

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES - PUBLIC HEARING AND  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, April 3, 2006  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall Auditorium**

1. Location of Emergency Exits - Not necessary, less than 100 in attendance.

2. Call to Order:

First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

3. Members Present:

Selectmen David Pinney, Kathy Devlin and Ernie Allsup

4. Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was recited.

5. Public Hearing:

5.1 Consider a proposed Demolition Delay Ordinance

**David Pinney** introduced the ordinance to the people attending noting that it was coming forward in part as one of the recommendations from the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) that the town adopted in 2004.

**Ann Logan** asked if the ordinance would mean that opposition to demolition would prevent the owner of the building from being able to demolish it. She was told that the ordinance does not provide any authority to actually deny issuance of a demolition permit.

**Carol Pyne** noted that on June 10, 2004, the Somers Historical Society had made a request to the Board of Selectmen asking the board to proceed with putting in place a demolition delay ordinance.

**Fred Meyer** indicated his concern that the ordinance would place undue restriction on the building owner forcing the owner to extend his project schedule by the 90 days required within the proposed ordinance.

There being no further questions or comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

6. Citizen Comments:

Ann Logan inquired as to the status of the skateboard park and was told that adults are currently being solicited to provide supervision for skateboard park use, that the requirement

continues to be for all use to be confined to only those times when appropriate supervision is present, that the police should be notified when unsupervised use is observed, and that it was the intention of these procedures to maintain the town's liability exposure in regard to use of the skateboard park at an acceptable level.

## BOS Minutes

4/3/06

Page 2

### 7. Correspondence:

#### 7.1 Resignation of James Beaulieu from the Zoning Board of Appeals

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin, seconded by Ernie Allsup and approved unanimously to accept, with regret, the resignation of James Beaulieu from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Board received a letter from the Somers Historical Society stating that there has been parking on the lawn around the Somers Historical Society Museum where an underground sprinkler system could conceivably have been damaged. The First Selectman indicated that he has spoken with the Highway Department about installing some "No Parking on the Grass" signs along the Kibbe-Fuller parking lot. He also has asked the Recreation Coordinator to advise people who sign up to use Kibbe-Fuller about the parking procedures including use of the lot at the Senior Center when the Kibbe-Fuller lot is full.

### 8. Old Business:

#### 8.1 Demolition Delay Ordinance

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin, seconded by Ernie Allsup and approved unanimously to endorse the Demolition Delay Ordinance as proposed and refer it to a Special Town Meeting scheduled for April 17, 2006 for adoption. As part of the discussion about the Demolition Delay Ordinance, Ernie Allsup expressed a desire for the selectmen to review the list of actions proposed by the POCD for the Board of Selectmen. The topic will be placed on the next regular meeting agenda.

#### 8.2 Reductions to Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Proposal to Meet Board of Finance Requirements

After discussing some alternatives regarding the Fiscal Year 2007 budget proposal, a motion was made by Ernie Allsup, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved to proceed with the following reductions:

1. State Police Services \$6,000

2.	Road Maintenance	\$8,000
3.	Bonds and Insurance	\$3,349

This totals \$17,349 in reductions as mandated by the Board of Finance.

### 8.3 Consideration of Establishing a Charter Revision Commission

Town Clerk Ann Logan provided members of the board with information pertaining to the time frame supporting a charter revision as regards the establishment of a commission on through to potential adoption of recommendations from said commission. The target for adoption as outlined by Ann's information would be the regular election of 2006 scheduled to be held on November 7, 2006. If the Board of Selectmen were to proceed with establishing a revision commission at its next meeting of

BOS Minutes

4/3/06

Page 3

April 17, 2006, it is anticipated there would be a period of at least six weeks within which the commission would take up and study the issues before it. The Board was generally in favor of this tight timeframe as supportive of helping keep the proposed commission focused on the specific recommendations it will receive from the Board and the public.

Ann Logan also presented to the Board a list of topics for potential inclusion in the charge to the revision commission. The Board discussed those and several other topics.

The Board is inclined to focus on topics that would be clarifying confusing or inconsistent language in the current charter. Among potential topics with more substantive impact on current charter provisions, the Board is considering recommending that the commission examine eliminating elected constables and the Board of Assessors and change the positions of Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurer from elected to appointed. The Board would anticipate a smaller commission might work more efficiently and would recommend a total membership of five to seven people. The Board is hoping that citizens interested in working on this commission would contact the Selectmen's office. The Board decided to hold a special meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2006 to further discuss potential membership on a Charter Revision Commission.

### 8.4 Other:

The First Selectman indicated that the Chairman of the Special Projects Committee reported that the committee would be interested in taking on the library expansion project but that they would anticipate needing assistance from people who have already been involved with the library study. The Board discussed temporarily adding members to the Special Projects Committee but felt there were no provisions within the ordinance to accommodate this. The Board discussed an alternative of creating a special building committee consisting of Special

Projects members that were available and interested and including membership from the Library Board and others involved in the expansion project. The Board would like the Special Projects Committee to meet and finalize its position regarding participation in the expansion project.

The First Selectman reviewed with the Board discussions he has had at recent Somers Comes Together meetings at which there was strong support indicated for considering an ordinance pertaining to minors with alcohol on private property and regarding discussion of such an ordinance as an important opportunity to stimulate community dialog about local concerns regarding house parties and other instances of underage drinking on private property. The First Selectman will contact the Town Attorney regarding development of a proposed ordinance to offer for consideration by the town.

## BOS Minutes

4/3/06

Page 4

### 9. New Business:

#### 9.1 Consider Recommendation from Economic Development Commission Regarding Tax Abatement for Businesses

The First Selectman shared with the Board copies of materials provided by the Economic Development Commission (EDC) in 2004 regarding property tax abatement alternatives to consider for local businesses. As the Board reviewed the material, it was the consensus that the expectation that was developed at that time was that the EDC would review the area further with the objective of developing some specific recommendations for the town to consider. The First Selectman will review this with the Chairman of the EDC.

#### 9.2 Authorize the First Selectman to sign a Memo of Understanding with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security regarding Federal Grant Management

A motion was made by Ernie Allsup, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved to authorize the First Selectman to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) and the Town of Somers pertaining to federal Homeland Security Grant funding.

#### 9.3 Approval of Certificate of Recognition for Somers Women's Club 85th Anniversary

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin; seconded by Ernie Allsup and unanimously approved to endorse a Certificate of Recognition for Somers Women's Club 85th Anniversary.

9.4 Authorize First Selectman to sign a contract with the Greater Hartford Transit District for a New Senior Bus

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin; seconded by Ernie Allsup and unanimously approved to authorize the First Selectman to sign a contract with the Greater Hartford Transit District for a new senior bus.

9.5 Review Proposed Powers and Duties of the Advisory Committee to the Elderly

The First Selectman shared with the Board some materials pertaining to the activities of the Advisory Committee to the Elderly. It was readily apparent that the policy statement from 1991 was addressing only the procedures under which the committee would function and not the areas on which the committee would focus. The selectmen reviewed a list of areas of involvement drafted in April, 2005 and found it to look quite appropriate. They will review that further with the expectation of adopting it as guidelines for the activities of the Advisory Committee to the Elderly.

BOS Minutes

4/3/06

Page 5

10. Authorization of Scheduled Payments

Ernie Allsup made a motion, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved to authorize scheduled payments in the amount of \$101,469.46 issued on March 27, 29 and April 3, 2006.

11. A motion was made by Kathy Devlin, seconded by Ernie Allsup and approved unanimously the following transfer and reimbursement:

**Fire Marshal:**

transfer \$75.00 from Acct. #20-10-565.1 uniforms to Acct. #20-10-534.2 NFPA Membership

**Elderly Bus:**

reimbursement

appropriation of \$12,401.74 to Acct. #68-10-634.3 elderly bus

12. Approval of Minutes:

12.1 Regular BOS Meeting Minutes of 3/20/06

A motion was made by Ernie Allsup, seconded by Kathy Devlin

and voted unanimously to approve the BOS Minutes of 3/20/06, as written.

13. Board of Selectmen Remarks

- 13.1 Update from First Selectman: Nothing further was discussed.  
13.2 Other: No further comments.

14. Citizen Comments:

Ann Logan inquired as to the activity taking place at the intersection of Main, Hall Hill Road and School Street. David Pinney confirmed that the State is installing a full-function traffic signal that will also include a flashing warning sign of "Stop Ahead" for west-bound traffic approaching the intersection.

Bruce Urbon brought to the selectmen's attention that the town crew had recently completed repair and restoration work following last fall's flood damage at the site where Gillette Brook crosses under Stebbins Road. This work included installing a new guardrail fence. Bruce noted that the property owner adjacent to that part of the road has attached "No Trespassing" signs to the structures recently installed by the town and questioned the appropriateness of that action.

15. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned by mutual consent at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Pinney, First Selectman  
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.