to Town Meeting**

First Selectman Moll noted that this agenda item had been discussed at the previous Board of Selectmen meeting. Since then, the town received correspondence from resident Dave Gauthier, who expressed his concerns and offered several recommendations. First Selectman Moll opened the floor for discussion among the selectmen and expressed his support for the ordinance, emphasizing its benefits for local farmers. Town Attorney Derek Donnelly also provided input on the ordinance's function and its impact on agriculture and our farming community.

Selectman Hill MOTIONED to approve the Right to Farm Ordinance and refer to Town Meeting. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Discussion with Chief Cunningham in regards to dispatch services**

First Selectman Moll explained that the request for new dispatch services for the Fire Department was initially brought to the Board of Selectmen about a year ago. Chief Cunningham had expressed interest in contracting these services through Tolland County Mutual Aid. At the time, the Board had several questions and concerns. They asked for additional information and gave the fire chief a list of action items to address before making a final decision on the request.

Chief Cunningham began his presentation by respectfully requesting approval for the fire department to enter into a five-year contract with Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service, Inc., to handle all dispatching and radio communications for the Suffield Fire Department. He stated his belief that this transition would significantly improve service quality and enhance safety and efficiency during fire ground operations. Chief Cunningham outlined the advantages of partnering with Tolland County Mutual Aid and guided the Board of Selectmen through a previously distributed informational packet. A detailed discussion followed, covering topics such as training, response times, large-scale emergency preparedness, and concerns regarding potential system failures. The Selectmen, however, voiced their disappointment over the lack of progress and follow-up from the Chief since his initial presentation to the board a year prior.

#### **Public Comment**

Mike Letizio, 1255 River Boulevard

Peter Yeskey, 502 Halladay Avenue West

Lou Cannon, 220 Copperhill Road

Tom McCabe, 48 Lebria Road

Kathy Bielonko, 981 East Street North

Paul Christian, 281 Hill Street

Sandra Janik, 380 Prospect Street

Kristin Keane, 820 Copperhill Road

Dr. Kristina Hallett, 1211 Newgate Road

### **Selectman Updates**

#### **Public Hearing - Budget**

The Board of Finance has approved the town budget for public hearing on April 23<sup>rd</sup> with a 3% increase.

#### **Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition Ceremony**

First Selectman Moll thanked all those who were involved with the recent Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition Ceremony on April 1st, including Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, who hosted the event and honored all of our Vietnam veterans.

#### **Suffield Public Library Foundation Presents an Evening with Trevor Timm**

Trevor Timm, the Co-Founder of the Freedom of the Press Foundation and former Suffield resident, will be presenting at the Suffield High School on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Facebook Postings**

First Selectman Moll clarified that the Town of Suffield has nothing to do with what people post on Facebook or what they have to say.

Selectman Hill MOTIONED to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen O. Lambert  
Recording Secretary