

TOWN OF SOMERS
MINUTES - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, October 16, 2006
7:00 p.m.
(immediately following the Town Meeting)
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 7:55 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 letter was received from Gene Mercier who is resigning from the Library Board of Directors. Ernie Allsup made a motion to accept, with regret, Jean Mercier's resignation from the Library Board of Directors. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved by the Board. The Library Board will have thirty days to recommend the appointment of a replacement from the Democratic party. The Board has been told that Andrew Phillips, a teacher from the elementary school, is interested in applying for this vacancy.

6. Citizen Comments:

Fred Meyer of 681 Main Street said he has issues with the proposed demolition delay ordinance and volunteered to be part of a committee to re-write the ordinance. He feels to qualify for the restrictions of this ordinance, a structure should be at least 100 years old. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that a re-write of this ordinance is necessary.

Mark Murdoch of 24 Gulf Road said there is a shortage of playing fields for school sports events - particularly in the spring. Ernie Allsup said the Board of Selectmen has met with the Recreation Commission and has asked them to come up with a plan for future improvements for sports fields in town. It was suggested to use some of the open space donations for sports fields, but most of these properties are not suitable for playing fields.

A motion was made by Ernie Allsup, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved to take up agenda item 8.1 at this time.

8. New Business:

8.1 Little League proposal to expand Snack Shack

Bill McCloskey of 127 Hampden Road said the Little League is proposing to expand their Snack Shack in order to qualify for a permanent year-round food permit.

We would like to expand to a 12' x 20' shed with hot and cold water plus bathroom facilities for the workers not the general public. This project will be done in two phases - the first phase in 2007 and the second in 2008. Lack of funds will hold up this project,

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because our only funding comes from the sale of food at the games. This project will not cost the town any money.

The whole expansion is driven by the desire to have a permanent food permit. We serve food from April to July, four or five days a week. A temporary permit will not cover this amount of time. David Pinney said the building will belong to the town and the town will cover the necessary insurance cost. Bill said that Jim Patsun will be the general contractor for the project and he just wanted the Board to give him permission to pursue the required permits from Planning, Zoning and the Sanitarian. It was the consensus of the Board to grant permission to pursue this project.

7. Old Business:

7.1 Review plans to publicize proposed Charter revisions

Ernie Allsup said that the proposed Charter revisions are listed on the town website. However, they should be published in the newspaper or through a town mailing so that all citizens will understand and vote on the question that will be on the November ballot. Different ways of getting this message to the public were discussed. David Pinney will contact the Town Attorney for his interpretation. It was the consensus of the Board that they should strive to have public notification of the Charter Revision recommendations in all three area newspapers.

8. New Business:

8.2 Approval of Seminar Attendance:

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer would like to attend a luncheon meeting of the Government Finance Officers Association of Connecticut (GFOA) on November 2, 2006 in Groton, CT. This will mean that the treasurer's office will be closed for that day. Ernie Allsup made a motion to approve their attendance at the GFOA luncheon meeting, Kathy Devlin seconded the motion. After a discussion, the vote was:
(2) in favor; (1) opposed (Devlin); (0) abstentions. The motion passed.

8.3 Authorize the First Selectman to sign the agreement with OPM for

administering the \$48,000 STEAP grant to support playground expansion

Ernie Allsup made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the agreement with OPM for administering the \$48,000 STEAP grant to support playground expansion. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

There was a discussion about refunding the \$7,000 that the Town supplied for wood chips so the playground could open prior to the receipt of the grant money. This money would be placed back into the General Fund.

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8.4 Other:

Kathy Devlin asked about lights on the sports fields. There is nothing current to report at this time.

9. Authorization of Scheduled Payments:

Ernie Allsup made a motion to authorize scheduled payments in the amount of \$115,215.18 generated on October 12, 13, and 16, 2006. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

10. Appropriations/Transfers:

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin; seconded by Ernie Allsup and unanimously approved to authorize the following reimbursements:

Fire Dept.

reimbursement of \$72.39 to Acct. #20-16-531.1 Building Maintenance

reimbursement of \$105.00 to Acct. #20-16-503.3 overtime salaries

10.1 Tax Refunds:

A motion was made by Ernie Allsup; seconded by Kathy Devlin and approved unanimously to authorize tax refunds in the amount of \$5,022.64.

11. Approval of Minutes:

11.1 BOS regular meeting of 10/2/06

Kathy Devlin made a motion to approve the regular BOS meeting minutes of 10/2/06. This motion was seconded by Ernie Allsup and unanimously approved.

12. Board of Selectmen Remarks

12.1 Update from the First Selectman:

There was a brief discussion about the work that is being done on the Somersville dam.

The current condition of the Somersville Mill was also discussed and the options available to the town. The Building Official has issued an order to the owner of the mill to board up all broken windows and doors. There is a daycare facility in the general area of the mill and children should not be able to find an easy access into the mill buildings.

There have been developers that have toured the mill and have expressed some interest but no concrete proposal has been forthcoming. There is no doubt that it will be very expensive to restore the mill buildings and developers are concerned about water running under a portion of the mill.

The town could foreclose on the mill in order to collect unpaid property taxes. Kathy Devlin suggested holding a public hearing regarding the future of the mill in order to gather public input. Alternatives to foreclosure should be examined by the Board before considering a public hearing.

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13. Citizen Comments: There were none.

14. Adjournment:
The meeting adjourned by mutual consent at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Carenzo, Recording Secretary
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.