

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF FINANCE
MEETING AGENDA
Monday, March 25, 2013
7pm
Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Jim Persano called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Members: Jim Persano, Michael Parker, Tom Mazzoli, Joe Tolisano, and Steve Krasinski were present and constituted a quorum. Marilyn Pronovost was not in attendance.

Also present First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Selectmen Kathy Devlin and Bud Knorr and Interim CFO Tony Timpano, as well as several interested residents.

II. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini delivered the legislative update. She was recently at the Capitol testifying before the Appropriations Committee against the certain provisions in the Governor's proposed budget (SB 843) namely the elimination of the PILOT and Pequot Mohegan funding as well as describing how the restrictiveness in LoCIP funding affects Somers. The elimination of payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) program as well as the motor vehicle property tax would significantly and negatively affect the Somers budget for next fiscal year.

Mrs. Pellegrini also testified against SB 203 and in favor of SB 949 on behalf of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) in front of the Energy and Technology Committee. SB 203 exempts property taxes for renewable energy projects located at commercial and industrial properties. It would be far more prudent for municipalities to be able to decide for themselves whether or not to exempt such facilities, as proposed in SB 949. There are often long-term consequences of property tax exemptions that hurt municipalities financially.

Mrs. Pellegrini stated the importance for Somers to be heard regarding these bills especially when the main issues of the proposed bills are not of interest and/or due to the fact that many are too afraid to step up to the Governor especially regarding his proposed budget. While she is confident that, due to lack of support, the motor vehicle tax provision will probably go away, she suggested that people write letters so that these concerns would receive more attention.

III. BUDGET, CIP & BONDING DISCUSSIONS/DECISIONS:

Mrs. Pellegrini let the board know that as it stands, we will be short \$67,500 in municipal aid. We will need to increase the mil rate (or find another source of revenue). She then gave the following meeting dates to serve as a deadline: Public Hearing April 22nd, Town Meeting May 7th, and a Budget Referendum May 14th.

Tom Mazzoli then interjected to say that the Board was still unsure and that we may have to push back the dates. He pointed out that the longer we go the more information we will have from Hartford. He asked how long we could wait and still be in accordance with the town charter. It was agreed that while the timing was tight it could be met.

She then supplied the BOF with five budget calculation scenarios for them to discuss:

#1 – Governor’s Proposed Budget with a reduction of \$67,547.

(Not an option according to the BOF)

#2 – Governor’s Proposed Budget including all LoCIP funding.

(According to Chairman Persano, probably most accurate mode to choose)

#3 – 5% Reduction on 2012/2013 State Funds with Proposed ECS Funding.

(Not an option according to the BOF)

#4- 5% Reduction on 2012/2013 State Funding with ECS Funding same as 2012/2013.

(Not an option according to the BOF)

#5- 5% Reduction on 2012/2013 State Funding and ECS

(Not an option according to the BOF)

Michael Parker said that because we have \$665,000 in capital improvements this year we don’t need LoCIP, we only need about \$80,000 to pay off what we need to. He said that we don’t need to spend six hundred grand just because we can. It was then mentioned that two fire trucks totaling over \$1.1 million need to be paid for. Discussion then ensued regarding the need to try and get all LoCIP money and what is actually covered in LoCIP. Mr. Parker requested a list of all of the included programs for the next meeting. It was decided that flyers to be sent announcing the budget should not be posted until it is decided whether we will change the budget or increase the mil rate. It was also decided to base the budget on option #2 and make no further decisions until the next meeting.

IV. TRANSFERS AND APPROPRIATIONS:

Mrs. Pellegrini presented the following Transfers:

Department: Finance

Transfer To:

Account Name	Account Number	Amount
Audit	100-0034-010-0331-5-00	\$2,453.00

Transfer From:

Contingency	100-9099-090-0890-5-03	\$2,453.00
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Department: Public Works

Transfer To:

Account Name	Account Number	Amount
Equipment Maintenance	100-3010-010-0432-5-00	\$10,000.00

Transfer From:

Heat – Kibbe Fuller	100-3010-010-0624-5-01	\$10,000.00
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Department: Public Works

Transfer To:

Account Name	Account Number	Amount
Maintenance/Operation	100-3034-040-0890-5-00	\$6,000.00

Transfer From:

Vehicle Fuel	100-3034-040-0626-5-00	\$6,000.00
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Department: Public Works

Transfer To:

Account Name	Account Number	Amount
Overtime Salaries	100-3018-030-0140-5-00	\$5,000.00

Transfer From:

Highway Salaries	100-3018-030-0110-5-00	\$5,000.00
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A motion was made by Chairman Jim Persano to approve the above transfers, seconded by Mr. Tolisano and unanimously voted as approved.

V. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion was made by Mr. Tolisano to approve the February 4th Special Meeting Board of Finance Minutes, seconded by Chairman Jim Persano. A unanimous vote followed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Chairman Jim Persano to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Seconded by Mr. Tolisano and unanimously voted as approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Morrow, Board of Finance Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING