

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to appoint Rose MacNeely and Angeline Driggers to the Helena Bailey Spencer Tree Fund Committee for a term beginning on April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to adopt the resolution entitled, “Resolution Of The Board Of Selectmen Ratifying The Appropriation Of Not Exceeding \$4,602,000 By The Water Pollution Control Authority For Planning, Design And Construction Of The Stony Brook Interceptor Rehabilitation Project, And Authorizing The Issuance Of Not Exceeding \$4,602,000 Of Revenue Obligations Of The Town In The Same Amount To Finance The Appropriation”, as provided in Exhibit A.

WPCA Director Jamie Kreller addressed the board and offered details on the Stony Brook Interceptor Rehabilitation project and the need for the resolution approval. The Stony Brook Interceptor, a major sewer line installed in the 1970s, has experienced structural issues due to failing concrete support piers caused by stream erosion and high water flow. To address this, the WPCA has developed a rehabilitation plan that includes replacing 26 damaged piers with reinforced concrete supports anchored to bedrock, and rehabilitating approximately 900 feet of pipe using a cured-in-place liner to strengthen the existing infrastructure at a lower cost than full replacement.

The total estimated project cost is \$4.6 million. To fund the project, the Suffield WPCA is applying for a 20-year, 2% loan through the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Clean Water Fund, which provides low-interest loans to municipalities for wastewater infrastructure under Connecticut General Statutes §§22a-475 through 22a-483. Funding approval requires two resolutions:

1. WPCA Resolution (March 10, 2026): Appropriates \$4,602,000 for the project.
2. Board of Selectmen Resolution: Ratifies the WPCA appropriation and authorizes the First Selectman to execute loan documents and agreements on behalf of the WPCA. The resolution specifies that the loan obligations will be special limited obligations, secured solely by WPCA revenues, and will not constitute a general obligation of the Town. The WPCA is responsible for budgeting debt service; the Town’s general fund is not liable for repayment.

Once DEEP approves the Clean Water Fund Loan, the Town’s bond counsel will assist with preparation of financing documents and coordination with the Office of the State Treasurer to ensure compliance and proper authorization. This project will safeguard the structural integrity of the Stony Brook Interceptor, protect municipal wastewater infrastructure, and ensure uninterrupted service for the community.

The selectmen asked questions about the project and the funding mechanisms, which Mr. Kreller and Bond Counsel Sandra Dawson answered accordingly.

Bond Counsel Sandra Dawson requested that the board take a motion and a second to waive reading of the resolution.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED and Selectman Dunai seconded to waive the reading of Exhibit A. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve and adopt the resolution entitled “Resolution Of The Board Of Selectmen Ratifying The Appropriation Of Not Exceeding \$4,602,000 By The Water Pollution Control Authority For Planning, Design And Construction Of The Stony Brook Interceptor Rehabilitation Project, And Authorizing The Issuance Of Not Exceeding \$4,602,000 Of Revenue Obligations Of The

Town In The Same Amount To Finance The Appropriation, as provided in Exhibit A” which the reading was waived. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to adopt a resolution appointing the Permanent Building Commission as the building committee for the roof replacement project and approve new, and separate resolutions for the Board of Education Photovoltaic Project.

Business Manager Eric Remington referenced a memo he had written to the board explaining the need to adopt additional resolutions. He explained that on December 3, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) approved resolutions for the Suffield High School roof replacement project, which also included a potential photovoltaic (PV) solar installation. Previously, the State Department of Administrative Services (DAS) treated roof and PV projects as a single combined project. However, DAS has since reinterpreted Connecticut General Statutes, requiring roof replacement and PV projects to be submitted as separate grant applications. Additionally, although the Permanent Building Commission (PBC) oversees all building projects by Charter, DAS requires a building committee to be formally established for each project.

To comply with DAS requirements, the BOS is being asked to:

1. Establish the PBC as the building committee for the roof replacement project.
2. Approve new, separate resolutions for the PV project, including authorization for the Board of Education to submit a grant application and prepare schematic designs and specifications.

The required resolutions formalize the PBC’s role for each project and authorize the Board of Education to pursue grant funding for the PV system, ensuring the district’s applications meet all state requirements.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve and adopt a resolution appointing the Permanent Building Commission as the building committee for the roof replacement project and approve new and separate resolutions for the Board of Education Photovoltaic project and read the following resolutions into the record:

RESOLVED, that the Permanent Building Commission is hereby established as the Building Committee for the partial roof replacement project at Suffield High School.

RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Selectmen authorizes the Suffield Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the design, construction, and installation of a photovoltaic system at the Suffield High School.

RESOLVED, that the Permanent Building Committee is hereby established as the Building Committee for the photovoltaic project at Suffield High School.

RESOLVED that the Suffield Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for photovoltaic system as Suffield High School.

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

Discussion and approval to transfer \$28,000 from Contingency to BOE Sped Van Replacement and refer to the Board of Finance

Business Manager Eric Remington addressed the board and explained the need for the \$28,000 transfer from contingency funds in order to replace a Board of Education special education (SPED) van that had been involved in an accident. During discussion, it was noted that the vehicle, originally valued at approximately \$63,000, had depreciated to about \$39,000 over two and a half years, affecting the insurance reimbursement amount and necessitating the additional funding to complete the replacement.

Selectman Dunai MOTIONED to approve the transfer of \$28,000 from Contingency to BOE Sped Van Replacement and refer to the Board of Finance. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to adopt a resolution authorizing the Town to grant an electric utility easement to Eversource Energy across Town property on Riverview Drive

Planning and Development Director Bill Hawkins provided background regarding the 1.3 acre parcel involved, along with the limitations and conditions associated with granting the easement.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve and adopt a resolution authorizing the Town of Suffield to grant an electric utility easement to Eversource Energy across Town property on Riverview Drive and to authorize the First Selectman to execute the easement and related documents on behalf of the town.

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

Discussion and review of Fire Marshal policy for Fee-based Plan Review and Testing

Fire Marshal Eric Vincent presented draft fee-based plan review and testing policies for the Board's consideration. The Board engaged in discussion and provided feedback focused on clarifying the applicability of the proposed fee schedule, particularly emphasizing that single- and two-family residential properties should be explicitly noted as exempt. Additional discussion centered on refining the refund policy language to clearly outline procedures and eligibility for partial refunds, especially in situations where plan review or inspection work has already been performed. The Fire Marshal was directed to incorporate this feedback and return with a revised draft at a future meeting.

Public Comment

None

Selectman Updates

Bandstand on Town Green

First Selectman Moll reported that foundation work has begun on the new bandstand to be located on the middle green.

Bond Rating

First Selectman Moll noted the town received our bond rating of AA+ and rate of 3.53%.

SVAA Volunteers

Selectman Dunai congratulated long-time SVAA volunteers who were honored recently at the SVAA Awards Ceremony for their years of service.

Adjournment

Selectman Dunai MOTIONED to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary