

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 10, 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. Correspondence:

A thank you card was received from the Playground Committee for the assistance the Board gave to having the Board of Finance approve the needed funding for the wood fibre chips to be installed underneath the playground equipment so that at least part of the playground could be open to the public.

The proposed agreement with the police union has been completed.

6. Citizen Comments: There were none.

7. Old Business:

7.1 Report from the Charter Revision Commission

Three members of the Charter Revision Commission were present. Chairman Allyson Vecchiarelli reviewed with the selectmen their final report for charter revision. All sections were reviewed and questions answered. After a discussion of certain issues, a motion was made by Ernie Allsup, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved to accept the proposed revisions as presented and to hold a public hearing on the proposed charter revisions on Thursday, July 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium. The members of the Charter Revision Commission were asked to attend this public hearing in order to answer questions as to their recommendations.

The Board of Selectmen commended the members of the Charter Revision Commission for doing an excellent job in a timely manner.

7.2 Ratify new police contract:

Kathy Devlin made a motion to accept the state police union agreement as presented. This motion was seconded by Ernie Allsup and unanimously approved. The First

Selectman was asked to inform the Board of Finance of the action taken.

7.3 Finalize FY 07 Salaries:

The salary increases are based on a 2% base, plus variable .5 to 1% merit increases. There are base adjustments for three Public Works maintainers to bring them in line with the rest of the maintainers. The Assessor's salary will be increased over a

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three year period to bring her salary more in line with other assessors in towns of equal size. The senior bus drivers hourly wage has been stabilized at \$11.00 per hour. Ernie Allsup made a motion to approve the salary schedule as presented by the First Selectman, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

7.4 Review Transfer Station Annual Permit Fee:

The Board discussed the fact that increasing the transfer station permit fee from \$10 to \$40 annually is quite a jump. After a discussion, Ernie Allsup made a motion to increase the annual fee to \$25, effective August 1, 2006, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved. The Board agreed that Standard Operating Procedures have to be worked out for the Transfer Station, whereby transfer station employees hand out receipts for fee payments and provide a list of charges for various items that are processed by the Transfer Station. David Pinney will work with Everett Morrill on this issue.

7.5 Review Fire Marshal Status:

Frank Falcone is currently interviewing several qualified part-time firefighters. The goal is to have permanent part-time help to fill in the gap when Glen Reynolds is required to work on Fire Marshal duties. This solution appears to be agreeable to the Fire Commission, the Fire Chief and members of the Fire Department.

7.6 Authorize the First Selectman to contract with the Indian River Branch of the Hartford YMCA to use Kibbe-Fuller as the site for the Y to offer a before and after school childcare program

Town Attorney Carl Landolina is making up a generic contract to be entered into with the "Y" which will stipulate agreed-to fees that the "Y" is willing to pay for the use of the Kibbe-Fuller building. State certification is required to run this program at Kibbe-Fuller. The "Y" is looking at a maximum of thirty children ranging from kindergarteners to fifth grade. They want to use our gymnasium and possibly one other classroom. They also would like to use the outside playground. The "Y" will pick up all their equipment and debris so that only basic

custodial service will be required from the town.

Ernie Allsup made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to contract with the Indian River Branch of the Hartford YMCA to use Kibbe-Fuller as the site for the Y to offer a before and after school childcare program. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

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7.7 Review town support for senior services:

David Pinney has spoken with the President of the Senior Club about the club subsidizing the Wednesday senior lunches, so that the town can release this funding to helping with the cost of the Senior Newsletter. The President agreed to discuss this with the Senior Club members. At the last BOS meeting, both Barbara Flebotte and Donna Doyker requested that the Senior Newsletter be published on a monthly basis rather than every other month. This would increase the timeliness of the paper. However, it would also increase the mailing cost.

David Pinney spoke with a representative from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Grant and he did show some interest in expanding the paid staff dedicated to seniors such as a grant that would double the Municipal Agent's position, making it a full-time job. The First Selectman and his assistant will categorize the types of social services cases involving seniors to see if this position expansion can be justified.

7.8 Review project for Main Street, Somersville, streetscape plan:

David Pinney said our current contract has been finalized and we are looking to set up a committee to work with the general contractor to make sure that our goals are met. Somersville businesses should be represented on this committee as well as others who live in the Somersville area as well as a representative from the Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, Economic Development Commission and the Town Planner. The committee should consist of eight to ten members. Ernie Allsup agreed to put a notification on our website that the Board is looking for qualified committee members.

7.9 Review senior housing expansion options:

The Board will set up a special meeting with Len Slaga of the Housing Authority

for Thursday, July 13, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

7.10 Other:

Kathy Devlin prepared a Pandemic Planning policy to follow in the event of a disaster to support employees and their families, supply factual information and guidance, minimize business disruption, and to sustain operations that are critical to societal infrastructure. She asked that the other two selectmen review this plan to see if they agree in principle and possibly proceed with putting this plan in motion.

8. New Business:

8.1 Review Zoning Enforcement Officer Status:

The Zoning Enforcement Officer has resigned. It was verified that the Town Planner was handling zoning as far as applications and certificates of occupancy

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was concerned and that Jim Taylor was doing zoning enforcement only. David Pinney said he needs to talk to the Land Use Staff to see what their input might be as to a replacement for the Zoning Enforcement Officer. There was a brief discussion about hiring an assistant for the building official that would also absorb the duties of the ZEO. David Pinney will speak with staff members this week.

8.2 Authorize the First Selectman to contract for electricity supply

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) has asked Somers to participate in a bid process to see who will give us the best electrical rate. They are packaging up our demand profile to see what our needs are. This will also include the schools. We are trying to see if there is a competitive market. The Town would need to file right away if there is a good bid. The bids come in at noon and signed by 4:00 p.m. or the bid is withdrawn. David Pinney asked for authorization to sign contracts. A contract could be for up to three years. The other selectmen asked the First Selectman to work on the wording for this request so that it doesn't look like a blanket authorization.

8.3 Authorize the First Selectman to contract for disposal of municipal trash

The town is ready to sign a contract with Eco, Springfield, LLC. Eco will drop down about \$3.50 per ton if we sign a five year contract. Ernie Allsup made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to contract for disposal of municipal trash; seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

8.4 Review proposed schedule for considering library expansion options

The present committee is busy opening bids from architects. There is a state grant available for \$500,000 requiring that some preliminary information was submitted by September of this year. The selectmen asked how much of a commitment from the town has to be in place before we are eligible for this grant. It is unlikely that the architect can do his review, work up a proposed design, go to a public hearing and through the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance and possibly a referendum by September of this year. The committee plans to work with the architect through the latter part of August and submit to the Board of Selectmen by the end of August. They need to come up with final numbers as to what the expansion will cost. The selectmen feel we will need to have a referendum for this expansion because it involves a substantial amount of town money. There is some concern about adding this to what will already be a substantial ballot for the general election in November.

The First Selectman will make sure the committee knows how long it takes to warn a referendum, public hearing, town meeting, etc.

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8.5 Authorize the First Selectman, David Pinney, to sign application for new ambulance rates

Kathy Devlin made a motion to authorize the First Selectman David Pinney to sign application for new ambulance rates; seconded by Ernie Allsup and unanimously approved.

8.6 Authorize the First Selectman, David Pinney, to sign the agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection for the STEAP grant covering flood study and possible modifications at the Maple Street bridge over the Scantic River

David Pinney remarked that this is the final step in the paper trail. Kathy Devlin made a motion to authorize the First Selectman, David Pinney, to sign the agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection for the STEAP grant covering flood study and possible modifications at the Maple Street bridge over the Scantic River; seconded by Ernie Allsup and unanimously approved.

8.7 Other

Kathy Devlin asked about the Whitaker property. David Pinney reported that the Planning Commission is finalizing the lots that we are going to sell as a subdivision. After a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that these lots should be sold in a standard public bid process. Only bids exceeding a fixed minimum will be accepted and then the highest bidder will get the property.

The Town Clerk is requesting that the Animal Control Officer do a follow-up to see that the dogs that are not licensed are brought in line and that their rabies vaccinations are up-to-date. After a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that most of the clerical work involved could more easily be accomplished in the Town Clerk's office.

The Town Clerk also sent a memo requesting a vacation carryover of 25 days into the '07 fiscal year because she will use these days when her daughter is married in the fall. Ernie Allsup made a motion to authorize a vacation carryover of 25 days from fiscal year 2005-06 into the current 2006-07 fiscal year; Kathy Devlin seconded with the assumption that she will be using all of her vacation days in the future and not attempt to add to her vacation carryover. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Authorization of Scheduled Payments:

Ernie Allsup made a motion to authorize scheduled payments in the amount of \$229,480.49 generated on June 27, 29, and July 1, 3, 10, 2006; seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

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10. Appropriations/Transfers:

Ernie Allsup made a motion to approve the following transfers; seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved:

School Construction:

transfer \$161.26 from acct. #10-51-202.0 SES Contingency to acct. #10-51-208.2 SES Miscellaneous

Tax Collector:

transfer \$325 from acct. #10-13-599.1 tax collection to acct. #10-13-520.1 supplies

10.1 Tax Refunds: There were none.

11. Approval of Minutes: 6/26/06

Kathy Devlin made a motion to approve the BOS minutes of June 26, 2006 as written; seconded by David Pinney. The vote was: (2) approvals; (0) denials; (1) abstention. The motion passed.

12. Board of Selectmen Remarks:

12.1 Update from First Selectman:

David Pinney said the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for July 24, 2006 and he will be on vacation. It was the consensus of the selectmen to cancel this meeting. An interim meeting will only be held, if necessary.

12.2 Other:

Ernie Allsup asked about the irrigation system for the fire house ball fields. David Pinney said that Tom Chilicki is getting some quotes. The Recreation Commission and Mike Provencher are also working on this.

Ernie Allsup also asked about an update on the Field Road playground. David Pinney reported that some areas are open and that Kurt Swan and his group will be working on getting everything finished up. A grand opening has not been scheduled yet.

13. Citizen Comments: There were none.

14. Adjournment:

Ernie Allsup made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Carenzo, Recording Secretary
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.