

Suffield's Kulas loses; Russell gets top post

By PAUL P. KOSCAK JR.
Courant Correspondent

SUFFIELD — Paul A. Kulas, the Democratic first selectman since 1987, lost his office and his seat on the board of selectmen Tuesday night as voters chose Lorette Russell to lead the town for the next two years.



"The election brings a dramatic change to the board of selectmen. Russell will become Suffield's first selectwoman."

Nov. 18, joined on the board by incumbent Selectman Bruce G. Remington, a Republican, and Edna H. Mann, a Democrat.

Continued in THE HARTFORD COURANT.

Remington received 1,759 votes and Mann, 1,431 votes. Mann was Kulas' running mate.

Selectman Valentino H. Bertolini, a Democrat, did not seek re-election.

Russell attributed her resounding victory to listening to the concerns of townspeople while campaigning door to door.

"I had conversations with many people I met," Russell said. "I just didn't walk through. I listened to what the people were saying."

Russell said that after the second week of canvassing, news of her campaigning preceded her.

"I had people tell me they were expecting my visit," she said.

Kulas would not speculate on the cause of his defeat.

"I put my best foot forward and I guess it wasn't enough," Kulas said.

The vanquished first selectman, who in 1989 was the highest vote-Please see Russell, Page D6

fewest votes for the board of selectmen, 511.

Other victors were: town treasurer, Democrat Edward A. Basile; board of finance, Republicans Gary J. Roman and Carl E. Glans and Democrats Deborah A. Rabi and John R. Henrie.

Board of education incumbents Bobbie C. Kling, a Democrat, was defeated. Republican Mary Ann Muska and Democrat Johanne A. Presser, both incumbents, won seats on the board, as did three newcomers: Republicans Steven A. Dunphy and John J. Murphy and Democrat David A. Padegimas.

Capital projects include oil tanks

By PAUL P. KOSCAK JR.
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SUFFIELD — New oil tanks for the library and town garage, and a boiler replacement for town hall are among the projects to be financed by more than \$226,000 in state grants for capital improvements.

About \$50,000 is being set aside to replace the library's 20-year-old heating oil tank and another underground tank at the town garage. Replacing the tanks is necessary to comply with state law.

"We are under a mandate to remove them," said Frank R. Rotham, the town administrator.

Making both replacements at once will be more economical, he said.

The cost of the project includes contingency money to remove any soil that may have been contaminated. Rothammer said the new tanks will be smaller. Larger tanks, he said, are a vestige of the 1970s, when oil embargoes prompted customers to buy larger quantities of fuel.

High on the list of town hall improvements is the replacement of the building's 30-year-old boiler. The project, estimated to cost \$80,000, also will include alterations to the town hall heating system to accommodate a major building renovation scheduled for 1993-94.

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EAST WINDSOR — A proposed zoning change for Prospect Hill Road and surrounding streets drew the ire of area residents at a planning and zoning commission meeting Tuesday night.

More than 60 people attended the meeting, most to oppose the change. The commission has proposed the change, saying it would allow area homeowners to make certain home improvements without a permit.

But the residents said the change would also encourage the development of multifamily and cluster-type housing, such as condominiums and planned unit developments. The greater population density, they said, would also increase traffic and invite crime.

About 160 homes in the neighborhood just off Route 5 would be affected by the measure.

The planning and zoning commission took no action on the proposal. The commission meets again Jan. 28.

The proposal calls for changing the zone from R-3 residential to the less-restrictive designation of R-1 residential.

Currently, residents who want to modify their properties with home-

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Residents criticize

East Windsor

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