

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 19, 2007
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 Joe Tolisano

4. Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge was not recited.

5. Correspondence: Nothing was presented.

6. Citizen Comments: There were none.

7. Old Business:

It was the consensus of the selectmen to handle the following item under “Other”.

Payment in lieu of taxes for Woodcrest as proposed by Len Slaga of the Somers

Housing Authority

The selectmen generally indicated support for the proposal qualified only to the extent that the Board of Finance and ultimately the town would support the overall town budget proposal for fiscal year 07-08. The selectmen will recommend to the Board of Finance that the waiver be approved.

The selectmen then recessed to join the Board of Finance at its meeting to review that recommendation and discuss options for financing emergency preparedness equipment for both public notification purposes and emergency shelter. The meeting resumed at 7:20 and took up the next agenda item, Building Use Policy.

7.1 Building Use Policy

Kathy Devlin reviewed a proposed building use permit form that she had adapted from one that Joe Tolisano had provided that was used by Holyoke Community College. First Selectman David Pinney will review that form and the general building use policies developed by Kathy Devlin with the staff responsible for the various town buildings.

7.2 Update on Homeland Security Grants and related expenditure options

David Pinney reviewed with the Board the indication from the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control that the town’s efforts to acquire and install an emergency generator at the high school would qualify for support from a grant program that underwrites the

town's capacity to "shed demand" when electrical consumption is high across the state. This grant should amount to \$67,000.

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David Pinney also reviewed a presentation regarding the reverse 911 emergency notification system and confirmed that the potential cost for the town to acquire its own system with all its fundamental parts would approach \$50,000.

The selectmen reviewed these developments with the Board of Finance and encouraged the Board of Finance to proceed with recommending an appropriation to enable these projects to go forward. The selectmen and the Board of Finance will finalize the numbers for the necessary appropriations at meetings planned for March 26, 2007.

7.3 Other:

Kathy Devlin inquired as to the status of the playground grant. David Pinney reported that it has yet to come in and he will check on the anticipated timing.

8. New Business:

8.1 Review work of the Somersville Planning Committee

The selectmen heard from Kathy Devlin following her attendance at the public forum of the Somersville Planning Committee. She expressed concern that the focus of the committee was expanding beyond Main Street to include the triangle between Maple, Shaker and Main Street. She felt that the priority needed to stay with Main Street, especially since the money available to support the work may not be sufficient to cover the potential expansion of engagement.

8.2 Procedures for responding to citizen's request for information

The selectmen reviewed a letter from the Town Clerk requesting a legal opinion from the Town Attorney that stems from a citizen's request for information that was directed to the Town Clerk. The selectmen continued to feel that it is appropriate for access to the Town Attorney to go through the selectmen. It was the feeling of the selectmen that citizens seeking to discuss town operations and the requirements or options supported or not supported by the Town Charter and Town Ordinances would most appropriately be pursued by those citizens coming directly to the selectmen. The First Selectman, David Pinney, will respond back to the Town Clerk's initial request.

The selectmen again recessed to discuss developments of the 2007-08 budget proposal with the Board of Finance.

9. Authorization of Scheduled Payments:

A motion was made by Joe Tolisano, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved to authorize scheduled payments in the amount of \$218,241.84 generated on March 15 and 19, 2007.

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10. Appropriations/Transfers:

A motion was made by Joe Tolisano, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved to approve the following transfer:

Selectmen:

transfer \$2,000 from acct. #10-10-530.5 New Equipment to acct. #10-10-531.2 Kibbe Fuller Maintenance

10.1 Tax Refunds:

A motion was made by Joe Tolisano, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$2,142.32 as presented by the Tax Collector.

11. Approval of Minutes:

11.1 Regular Meeting of 3/5/07:

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin, seconded by Joe Tolisano and approved unanimously to accept the minutes of 3/5/07, as written.

11.2 Special Meeting of 3/13/07:

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin, seconded by Joe Tolisano and approved unanimously to accept the minutes of 3/13/07, as written.

12. Board of Selectmen Remarks

12.1 Update from First Selectman: Nothing further was brought up.

13. Citizen Comments: There were none.

14. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned by mutual consent at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Pinney, First Selectman
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.