

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
Saturday, February 10, 2007
9:00 a.m.
Selectmen's Conference Room**

1. Call to Order:

First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Members Present:

Selectmen David Pinney and Kathy Devlin
Walter Summers and Fire Chief Bill Meier
Citizens Fred Meyer and John Tschummi

3. Meet with representatives from the Somers Fire Department to review fire and ambulance budget proposals

Walter Summers reviewed the proposal for the Fire Marshal budget. One area of concern is providing maintenance to 68 fire hydrants that the town owns in the western part of town. Walter has procured proposals from two different firms that could perform the maintenance work for approximately \$3,000. This number is incorporated into the fire systems maintenance line of the Fire Marshal's proposal.

Bill Meier reviewed the proposed budgets for both the Ambulance and the Fire Department. They represent little change from the prior year's budget with the one exception that the Fire Department would like to establish stipends for the officers of both the Fire Department and the Ambulance services. Chief Meier is confident that this would be a critical part of sustaining and enhancing interest among the volunteers regarding their continued contributions to the department. The committee discussed with Bill the prospects of phasing in the stipend over two years as a means of keeping the annual increase to the target set by the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. Chief Meier also brought to the committee a proposal to add another full-time career firefighter. This position would enable absorbing 100% of the Fire Marshal functions within the career staff and also enhance the department capacity to reach staffing goals for Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The Chief and the committee agreed that while some funds could be transferred from the Fire Marshal salary account to the career staff salary account to help pay for this position, there would still need to be \$25,000 or more added to the budget to cover salary and benefits. The committee will focus their attention on this proposal as part of assembling the complete town budget.

3. Act on Scheduled Payments and requested Appropriations and Transfers

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin, seconded by David Pinney and unanimously approved to approve scheduled payments in the amount of \$57,139.33 generated on February 7 and 9, 2007.

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A motion was made by Kathy Devlin, seconded by David Pinney and unanimously approved to approve the following transfers and appropriations:

Assessor:

transfer \$900 from acct. #10-15-545.1 mapping to acct. #10-15-532.1 computer services

Fire Department:

reimbursement appropriation of \$626.76 to acct. #20-16-530.5 New Equipment

transfer \$250 check to acct. #41-24-565.1

transfer \$1,000 check to acct. #41-24-530.5

Fire Marshal:

transfer \$200 from acct. #20-10-568.1 training to acct. #20-10-520.1 equipment & supplies

transfer \$300 from acct. #20-10-568.1 training to acct. #20-10-531.5 vehicle maintenance

Selectmen:

transfer \$200 from acct. #10-10-511.1 Health Insurance to Acct. #10-10-523.1 Other

reimbursement appropriation of \$14,147.17 to acct. #10-10-586.1 street lights

reimbursement appropriation of \$1,964.67 to acct. #10-10-531.2 Kibbe Fuller Maint.

transfer \$3,500 from acct. #10-10-511.1 Health Insurance to acct. #10-10-531.2 Kibbe Fuller Maintenance

Tax Collector:

transfer \$1,000 from acct. #10-13-543.1 to acct. #10-13-533.1

transfer \$650 from acct. #10-13-543.1 to acct. #10-13-508.2

transfer \$550 from acct. #10-13-520.1 to acct. #10-13-508.2

After a discussion, it was decided by the members of the committee to schedule budget meetings for February 21 and February 23, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

4. Appoint Library Building Committee:

This item was not discussed.

5. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned by mutual consent at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Pinney, First Selectman
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.