

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012
Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room 7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Jim Persano called the Board of Finance Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Members: Jim Persano, Michael Parker, Joseph Tolisano, Steve Krasinski and Thomas Mazzoli were present and constituted a quorum. Also present First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini, Selectmen Kathy Devlin and Bud Knorr, Town CFO, Kim Marcotte, Gary Schiessl, Fire Chief and Jeff Bord, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer and Todd Rolland, Deputy Director of Public Works.
Absent: Marilyn Pronovost

II. BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE: none

III. BOND ISSUE CONSIDERATIONS:

Fire Apparatus Replacement Options:

Fire Chief, Gary Schiessl distributed the Fire Apparatus Presentation to the members of the Board of Finance. He reported at the last BOF meeting a need for a fire truck and the BOF asked him to look at options to restructure his fleet and possibly replace multiple trucks. He stated the NFPA guidelines address the issue of the older fire apparatus. Fire apparatus which is not built to the standard of NFPA 1901 (1979 edition) should be removed from service and replaced. If you refurbish a truck that is older than 1991 it should not be front line equipment but it is ok to use in reserve status.

Proposal #1:
Three truck purchase/4 truck replacement.

Replace:

Apparatus	Year	Vehicle Type
Squad 246	1996	Pumper
Engine Tank 146	1988	Pumper
Engine 146	1981	Pumper
Tanker 146	1980	Tanker

These would be replaced with two Pumper Trucks with capacity for rescue equipment and one Tanker with minimal equipment which would primarily carry the water.

Proposal #1: Truck Details

The two Pumpers will be identical with the ability to pump 1500 gallons per minute and able to carry 1000 gallons of water. The compartment space would be for fire and rescue equipment with a 6 person enclosed cab. The price is approximately \$500K per vehicle.

The Tanker would be 2500-3000 gallon capacity with quick-dump and quick-fill capabilities (minimal other equipment) with a cost of approximately \$250K-\$300K.

Proposal #1: Benefits

Replacement of 4 older vehicles that have had regular maintenance issues (over \$51K in past 2 years). Provide sufficient water immediately for a fire situation until mutual aid truck could arrive. Mutual Aid will come from Ellington, Hampden MA, Tolland and Willington. This proposal will eliminate insurance on one vehicle and save on the vehicle maintenance costs of existing fleet. Heating costs in the second garage in the State Police Building would be eliminated. It is estimated that the 4 trucks can be sold for a minimum of \$50K.

Proposal #2:
2 Truck Purchase / 3 Truck Replacement

Replace:

Apparatus	Year	Vehicle Type
Squad 246	1996	Pumper

Engine Tank 146	1988	Pumper
Engine 146	1981	Pumper

These would be replaced with two Pumper Trucks with capacity for rescue equipment.

Proposal #2: Truck Details

Pumper #1 would be able to pump 1500 gallons per minute pump with a 1000 gallon water capacity and have compartment space for rescue equipment. It has a 6 person capacity with an enclosed cab and would cost approximately \$500K.

Pumper #2 – would also be able to pump 1500 gallon per minute pump but have a slightly larger 1500 gallon water capacity. The price is approximately \$550K-\$600K.

Proposal #2: Pros/Cons

This proposal would remove 3 vehicles that have regular maintenance issues from service but retain the 31 year old Tanker. Acquire two trucks that are similar with the exception that the second pumper would be larger. It will reduce insurance on one vehicle and save some in vehicle maintenance cost. It is estimated that the 3 trucks can be sold for a minimum of \$45K. The Fire Department will still require a new Tanker in 5 years or less.

Future Replacement Schedule

2017 – Rescue 146 (25 years)
 2020 – Service 146 (4 wheel drive pickup truck w/pump)
 2031 – Tanker 246 (25 years)
 2033 – Squad 146 (new pumper) (20 years)
 2038 – Squad 246 (new pumper) (25 years)
 2043 – Tanker 146 (new tanker) (30 years)

Ambulances – replacement vehicle necessary every 5 years.

Mr. Parker suggested Chief Schiessl work with Ms. Marcotte on a breakdown of the costs associated with the Ambulance cost. Chief Schiessl said the ambulance budget is \$75,000. However, it does not encompass the cost of the career staff and the cost of the building that fall under the Fire Budget. The career staff is a significant part of the budget. Mr. Parker said he is just trying to understand the cost picture for the Ambulance operation. Mr. Parker suggested to Chief Schiessl if he is contemplating bonding pieces of equipment, BOF would need a written proposal. Mr. Parker feels that bonding is the way to go but he is not sure that bonding \$1 million is worth it. The BOF should look at other capital acquisitions projects that are in the town and lump them into one bond package. The Board of Finance needs a schedule of projected equipment needs to see if we could bond now in one lump and then think about it again in three or four years. We should look at the schedules from the other departments as well.

Mr. Parker suggested the Fire Dept. look long and hard at the notion of converting oil trucks to carrying water instead of spending \$300K. You can buy the same truck for less the \$100K. Mr. Parker said Butch Hill in East Longmeadow has three of them sitting on his property with 20,000 miles on them and a 5,000 gallon stainless steel tank and which is worth \$60K-70K. Chief Schiessl stated that differences exist between the two.

Mr. Mazzoli asked how much money for a trade-in on the trucks. Chief Schiessl said for 4 trucks it is a minimum \$50K.

An audience member asked if there is a cheaper way to go. He was on a website where fire trucks are cheaper than what Mr. Schiessl is proposing. He stated once could be purchased for \$100,000. Discussion followed that the real costs would be known once the bids came in, however for this meeting realistic costs needed to be presented. Chairman Persano suggested a subcommittee could be formed.

Roads Project Overview:

Mr. Bord, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer, distributed the Town of Somers Infrastructure Improvements document to the Board of Finance. He reported on the list of roads and the evaluation of their general condition. The plan represents the upgrade and improvement to the main cluster of arterial roads in town designated in red.

First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini said this is the first time the Town has had a comprehensive analysis of all the roads. This roads project list does not include all roads in Somers but includes those roads with the most need. These are main roads that need major improvements.

Mr. Bord further reported the highlighted areas in the document in blue mean they need storm drainage improvements. Mountain Road is the largest ticket item. It was never constructed with proper base, storm drainage, road width or uniform profile. The Town is proposing that work to these roads could be completed in a five year period.

First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini, mentioned the problems will not be going away and this needs to be addressed. We need to think of a plan and address the issues. The entire list will not be taken care of in a year. We are looking at five years down the road for all to be completed.

Mr. Parker asked if the list was prioritized. Mr. Bord said there is no prioritized list but the roads that need mill and overlay would be relatively easy and those could be started in the first year. For the roads that needed reconstruction the start of the design would be in the first year with the road work further down the line.

Mr. Parker suggested to Mr. Bord that he prepare an outline of the plan on how he wants to address the roads (which ones can be done early on and at a later date). Mr. Parker wants to see a spread of five years and what needs to be done and how he plans on doing it. The Board of Finance needs to know what kind of projected funds from other sources they will have during that period of time. Mr. Parker cannot see the whole \$8M being done in a year but putting some of this in a bonding package would make sense. He needs the whole plan laid out so the Board of Finance can see what they may be faced with over time.

Mr. Bord mentioned this would be a good time because contractors are looking for work right now. Chairman Persano mentioned the bonds are reasonable right now as far as rates.

IV. AUDITOR SELECTION PROCESS:

Ms. Marcotte reported that the Audit Services RFP was opened on February 15, 2012. There were six audit firms that responded. There was a spread in terms of pricing with the highest first year cost at \$55,000 and lowest first year cost at \$35,500. There were three firms that were within \$500 of each other. Ms. Marcotte requested that the BOF members determine who would serve on the review committee.

Chairman Persano commented that he has his mind made up. Because changing auditors can be problematic, there is nominal cost savings and the Board of Finance has been satisfied with our auditors Chairman Persano recommended retaining Grant Thornton.

Mr. Parker made a motion to defer to the Chairman to select the auditor. Mr. Tolisano seconded it. All were in favor, motion carried.

V. ANNUAL TOWN REPORT:

Ms. Marcotte mentioned that since George Warner is no longer on the Board of Finance a determination needs to be made on who will produce the Town of Somers Annual Report. The Selectman's Office worked with George this past year and would volunteer to continue. First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini said it would be helpful if someone from the BOF would help out. Chairman Persano said he would help out.

VI. FY2013 BUDGET DATES:

Ms. Marcotte reported the enclosed packet contain the proposed dates and calendars. The Board of Selectmen set the Annual Town Meeting for Tuesday, May 8. The Public Hearing date is proposed for Monday, April 23 which is the day before the primary. The Referendum would be Tuesday, May 22. The Town meeting has to be held within the first 15 days of the month. The Board of Education would like to present their budget to the Board of Finance on Monday, March 12.

Mr. Parker made a motion to approve the FY 2013 budget dates. Mr. Mazzoli seconded it. All were in favor, motion carried.

VII. SELECTMAN'S UPDATE:

First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini, reported the Town of Somers has received an American Recovery Reinvestment Act DEEP QuickSpend Grant of \$27,793.49. They received the money for two projects: the Town Hall Lighting Retrofit as well as expanding the Firehouse Solar Photovoltaic System.

The solar panel system on the Elementary School has been completed, tested, and they do work. They are currently waiting for final inspection from CL&P. It will be officially turned on once the final inspection is complete. The construction of the DPW building will start by April 1st.

There are two Girl Scout Gold Projects this year. Both will help the Town. One project addresses improvements to Town building infrastructure and includes replacing the flooring at the Senior Center and painting there. The other will be replacing broken and missing cemetery markers and mapping of the veteran graves for all four cemeteries.

VIII. STORM ALFRED:

First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini, reported the cleanup has been completed. Financially Somers did a good job compared to the other towns. We are working with FEMA on the reimbursement of the storm costs. There will be a supplemental appropriation towards the end of the meeting. The supplemental appropriation is in addition to the one earlier this year and covers the final costs for the emergency operations and debris removal.

IX. MINUTES APPROVAL:

January 23, 2012 Regular Meeting

Mr. Tolisano made motion to approve the January 23, 2012 Minutes. Mr. Parker seconded it. All were in favor, motion carried.

X. TRANSFERS AND APPROPRIATIONS:

Ms. Marcotte distributed and reported on the Transfers and Appropriations.

Transfer/ Appropriation	Department	To Account	From Account	Amount	Description
1. Transfer	Land use	Salary Temporary	Technician	\$ 2,292.80	Temp
2. Transfer	Land use	Supplies	Dues & Seminars	\$ 150	Supplies
3. Supplement Appropriation	Fire	Vehicle Maintenance Personal Protective	Sale of Property Sale of Property	\$ 9,500 \$ 2,000	Sale-Unimog Sale-air station
4. Supplement Appropriation	Various	Various	Use of Fund Balance	\$400,000	Storm Alfred
			Pending Approval at Town Meeting		

Motion was made by Mr. Mazzoli to accept the Transfers and Appropriations. It was seconded by Mr. Parker. All were in favor, motion carried.

5. Supplement Appropriation	CIP	Road Maintenance	LoCIP	\$200,000	Road Maint
				Pending Approval at Town Meeting	

After extensive discussion the appropriation was tabled pending additional information on the plans for use of the LoCIP funds. The details on the projects will be provided at a subsequent meeting.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE: None**XII. OTHER:**

Mr. Parker commented that he likes the question Steve Krasinski has about the mill rate increase for the survey questionnaire the Planning Commission is preparing.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made to adjourn the Board of Finance Regular Meeting by Mr. Parker at 8:35 p.m. It was seconded by Mr. Tolisano. All were in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina C. Robinson, Recording Secretary

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL ACCEPTED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING