

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 12, 2006
7:00 p.m., following Town Meeting
Town Hall Auditorium**

1. Call to Order:
First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. Location of Emergency Exits: not necessary, less than 100 in attendance
3. Members Present:
Selectmen David Pinney, Kathy Devlin and Ernie Allsup
4. Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was recited.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to take the agenda out of order and proceed to agenda item 8.2.2 Field Road Playground because Kurt Swan was present for this discussion.

8. New Business
8.2.2 Field Road Playground

The selectmen reviewed with Kurt Swan the failure of the recent round of STEAP grants to include funds for the completion of the playground installation. Kurt identified some of the work that could be postponed, especially swing sets that could be put in once additional funds are procured. In the meantime, appropriate surface materials need to be put in place before opening the installed equipment for public use. The Playground Committee, supported substantially by contributions from the Swan Foundation, has sufficient funds remaining to do much of the work but not enough to place appropriate surface materials around all of the equipment that has been installed.

There was discussion about the possibility of small grants obtained through Penny Bacchiochi and John Kissel and about the possibility of some additional funds from Fund #16 which is designated for recreation equipment and perhaps an additional appropriation from the General Fund. Kurt estimates \$7,500 to purchase sufficient wood chips to adequately cover the area involved. The selectmen will pursue grants and involvement from the Recreation Commission as the preferred sources of funding.

The selectmen returned to the regular order of the agenda.

5. Citizen Comments: There were none.
6. Correspondence: There was none.
7. Old Business:

7.1 Appointments:

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin, seconded by Ernie Allsup and unanimously approved to appoint John Cowles to an open position on the Cultural Commission was a term ending 12/22/06.

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A motion was made by Kathy Devlin, seconded by Ernie Allsup and unanimously approved to appoint Wesley Smith to a full position on the Zoning Commission to replace Peter Klein, said term to begin 6/26/06 and ending 12/22/10.

7.2 Fire Marshal:

The selectmen reviewed the finances for moving from a part-time fire marshal to a full-time additional firefighter and designation of the current firefighter as fulfilling the fire marshal duties. The additional money necessary to hire a full-time person providing the benefits would be \$25,000 to \$30,000 dollars depending on the level of benefits included. The selectmen are aware of a grant program designed to help override the cost of hiring additional fire fighter personnel and would like to aggressively pursue this grant. If unsuccessful as regards this grant, the Board of Selectmen are reticent to support approaching the Board of Finance for an additional appropriation even before the new fiscal year has begun.

7.3 Pandemic Flu Planning:

The First Selectman reviewed recent activities with the Civil Preparedness Advisory Council that included reviewing a proposed informational flyer to include as an insert in the forthcoming tax bills in which taxpayers would be informed about work that has been done by the town regarding emergency planning and sources of information for citizens to use in regard to developing their own personal emergency response plans. The selectmen would like to work on a web page as part of Somers Now website that would expand on descriptions of continued development of town and personal emergency response plans.

7.4 Land Use Permit Fees:

The selectmen reviewed information from Building Official Steve Dupre regarding building permit fees as currently assessed by Somers and surrounding towns. The Building Official is recommending that the town update its fees to be more in line with surrounding towns. The First Selectman will review this proposal with the other Land Use Staff and commissions.

7.5 Transfer Station Fees:

The selectmen reviewed information supplied on the costs to the town in order to operate the Transfer Station. For the next fiscal year, it is anticipated that the cost of staff, utilities and maintenance will approach \$140,000. If this cost were divided among the number of permits issued for using the Transfer Station, it would equal approximately \$50.00 per permit. The selectmen do feel it is appropriate for the users of the Transfer Station to contribute to some of the operating costs even while the town continues to cover 100% of the cost of disposing of the trash brought to the Transfer Station or picked up at the curb of town residences.

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A motion was made by Ernie Allsup, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved to raise the annual fee for a Transfer Station permit from \$10.00 to \$40.00, effective August 1, 2006.

7.6 Skateboard Park:

The First Selectman reviewed conversations he has had with a representative from CIRMA who was at the skateboard park recently. The representative indicated that the preference, from an insurance company's point of view, would be to have adult supervision whenever the park is in use. However, the insurance company would view as sufficient safety precautions by the town an effort to inform all potential users about the risks involved and to require of all users that a waiver be signed prior to use. The First Selectman will continue to review the details of fully implementing the insurance company's expectations.

8. New Business:

8.1 After school activities for middle and high school students

The selectmen reviewed a letter from the Library Board addressing once again concerns about activities of students at the library after school and requesting that the selectmen initiate some broadly based discussions about the issues involved. The First Selectman will contact the chairs of the Board of Education, Library Board and Recreation Commission to pursue these discussions.

8.2 STEAP Grants:

8.2.1 Main Street - Somersville

The town has been informed that STEAP grants for \$25,000 for design work and \$200,000 for sidewalk work in Somersville have been approved. The selectmen will proceed with discussing with the Planning Commission the process for engaging in the design project.

8.3 Authorize the First Selectman David Pinney to sign an agreement between

the State of Connecticut and the Town of Somers concerning a State matching grant program for elderly and disabled transportation services

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin, seconded by Ernie Allsup and unanimously approved to authorize the First Selectman David Pinney to sign an agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Somers concerning a State matching grant program for elderly and disabled transportation services.

9. Plan of Conservation and Development:

A special Board of Selectmen meeting will be held to discuss the POCD.

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10. Approval of Minutes - BOS Meeting of May 30, 2006

A motion was made by Ernie Allsup, seconded by Kathy Devlin and approved unanimously to approve the BOS meeting minutes of May 30, 2006, as written.

11. Authorization of Scheduled Payments:

A motion was made by Ernie Allsup; seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved to authorize scheduled payments in the amount of \$69,006.69 generated on June 5, 8, and 12, 2006.

12. Appropriations/Transfers:

A motion was made by Ernie Allsup, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved to authorize the following appropriations/transfers:

Assessor:

transfer \$388.00 from Acct. #10-15-533.1 Postage to Acct. #10-15-520.1 Printing & Supplies

Fire Department:

reimbursement appropriation of \$1,712.50 to Acct. #20-16-503.3 Overtime

transfer \$427 from Acct. #20-26-568.1 Training to Acct. #41-24-568.1 Ambulance Training

transfer \$150 from Acct. #41-24-605.1 Blood Borne Pathogens to Acct. #41-24-568.1

Ambulance training

transfer \$508 from Acct. #20-16-583.1 Health & Safety to Acct. #20-16-531.1 Building

Maintenance

transfer \$200 from Acct. #41-24-605.1 Blood Borne Pathogens to Acct. #20-16-531.1 Building

Maintenance

transfer \$550 from Acct. #41-24-605.1 Blood Borne Pathogens to Acct. #20-16-531.5 Vehicle Maintenance

transfer \$7,000 from Acct. #20-16-508.1 Full Time to Acct. #20-16-503.3 Overtime

transfer \$500 from Acct. #20-26-583.1 Health & Safety to Acct. #20-16-531.5 Vehicle Maintenance

Fire Marshal:

transfer \$60.00 from Acct. #20-10-531.5 vehicle maint. to Acct. #10-10-520.1 Equipment/Supplies

transfer \$120.00 from Acct. #20-10-234.1 Memberships to Acct. #20-10-520.1 Equipment/Supplies

transfer \$265.00 from Acct. #20-10-563.1 Pagers to Acct. #20-10-520.1 Equipment/Supplies

transfer \$119.00 from Acct. #20-10-565.1 Uniforms to Acct. #20-10-520.1 Equipment/Supplies

transfer \$200.00 from Acct. #20-10-568.1 Training to Acct. #20-10-520.1 Equipment/Supplies
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transfer \$549.00 from Acct. #20-20-568.2 Public Education to Acct. #20-10-520.1 Equipment/Supplies

Highway:

transfer \$2473.15 from Acct. #30-18-508.1 Salaries to Acct. #30-18-559.1 Heat

transfer \$3800.00 from Acct. #30-18-508.1 Salaries to Acct. #30-18-560.1 Electricity

Library:

transfer \$500 from Acct. #50-21-520.2 to Acct. Aud. Vis. 50-21-612.1

Park Maintenance:

transfer \$1,000 from Acct. #30-19-552.1 to Acct. #30-19-521.2

Recreation:

transfer \$510 from Acct. #51-22-532.4 Custodial Fees to Acct. #30-19-521.3 Park Equipment Maintenance

transfer \$163.03 from Acct. #51-22-633.1 Youth Services to Acct. #51-22-520.1 Supplies

transfer \$139.48 from Acct. #51-22-635.1 Grants to Acct. #51-22-520.1 Supplies

transfer \$690.34 from Acct. #51-22-532.4 Custodial Fees to Acct. #51-22-520.1 Supplies

transfer \$386.09 from Acct. #51-22-632.1 Shows & Concerts to Acct. #51-22-520.1 Supplies

transfer \$655 from Acct. #51-22-532.4 Custodial Fees to Acct. #51-22-509.1 Rec. Coord.

transfer \$85 from Acct. #51-22-534.1 Fees to Acct. #51-22-509.1 Rec. Coord.

Road Maintenance:

reimbursement appropriation of \$50,121.64 to Acct. #67-10-353.1 Road Repair

Selectmen:

reimbursement appropriation of \$1729.00 from AFS&V Insurance

transfer \$2,000 from Acct. #10-10-536.1 Fire Protection to Acct. #20-10-525.1 Fire Systems

Maintenance

Town Clerk:

transfer \$500 from Acct. #10-12-533.1 Postage to Acct. #10-12-543.1 Data Processing
transfer \$534.88 from Acct. #10-12-543.5 Codification to Acct. #10-12-543.1 Data Processing.

12.1 Tax Refunds:

Motion made by Ernie Allsup; seconded by Kathy Devlin to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$15,393.43. David Pinney abstained. The motion passed.

13. Board of Selectmen Remarks:

13.1 Update from First Selectman: Nothing further was presented.

13.2 Other:

Kathy Devlin inquired as to the status of the Charter Revision Commission work. Ernie Allsup reported that their work was essentially completed and that a public hearing for citizen comments will be set up for next week.

Kathy Devlin noted comments she has received regarding concerns about clear-cutting activity conducted on the Wood property on Wood Road, Root Road and Stafford Road.

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David Pinney indicated that the enforcement officers, especially the Zoning Enforcement officer, were monitoring the site but that the only regulations that would constrain the activity are those pertaining to the gravel operation permit issued to Bruce Wood and that permit is currently being reviewed for renewal. The removal of the vegetative buffer is the topic being discussed by the Zoning Commission and will be part of establishing the conditions under which the gravel bank permit may or may not be renewed.

Kathy Devlin noted that the information received from Penny Bacchiochi that reviewed tax reductions provided to senior citizens in Somers and other similarly-sized towns shows that Somers is right in line with what other towns are doing. Kathy will send a thank you letter to Penny for her efforts.

Ernie Allsup asked how and why the party injured at the Transfer Station - who is now suing the town for damages - was not compensated for his medical expenses as he originally requested, thereby avoiding a lawsuit. First Selectman David Pinney will review this incident.

Ernie Allsup noted some concern with the fact that the Playground Committee went forward with the installation of playground equipment before confirming that all the funds necessary to

complete the installation were indeed available. The other selectmen agreed that this creates a need for the town to find a solution so as to not leave the equipment in an unsafe condition.

Respectfully submitted,

David Pinney, First Selectman
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.