

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, April 16, 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 of allegiance was recited.

5. Correspondence: None was presented.

6. Citizen Comments: There were none.

7. Old Business:

7.1 Review plan for Somersville Mill

After reviewing the excellent presentation from the Economic Development Commission regarding the future of the Somersville Mill, it is up to the Board of Selectmen to decide the best way to proceed. After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus to have the First Selectman contact all parties interested in developing the Somersville Mill to have proposals submitted to the Board of Selectmen by May 15, 2007. The selectmen could then meet with each developer, probably with a representative from the Board of Finance and Economic Development Commission, to determine the viability of their proposal. Other issues pertinent to assessing different proposals would be taken up as needed.

7.2 Review activities to present proposed 2007-08 budget

David Pinney asked the Board for suggestions as to the best way to present the proposed 2007-08 to the public at the public hearing on April 30, 2007. The selectmen agreed that they should explain why there are certain items in the proposed budget and let the public know what has been accomplished during this fiscal year and what will be done in the next fiscal year. The public needs to know that the selectmen have a plan of action and will not be wasting tax money on something outlandish.

7.3 Review status of 2006-07 budget

David Pinney presented figures that show the Town budget for 2006-07 is still ahead by about \$30,000. Health care is less than anticipated; police services are more than budgeted and the transfer station cost is running over budget.

There was a brief discussion about the possibility of purchasing a Hustler power mower for Parks

and Recreation and possibly doing some maintenance work in the main Town Hall.

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7.4 Review Building Use Policy:

Copies of the draft of the building use policy were distributed to staff personnel in all of the town buildings. The Advisory Committee for the Elderly is requesting more time to review this policy and how it relates to the Senior Center. Lois Lindell, Chairman of the Cultural Commission, has not yet responded as to how the Cultural Commission felt about the building use policy as it relates to Piedmont Hall.

David Pinney said he would gather feedback from all concerned and have a report by the next selectmen meeting.

7.5 Review document retention policy:

The selectmen agreed that this policy needs someone in Town Hall to handle this policy as far as compliance of different departments to either purge or maintain certain documents in accordance with the guidelines listed in the policy. Proper documentation also needs to be filed with the State. It was the consensus of the selectmen that the Town Clerk's office would be the ideal department to handle this responsibility and David Pinney will approach the Town Clerk, Ann Logan, to see what her thoughts might be on this issue.

7.6 Other:

Kathy Devlin said that there are changes that should be made to the Employee's Handbook and that these changes should be made soon. Kathy Devlin will present these proposed changes to the selectmen in written form at a meeting within the near future.

Also, a letter has been received asking when the "blue light" building at the Transfer Station will be reopened or replaced. It is obvious that citizens want this building back.

Everett Morrill of Public Works has stated that the company in Union, CT making the new building is in the process of putting on the shingles. The new building should be in place within the next month.

At a Housing Authority meeting, Len Slaga, Chairman, showed how the people presently living at Woodcrest would be temporarily housed while renovations were done to their units. Len Slaga also asked that Woodcrest be allowed to discontinue the \$13,000 annual payment to the town in

lieu of taxes. He feels that if this requirement were removed, the money would be used to benefit the seniors living at Woodcrest possibly by lowering their rents. Kathy Devlin made a motion to recommend to the Board of Finance the removal of the payment in lieu of taxes requirement for Woodcrest in the amount of approximately \$13,000 a year; seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved.

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### 8. New Business:

- 8.1 Authorize the First Selectman, David Pinney, to enter into a contract with United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Town of Somers for emergency watershed protection measures

- Kathy Devlin made a motion to authorize the First Selectman, David Pinney, to enter into a contract with United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Town of Somers for emergency watershed protection measures. This motion was seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved.

- 8.2 Authorize William Meier, III to act on behalf of the town in all matters pertaining to a personal service agreement between the town and the State Department of Public Health regarding an EMS equipment grant recently awarded to the Town of Somers

- Joe Tolisano made a motion to authorize William Meier, III to act on behalf of the town in all matters pertaining to a personal service agreement between the town and the State Department of Public Health regarding an EMS equipment grant recently awarded to the Town of Somers. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

- 8.3 Set a time and date for the Annual Town Meeting to discuss the proposed 2007-08 budget and to set a time and date for a machine vote on said budget as called for by town ordinance.

- Joe Tolisano made a motion to schedule the Annual Town Meeting for May 7, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium to consider the annual 2007-08 budget as proposed by the Board of Finance and to set the time and date for the required referendum on the

budget.

This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

9. Authorization of Scheduled Payments:

Kathy Devlin made a motion to authorize scheduled payments in the amount of \$112,200.65 generated on April 10 and 12, 2007. This motion was seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved.

10. Appropriations and Transfers:

Kathy Devlin made a motion to approve the following transfers, seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved:

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**Fire Department:**

transfer \$1,200 from acct. #10-10-511.1 Health Insurance to acct. #20-16-547.1 cell tower rental

**Police Department:**

transfer \$476.96 from acct. #20-17-531.5 vehicle maintenance to acct. #20-17-531.7 MACO vehicle maint.

10.1 Tax Refunds:

Joe Tolisano made a motion to approve tax refunds as presented by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$3,437.97. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

11. Approval of Seminar Attendance (S. Jacobs)

Kathy Devlin made a motion, seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved to allow Steve Jacobs to attend a soil scientist conference on June 13, 2007.

12. Approval of Minutes

12.1 BOS regular meeting of 4/2/07

Joe Tolisano made a motion to approve the BOS minutes of 4/2/07, as written. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

13. Board of Selectmen Remarks

13.1 Update from First Selectman

David Pinney said that the town has changed the broker of record on our health,

dental, life insurance to a new outfit called Ovation Benefits. They have brought forward some interesting material to use in our contract negotiations with both the Fire and Land Use Departments. If we continue to use Anthem/Blue Cross for health, it would seem that there would be significant savings if the town joined in with the school program. It was the consensus of the Board that First Selectman David Pinney will sign the required paperwork to change our present group.

14. Citizen Comments:

Mike Provencher of Public Works asked if we consolidate with the schools for health insurance, will our employee contribution be higher? David Pinney said that the employee contribution will not change.

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15. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Joe Tolisano, seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Carenzo, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.

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