

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 13, 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 and Kathy Devlin

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

5. Correspondence:
David Pinney received a letter from Francine Aloisa acknowledging the book the Board of Selectmen had presented to the Library in honor of Jack O'Brien, the Lions Club recipient of Citizen of the Year.

6. Citizen Comments:
Fred Meyer said he has inspected the round building at the Town Transfer Station that houses items brought there for pickup by other citizens and he feels the building does not have to be torn down but can be repaired so that it is safe even when the roof has a snow load. A new roof might be in order but otherwise, only minor repairs should be necessary.

David Pinney said he would investigate the possibility of repairing this building rather than demolishing it, therefore keeping the "Blue Light District" where it is presently located. David said it was never the Board's intent to abolish the practice of bringing usable items to a building for free pickup by other citizens. It was only thought that the present building might not be safe to store these items.

Several citizens present at the meeting agreed that an attempt should be made to repair the existing building and that definitely the concept of the "Blue Light District" should be continued.

J. J. Wassmuth talked about recreation fields. David Pinney would like the soccer people to sit down with the Recreation Commission members to try to straighten this problem out and will try to get a time for this meeting in the near future. The Board of Selectmen does not necessarily feel that putting clay in the infield is the right way to go.

7. Old Business:

7.1 Update on Fire Department Antennas on the Cell Tower

David Pinney does have the language proposed by Crown Castle to enable the town to put three antennas on the cell tower for a cost of \$3,600 a year. We are at a point to go forward with the lease. The Board will have to plan on where the money to pay this annual fee will come from.

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7.2 Other:

Kathy Devlin asked about the town being reimbursed for the \$7,000 the town lent to the playground for wood chips so they could open before the grant money in the amount of \$48,000 was received. David Pinney said he has been in touch with Kurt Swann who said that the town will be reimbursed.

Kathy Devlin asked about going before the Finance Board about the FEMA money that has been granted for repair of the roads damaged by flooding. David Pinney said that right now Public Works is relining two culverts for a cost of \$74,000.

8. New Business:

8.1 Review policies for use of town buildings by private individuals or organizations

There seems to be a need for the Board to develop a policy for use of town buildings by private individuals or organizations. The Board must consider questions such as: Does the town want our public buildings to be used by private individuals or organizations? Should there be a fee for the use of a town building to offset the costs – such as janitorial, heat/air conditioning and electricity?

After a discussion, it was agreed that the Board needs to meet to develop a policy as to the use of public buildings. Kathy Devlin suggested a survey of surrounding towns to see how they handle the use of public buildings and she offered to make some calls.

8.2 Implementation of Charter Revisions

The proposed changes to the Charter have been approved by the public and will be effective thirty days from date of approval. The Board needs to get started right away on the transition from an elected position to an appointed position for both the Treasurer and the Tax Collector. The Treasurer job description may change quite a bit while the Tax Collector job description will remain basically the same. It is planned to have an appointing committee consisting of two members of the Board of Finance, one member of the Board of Selectmen and a citizen qualified to make decisions on these two positions. We may need an Ad Hoc committee to address these issues. OPM, CCM and CRCOG should have information on the way to proceed.

Kathy Devlin said the Board needs to meet with the Board of Finance on this issue. They meet next Monday and the selectmen should introduce the need to develop a plan for this transition and get started on it. The Selectmen should obtain Board of Finance agreement on the procedure to be followed. The new treasurer or financial director has to be ready to meet with Ed Sullivan at least one month before Ed's retirement next November. Depending on the proposed areas of responsibility, the salary range may be higher than what is presently paid.

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8.3 Other:

Kathy Devlin reiterated the need to have a meeting regarding the sports fields in town. She also feels that the Board should start planning for the next fiscal year's budget and she will come in with a list of budget related topics for the next Board meeting.

9. Plan of Conservation and Development

Kathy Devlin said the Board of Selectmen is current with the recommendations made by the POCD and she will list the projects that the Board has already done.

10. Authorization of Scheduled Payments:

Kathy Devlin made a motion that was unanimously approved to authorize scheduled payments in the amount of \$63,345.63 generated on November 2, 6 and 13, 2006.

11. Appropriations/Transfers:

Kathy Devlin moved to approve a Selectmen reimbursement appropriation of \$4891.03 to Account #30-19-521.2 Park Equipment Maintenance. This motion was seconded by David Pinney and unanimously approved.

11.1 Tax Refunds:

Kathy Devlin moved to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,969.27; seconded by David Pinney and unanimously approved.

12. Approval of Minutes

12.1 BOS regular meeting of October 30, 2006

Kathy Devlin made a motion to approve the BOS regular meeting minutes of October 30, 2006, as written. This motion was seconded by David Pinney and approved unanimously.

13. Board of Selectmen Remarks:

13.1 Update from First Selectman

David reported that the Housing Authority is moving right along with applications for funding for the new senior housing proposed on Battle Street.

13.2 Other:

Kathy Devlin asked about the informational meeting held about the plans for the Somers Library renovation. The original cost estimate was 2.5 million dollars and now this estimate has almost doubled. She said that ultimately this renovation will have to be approved by referendum and she feels the increase in estimated cost will not fare well with the taxpayers. The grant from the state to partially fund this renovation is for \$500,000 and will not be paid unless the renovations made satisfy the town's library needs for the next twenty years.

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14. Citizen Comments:

Regarding the present agreement with Woodcrest, Fred Meyer does not feel that the town should give up a \$13,000 annual stipend from the State in lieu of taxes.

Fred also mentioned that the School Board just purchased boilers in the amount of \$18,000 from the T.J. Conway Company which is a Massachusetts based company. He questions why this job was not put out for bid so that Connecticut companies could have bid on the job.

15. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Carenzo, Recording Secretary
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.