

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
February 19, 2009
(Subject to Approval)**

PRESENT: First Selectman H. William Davis, Jr.
Selectman Carol Hubert
Selectman Kenneth Kerin
Selectman Barbara McLaughlin
Selectman Stuart Somers
Selectman John Turk

ALSO PRESENT: Treasurer Bill Sarosky, Director of Public Works Tom Crowe, Assistant to the First Selectman Jennifer Naylor, Office Manager Noreen Thompson, Interested Citizens, and Members of the Press.

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Davis called the Regular Meeting of February 19, 2009 to order at 7:35 p.m. in Room 205 of the Town Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance earlier during the Town Meeting held at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ed Edelson of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition invited all to attend an Environmental Legislative Forum featuring state legislators and Representative Chris Murphy to be held on Saturday, February 28, 2009 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Parks & Recreation, 561 Main Street South, Southbury.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

1. Southbury Emergency Medical Services Call Report for 2008.
2. Fire Marshal's report for January 2009.
3. Animal Control Officer's report for January 2009.

4. Letter dated February 10, 2009 from Superintendent of Schools to the First Selectman stating he has received an e-mail resignation from Stephen Moore as a member of the Board of Education.

With respect to Item 1, Sel. Hubert asked why there were 3,214 requests, but only 2806 calls responded to. She also did not see how the 872 calls for routine transport, to which the Southbury Training School Fire Department responded, fit into the EMS report.

With respect to Item 4, there was a discussion about finding a replacement member for the Board of Education before the upcoming school budget decisions.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 5, 2009

Upon a motion by Sel. Turk, seconded by Sel. Kerin, the minutes of the February 5, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved with Sel. McLaughlin and Sel. Somers abstaining because they were not present at the February 5, 2009 meeting.

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP ON FEBRUARY 9, 2009

Upon a motion by Sel. Hubert, seconded by Sel. McLaughlin, the minutes of the February 9, 2009 Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop were unanimously approved.

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP ON FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Upon a motion by Sel. Turk, seconded by Sel. McLaughlin, the minutes of the February 10, 2009 Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop were unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion by Sel. Turk, seconded by Sel. Somers, the following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved:

1. Resignations and Appointments

RESOLVED, that the Southbury Board of Selectmen, upon the recommendation of the Republican Town Committee, hereby approves the following:

Appoints Jenni-Rose S. Parker of 93 Hampton Court to serve as a member of the Historic Buildings Commission, for a term to expire on January 15, 2010

Appoints James T. Smith of 394 Hulls Hill Road to serve as an alternate member of the Planning Commission, for a term to expire on December 7, 2009

Reappoints John A. Bucciarelli as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission, for a term to expire on January 15, 2014

Reappoints Terrence J. Modzelewski as a member of the Historic Tree Restoration Committee, for a term to expire on January 15, 2013

Reappoints Robert G. Barnes as a member of the Lake Zoar Authority, for a term to expire on January 15, 2012

Reappoints the following to serve as members of the Rural Preservation Advisory Committee: Larry R. Ernst, Gary E. Gollenberg and Edward Wildman, Jr. , for terms to expire on January 15, 2010; and Edward W. Gore, Jr., Jeffrey A. Manville and Paul A. Palmer, for terms to expire on January 15, 2011

Reappoints Dwight A. Jensen as a regular member of the South Britain Historic District Commission, for a term to expire on January 15, 2014

RESOLVED, that the Southbury Board of Selectmen hereby reappoints the following to serve as members of the Memorial Day Parade Committee, for a term to expire on January 15, 2010:

**Marietta E. Korsu
Anthony J. LaRocco
Michael L. Pratt**

**Diane Schaefer (Advisor)
Sgt. Kenneth Kramer (Advisor)**

RESOLVED, that the Southbury Board of Selectmen hereby appoints Scott P. Beecher of 313 Lakemere Drive, to serve as

an alternate member of the Board of Assessment Appeals, for a term to expire September 30, 2009.

2. Driveway Bond Release

RESOLVED, that the Southbury Board of Selectmen, upon the recommendation of the Highway Department, hereby releases the following driveway bonds in the amount of \$1,500, the work having been satisfactorily completed:

PERMIT NO.	PRINCIPAL	SURETY
681	William Starchak 33 Brown Road	Newtown Savings Bank (File #07-67)

3. Refunds

RESOLVED, that the Southbury Board of Selectmen, upon the recommendation of the Tax Collector and in accordance with State Statute Section 12-129, hereby approves the refunds for a total amount of \$27,276.21.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Director of Public Works Tom Crowe had no report.
2. Treasurer Bill Sarosky presented a written summary of town expense and revenue projections for FY08/09 as of 1/31/09. As of 1/31/09 the estimated net shortfall is \$365,913, which is a little better than the previous estimate. Sel. Kerin noted Treasurer Sarosky had done a good report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Proposed Amendment to Transfer Station Fee Schedule

Sel. Hubert noted for the record that the reason for the new fee schedule was to make that part of the Transfer Station a breakeven operation. Sel. Davis added that it was not a money maker.

Upon a motion by First Sel. Davis, seconded by Sel. Hubert, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Southbury Board of Selectmen hereby approves the amendments to the fee schedule for disposal of items at the Transfer Station per the attached list, effective March 17, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposal for Southbury Model Air Park

Sel. Somers stepped down from the table and recused himself from the following discussion.

Todd Thompson of 270 Peach Orchard Road described and expanded on his written proposal for a Southbury Model Air Park. In addition to model airplane flying Mr. Thompson proposes using the property (65 acres) for an observatory and for boy scout camping. He said their intent was to develop the property with town approval but without using town funds. Sel. Kerin asked what they would be doing to the land. Mr. Thompson said they would put in a couple of grass runways, a gravel parking area, port-a-potties, a camping site for the boy scouts, and trails. He added they would like to turn it into more of a grassland so as to support the property by cutting hay. Some trees would have to be cleared out both for the access road and so the planes do not hit them. Mr. Thompson said these trees would be sold as firewood to help maintain and develop the park. Mr. Thompson figured it would take two years to develop the property for full time flying. Sel. Turk asked Mr. Thompson if he had a budget for what it is going to cost to do all the work. Mr. Thompson said no because it is going to be ad hoc. Mr. Thompson thought the hay from the property would earn about \$50,000 (net \$40,000) per year.

Mr. Thompson said he did not envision more than 100 pilots using the park, and only four flying at one time. Preference would be given to Southbury residents. First Sel. Davis asked if there was a problem with the Mitchell property which the flying club uses now. Mr. Thompson said they needed a longer runway and the lease for the Mitchell property would be too expensive if they built the longer runway. Sel. Kerin asked about environmental precautions with the gasoline fuel. Mr. Thompson said the planes had a mandatory reclamation system so that when the tank is being filled fuel is not spilled. He added that the other fuel they use is alcohol which has a high flash point. Sel. Hubert asked how large the planes are. Mr. Thompson said the largest is about 25 or 30 lbs with a wing span of about 100 inches. He said most people now fly electrics which have a wing span of 50 inches or less. The decibel limit is 93. Mr. Thompson

said the hours of operation are typically sun-up to sun-down. Mr. Thompson said the parking lot would be gated to prevent non-club members from flying there. This is so they can be sure the pilots flying there are properly trained and the planes are safe. The pilots are insured and the town would be indemnified.

Dave Wood of 120 Riverhill Road, a scout master in Southbury, spoke in favor of Mr. Thompson's plans. Mr. Wood is an astronomy instructor for the boy scouts and so was interested in plans for an observatory. He said the boy scouts are always looking for places where the boys can do an eagle scout project (or other service projects) and set up another camping area.

Judith Stevens of 798D Heritage Village spoke against the model airplane park (and sent some written information to the Board of Selectmen). She said she is an avid birder, liking to watch and hear birds. She added that hearing birds is almost as important as seeing them. She goes birding in the area near where the model airplane park would be. The Audubon Center at Bent of the River is also nearby. Ms. Stevens is also afraid the model airplanes would interfere with the bald eagles at the Shepaug eagle site. Ms. Stevens said, when she goes birding in the marshes next to Sherwood Island, she has found that there are no birds when the model airplanes are flying at Sherwood Island. Ms. Stevens suggested that Southbury model airplane pilots could fly with the Fairfield Club which flies in Newtown. She also pointed out that the boy scouts camp and do a lot of projects at Bent of the River.

George Roswell of 767 East Flat Hill Road, adjacent to the proposed model airplane park, read a letter to the Board of Selectmen and spoke against the model air park. He was concerned about how the noise and activity of the air park would impact the current open space and agricultural uses of the property, and also how the noise will affect real estate values and livestock in the area. Also, Mr. Roswell was afraid the air park might lead to such activities as a dirt bike or go-kart track. He believes the best use of the property for all the residents of Southbury is as it is now – passive open space with income from agricultural leases and woodland management.

Jeffrey Manville of 650 East Flat Hill Road spoke against the model airplane park. He said a better use of the property would be to keep the current agricultural use. He remarked that there is not \$50,000 in hay on the property as Mr. Thompson suggested. Mr. Manville said sometimes his cows get out and go up in that part of the property.

Mr. Manville said if a road is put in with a parking lot the area would have to be patrolled and checked. Mr. Manville asked how long the proposed model air park lease would tie up the property. He feels there should be a master plan for the area.

Paul Lang of 655 Spruce Brook Road spoke against the model airplane park. Mr. Lang warned of accidents. He said he had done some model airplane flying himself and things can go wrong. Mr. Lang said he likes the corn fields the way they are. He has horses and likes to ride there.

Ed Platt of 536 Spruce Brook Road spoke against the model airplane park. Mr. Platt is a farmer and he thinks it is important to keep the land in agriculture. He said it's a beautiful area with extensive wild life. He does not think Mr. Thompson will get what he anticipates for the hay.

First Sel. Davis announced that the discussion of the proposed model air park would be carried forward to the next regular Board of Selectmen meeting. He requested Mr. Thompson to get some of the figures and plans that Sel. Turk asked for.

REPORTS FROM SELECTMEN SERVING AS LIAISONS

Sel. Hubert reported that the Retirement Plan Oversight Committee (RPOC) had its first meeting with all its members and established itself with Board of Finance member John Reilly as Chairman. The Beirne Group reported on the portfolio. A cautious investment policy has led to less loss than might have been; and they have hopes that with the help of the Beirne Group they can start to rebuild the pension portfolio. Sel. Hubert noted that since Ken Korsu joined the Board of Finance (and became alternate to Mr. Reilly on the RPOC) there was again a vacancy for an alternate member at large on the RPOC.

Sel. Kerin reported that the IT group is working on the web site. They will be getting some proposals from the web site providers at a meeting tomorrow. They are also moving ahead with the accounting package and checking with other towns to determine best practices in that area.

Upon a motion by First Sel. Davis, seconded by Sel. Turk, it was unanimously agreed that the Southbury Board of Selectmen

move into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations and the purchase of property.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session was called for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and purchase of property.

Selectmen Present

First Selectman Davis
Selectman Carol Hubert
Selectman Kenneth Kerin
Selectman Barbara McLaughlin
Selectman Stuart Somers
Selectman John Turk

Also Present

Jennifer Naylor, Asst. to First Sel.
William Sarosky, Treasurer

First Selectman Davis declared the Executive Session closed at 8:55 p.m. and the regular meeting continued.

Sel. McLaughlin moved, seconded by Sel. Turk, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Bagger