

RECEIVED

By Michele Urch at 11:14 am, Sep 03, 2026

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

**83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT
Hybrid Meeting**

Selectmen present: Colin Moll, Klaire Bielonko, Kathy Dunai, Pete Hill and Kathleen Harrington

Also in attendance: Lee Corbert, DPW Director, Kevin Goff, Permanent Building Commission Chairman, Glenn Neilson, Permanent Building Commission Vice-Chairman and Eric Remington, Business Manager – BOE (Via Zoom)

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

None

Discussion and approval of the minutes from the August 5, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to fill the vacancies on the Historic District Commission

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to appoint Crystal Quandt and reappoint John Schwemmer as full members of the Historic District Commission through June 30, 2030. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to appoint Robin Zatony as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission through April 30, 2028 and appoint Kip Moncrief as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission through June 30, 2028. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and reappointment of Glenn Gazdik to the Retirement Commission through August 31, 2030

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to reappoint Glenn Gazdik to the Retirement Commission through August 31, 2030. Vote: 5-0 in favor Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to appoint Frank Ludorf as the representative for Aquarion Water Authority's Representative Policy Board

First Selectman Moll referenced information provided to the Board regarding the appointment of a municipal representative to the Aquarion Water Authority Representative Policy Board. It was noted that

the Town has a designated seat on the board but currently has no appointed representative. Mr. Ludorf was the only individual to express interest in serving.

Selectman Bielonko MOTIONED to appoint Frank Ludorf as the representative for Aquarion Water Authority's Representative Policy Board. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of tax abatement in the amount of \$5,641.33 to Patrick J. & Pamela L. Lynam due to overpayment

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve tax abatement in the amount of \$5,641.33 to Patrick J. & Pamela L. Lynam due to overpayment. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to waive the Bid and Purchase Policy requested by the Board of Education

The Board discussed a request from the Board of Education to waive the Town's bid and purchase policy to permit the purchase of replacement lockers for McAllister Intermediate School. Business Manager Eric Remington explained that the existing lockers are narrow and do not adequately accommodate the larger backpacks and belongings used by students today.

The project was originally budgeted at approximately \$42,000; however, the Board of Education determined that installation costs had been significantly underestimated, resulting in a higher overall project cost. The Board of Education researched alternative vendors and identified a custom locker manufacturer whose product was tested at the school and determined to be suitable for the facility. The proposed lockers were estimated at approximately \$63,530, exclusive of installation, compared with an alternative proposal of approximately \$106,000 that included installation through a cooperative purchasing contract. Mr. Remington noted that installation of the test bank cost less than \$1,000 and that the remaining installation could be completed by a local contractor.

The Board discussed whether the project could be phased, allowing the Board of Education to purchase approximately \$42,000 worth of lockers within the current budget and complete the remaining lockers in a future budget year. Members also discussed the substantial cost difference between the proposals and the fact that the proposed vendor was not participating in a state or cooperative purchasing contract. Following discussion, the Board determined that it was not prepared to waive the Town's bid and purchase policy.

No action was taken on the waiver request.

Updates from the DPW Director

Lee Corbert, Director of Public Works, provided updates on several infrastructure projects. The Suffield Street culvert was closed after an inspection revealed a large crack and movement of the sidewall. The Town is pursuing a temporary bridge, estimated at \$225,000–\$250,000, to reopen the roadway while the permanent replacement proceeds. Installation is targeted for September 21, subject to utility coordination. The permanent project has been prioritized for engineering and permitting, with construction anticipated next spring. Mr. Corbert also reviewed the required engineering, soil testing and state and federal permitting involved in bridge and culvert replacements.

The High School/Bruce Park bridge project is awaiting materials, with construction expected to begin in December and be completed by the end of January. The Board also discussed recurring accidents near the Suffield Street railroad underpass, where temporary barriers have been installed while permanent safety

improvements and LED-flashing stop signs are developed. The Copper Hill Road culvert and Hickory Street Bridge projects are progressing through design and permitting, with bidding anticipated in November and construction next spring or summer. Phelps Road work is also progressing, with roadway milling and reconstruction anticipated to begin by the end of September.

Updates from the Permanent Building Commission

Kevin Goff, Chairman and Glenn Neilson, Vice Chairman of the Permanent Building Commission provided an update on the Facilities Master Plan and school projects. The High School HVAC rooftop project is progressing, with exterior work completed and controls being installed, followed by commissioning to evaluate the overall system. The High School roofing project is moving forward, with a contractor recommended and materials expected to require a 60-day lead time, followed by approximately 120 working days of construction. The PBC is also seeking a special inspector for the project, while the solar portion is still being evaluated.

Design work continues for the Spaulding Elementary School exterior wall, door and window lintel repairs, and the High School flooring replacement has been completed.

The Middle School planning process has been delayed after soil conditions, wetlands, setbacks and vernal pools limited the previously considered expansion site. The PBC is working with the architects, consultants and other stakeholders to develop an alternative campus configuration that would avoid land acquisition, improve on-site bus and vehicle circulation, and increase capacity. Updated and independent cost estimates will be obtained, with the planning process now expected to extend into the spring. December 1 remains an important deadline for establishing the overall project budget and preparing bond information.

Regarding the Firehouse 1 project, the PBC recommended constructing a new facility at the annex property, which would provide space for up to four bays and a drive-through garage. Additional evaluation of site grading and related improvements will be required. The PBC also reviewed approximately 670 responses to the community survey, noting that while the results were not statistically representative, respondents generally favored new construction over renovation. The Board and PBC agreed that updated construction estimates and continued public outreach will be important as the Facilities Master Plan progresses.

Public Comment

None.

Selectman Updates

Suffield on the Green

The annual Suffield on the Green event will be held next weekend, September 11th and 12th on the town green.

Bridge Street

The Town is awaiting information from the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority before moving forward with the funding process for any affordable housing development projects.

Audrey Weir

Former town employee Audrey Weir passed away on Sunday, August 30, 2026 at the age of 99.

Farmers Market

There are only three more weekends left for residents to enjoy the Suffield Farmers Market on the south green.

Adjournment

Selectman Dunai MOTIONED to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary