

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 11, 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 7:05 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: nothing at this time
6. Citizen Comments: nothing at this time

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin; seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved to take the agenda out of order and discuss item 8.1 under New Business at this time.

8. New Business:
 - 8.1 Playground Committee Report on Battle Street Project
Diane Childs of the Somers Playground Committee read a letter to the selectmen giving the committee's history of playground projects in Somers. She asks that the grant money in the amount of \$7,000 be given to their committee to finish up their final project – the Little Tikes Play Center on Battle Street.

David Pinney said a great deal has been accomplished by this committee through fund raising and donations towards the goal of having all three playgrounds in Somers in operation by the end of 2007. This can only be accomplished if the \$7,000 in grant money received from the State that is currently in the Somers Playground Committee account can be used to finish up their final playground on Battle Street in back of the Kibbe Fuller building. Originally, the town loaned the committee \$7,000 in order to be able to open the Field Road playground. The grant would replace that loan. The committee is asking that this loan be forgiven, freeing up this money to be used for the completion of the Battle Street playground.

Kathy Devlin made a motion to bring this proposal before the Board of Finance at their meeting of June 18, 2007, noting that the proposal is fully endorsed by the Board of Selectman. This motion was seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved.

All three selectmen, members of the playground committee, members of the Recreation

Committee, Mike Provencher and other citizens plan to attend the Board of Finance 6/18/07 meeting in support of this proposal.

The meeting returned to the regular order of business.

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7. Old Business:

7.1 Update on Building Official Status

David Pinney reported that we are not collecting applications for the permanent position at any rapid rate. We only have two – possibly three – applications to date. We are firming up interim coverage. The former building official, Steve Dupre, has been working on inspections two evenings and Saturdays for the past two weeks. Next Monday, we will have a firm specializing in interim coverage for building officials take over some of the responsibilities of this position. Their man Jim will work in Somers three days a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday – six hours each day. Steve Dupre will continue to serve on a part-time basis. We have also gotten some help from Ellington and Stafford. The complaints have been minimal.

David Pinney has also passed on two applications for Fire Marshal to the Fire Chief and the Fire Department for their review.

7.2 Arrangements for Percoski and Anderson Awards Presentation

Letters have been sent out to all members of the Beautification Committee for the Percoski award and to Pat Juda for the Anderson award. The presentation will be at our next Board meeting on June 25, 2007 following the town meeting. Plaques have been ordered and will be inscribed by Loyal Madden in time for this meeting. Refreshments will be served. Since the Beautification Committee is quite large, there should be quite a few attending – at least until after the awards are presented.

7.3 End of Fiscal Year Finances

David Pinney reported that this fiscal year should end with about \$35,000 to \$40,000 to the good. Window blinds in the Selectmen's offices will be purchased as well as an in- depth cleaning of the Town Hall by a professional cleaning company. There have been savings in the Public Works salary line as well as in the police coverage line. There are also savings in health insurance as well as tipping fees at the Transfer Station. The Fire Chief has requested \$6,500 for the ambulance line item and \$10,000 for the Fire Department. Some of this money would go towards paying the stipends for the volunteers. Mike Provencher, Parks & Playgrounds, is in need of a new mower. His mower of choice would be a Toro that lists for

\$46,000. He had a demonstration this week. He feels the quality of the Toro is superior to the Hustler and would be easier and cheaper to repair. The price could be negotiable.

The carpeting project for the Town Hall is a CIP item and has to be approved by the Board of Finance.

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7.4 Update on Tax Sale Properties

The Tax Collector had half a dozen properties that were very delinquent in their tax payments. She worked with an attorney that specializes in this type of sale.

The town acquired for open space one of the properties on the south side of Mountain View Road, abutting Shenipsit State Forest. The Planning Commission agreed to have the town buy this property for trails. The Open Space fund has well over \$200,000 available for open space purchases. The purchase price for back taxes was \$36,000 including \$5,200 for attorney fees. The back taxes do not have to be paid to the Tax Collector and could be written off. After a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to write off the back taxes and pay the attorney fee of \$5,200.

The attorney asked that the Somers Industrial Finishing property on Field Road be pulled from the auction. This is an EPA super fund site and current condition and future liabilities need to be verified before this site can be considered for auction.

The abandoned house at the corner of Maple Ridge and Main Street was purchased and the two properties across from the Somersville Mill moved privately.

7.5 Other:

Regarding the Whitaker property sale, the subdivision is finalized. The lots exist as separate lots available for sale. We should do a public bid. A town meeting has authorized the sale of the lots. There are three lots – one on Wells Road and the other two on Mountain View Road. The First Selectman, David Pinney, will work with the Town Attorney Carl Landolina to set up the proper process to receive bids for these properties. It was the consensus of the Board that this process should be set up as soon as possible in order to have a bid opening by mid-July.

The Water Pollution Control Authority has come in with a much higher bid for the Somersville Sewer Plant renovations and a pump station for Somers Village than had been originally anticipated. The WPCA plans to have a special meeting with the contractor on June 19, 2007 to see if some of the increased cost can be eliminated.

8. New Business:

8.2 Appointments

8.2.1 Advisory Committee for the Elderly – Ann Houston

Kathy Devlin made a motion to appoint Ann Houston to fill an unexpired term on the Advisory Committee for the Elderly – term expiration date of 12/22/07. This motion was seconded by Joe Tolisano and approved unanimously.

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8.2.2 Openings on Recreation Commission and Computer Committee

The Board asked Mike Provencher to contact the Republican Town Committee to see if Vincent Hollister of Highland View Drive might be interested in filling an open seat on the Recreation Commission.

The Board will also attempt to find some members for the Computer Committee.

8.3 Call a Special Town Meeting to approve Board of Finance Transfer Recommendations

A motion was made by Joe Tolisano to hold a Special Town Meeting on June 25, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. – just prior to the regular Board meeting to approve Board of Finance transfer recommendations as listed below:

- a. transfer \$648,652 from acct. #10-52-302.0 MBA Contingency to acct. #10-52-301.0 MBA Construction
- b. transfer \$83,073 from acct. #10-53-402.0 Central Office Contingency to acct. #10-53-401.0 Central Office Construction
- c. transfer \$34,000 from acct. #10-52-311.0 Board of Finance Contingency to acct. #10-52-301.0 MBA Construction

This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

8.4 Other

It has been suggested that the Board of Selectmen team up with the Land Trust again in order to purchase other land in Somers for open space. The parcel in question is on Bald Mountain on the former Old Upper Scully Road. The Trappe family would be willing to sell the property to the Land Trust and Town of Somers and we could apply to the State for an open space grant that will cover 40 – 45% of the sale price. The balance owed would be split between the Land Trust and the Town of Somers. Joe Tolisano made a motion to authorize the First Selectman, David Pinney, to apply with the Land Trust for a State Open Space grant for the property owned by the Trappe family on Bald Mountain on the former Old Upper Scully Road. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

Tax Collector Donna Doyker is attempting to revamp the tax bill. There is an opportunity to consolidate several motor vehicle tax bills for a single taxpayer onto one statement. Unfortunately, that process can not accommodate split bills currently generated for amounts over \$250. The Selectmen would have to reverse the ordinance to break anything over a \$250 total into two equal amounts. The Board was hesitant to endorse this proposal and wanted to review other options available to the Tax Collector for consolidating tax bills.

The Board discussed finalizing the new position description for the Administrative Assistant for Public Works. The list of duties was reviewed and some changes were

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made. This person would report to the proposed expanded position of Director of Public Works. The position description and job requirements will be reviewed within the next week in order to publish this job opening for applicants.

The treasurer is setting up a new bank account that requires the signatures of all three selectmen. This was done and will be returned to the treasurer.

Kathy Devlin said the Hartford Foundation has grant money available but we need someone to write a grant. The availability of a grant writer will be investigated.

9. Authorization of Scheduled Payments

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to hold off payment to Kevin Egan for putting in lines on the lacrosse fields in the amount of \$650 and submitting this invoice to the Somers Soccer Association.

Kathy Devlin made a motion to authorize scheduled payments in the amount of \$146,827.41 generated on May 29, 31 and June 5, 6, 8 and 11, 2007. This motion was seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved.

10. Appropriations/Transfers

Kathy Devlin made a motion to approve the following appropriations/transfers. This motion was seconded by Joe Tolisano and approved unanimously.

Assesessor:

transfer \$370.38 from acct. #10-15-516.1 Advertising to acct. #10-15-545.1 mapping
transfer \$270.00 from acct. #10-15-521.1 copy to acct. #10-15-545.1 mapping
transfer \$120.00 from acct. #10-15-534.1 dues to acct. #10-15-545.1 mapping
transfer \$200.00 from acct. #10-15-520.1 printing to acct. #10-15-545.1 mapping

Debt Service:

transfer \$.50 from acct. #80-31-739.1 library interest to acct. #80-31-742.1 school interest
transfer \$.50 from acct. #80-31-741.1 Sp. Projects int. to acct. #80-31-742.1 school int.
transfer \$.51 from acct. #80-31-744.2 school 2006 int. to acct. #80-31-742.1 school int.

Fire:

reimbursement of \$1732.50 to acct. #20-16-568.1

Fire/Ambulance:

transfer \$2,500 from acct. #20-16-530.5 new equip. to acct. #10-16-531.5 veh. maint.

Fire Marshal:

transfer \$250.00 from acct. #20-10-565.1 uniforms to acct. #20-10-525.1 fire systems
transfer \$100.00 from acct. #20-10-531.5 veh. maint. to acct. #20-10-525.1 fire systems
transfer \$25.50 from acct. #20-10-501.3 fire marshal salary to acct. #20-10-525.1 fire systems

Highway:

transfer \$28,000 from acct. #30-18-508.1 salaries to acct. #20-17-539.1 state police

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Library:

transfer \$345 from acct. #50-21-561.1 tel to acct. #50-21-531.1 bldg. maint.
transfer \$100 from acct. #50-21-613.1 bindery to acct. #50-21-531.1 bldg. maint.
transfer \$256 from acct. #50-21-530.5 new equip. to acct. #50-21-531.1 bldg. maint.
transfer \$1,000 from acct. #50-21-609.1 auto services to acct. #50-21-531.1 bldg. maint.
transfer \$581 from acct. #50-21-611.1 services to 50-21-531.1 bldg. maint.
transfer \$917 from acct. #50-21-502.2 child library to acct.#50-21-560.1 electricity

Police:

transfer \$4,800 from acct. #20-17-503.1 clerical sup to acct.#20-17-539.1 state police
transfer \$3,631 from acct. #20-17-503.3 overtime sal. to acct. #20-17-539.1 state police
transfer \$2,500 from acct. #20-17-506.4 shift prem. to acct. #20-17-539.1 state police
transfer \$6,300 from acct. #20-17-508.2 part time PO to acct. #20-17-539.1 state police

transfer \$1,500 from acct. #20-17-520.1 equip. & to acct. #20-17-539.1 state police
 transfer \$500 from acct. #20-17-531.5 vehicle maint. to acct. #20-17-539.1 state police
 transfer \$2,100 from acct. #20-17-531.6 mobile data to acct. #20-17-539.1 state police
 transfer \$49.31 from acct. #20-17-533.1 postage to acct. #20-17-539.1 state police
 transfer \$1,500 from acct. #20-17-568.1 training to acct. #20-17-539.1 state police
 transfer \$694.66 from acct. #20-17-573.1 radio maint. to acct. #20-17-539.1 state police
 transfer \$100 from acct. #20-17-578.1 juvenile re to acct. #20-17-539.1 state police

School Construction:

transfer \$648,652 from acct. #10-52-302.0 MBA Contingency to acct. #10-52-301.0 MBA
 construction
 transfer \$83,073 from acct. #10-53-402.0 central office contingency to acct. #10-53-401.0 office
 construction
 transfer \$34,000 from acct. #10-52-311.0 BOF contingency to acct. #10-52-301.0 MBA
 construction

Selectmen:

transfer \$2,500 from acct. #10-10-509.1 temp. salaries to acct. #10-10-530.1 capital equip. repair
 transfer \$2,000 from acct. #10-10-506.1 overtime salaries to acct. #10-10-523.1 other

Transfer Station:

transfer \$3,800 from acct. #30-34-508.2 part-time to acct. #30-34-506.1 overtime
 transfer \$2,400 from acct. #30-34-508.2 part-time to acct. #30-34-508.3 Labor MSW Hauling
 transfer \$1,600 from acct. #30-34-589.3 tipping fees to acct. #30-34-531.8 vehicle fuel
 transfer \$300 from acct. #30-34-588.1 recycling to acct. #30-34-560.1 electricity
 transfer \$1,500 from acct. #30-34-588.1 recycling to acct. #30-34-589.2 test well monitoring
 transfer \$1,500 from acct. #30-34-588.1 recycling to acct. #30-34-589.6 maint. oper.
 transfer \$1,600 from acct. #30-34-589.3 tipping fees to acct. #30-34-508.2 MSW hauling

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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 \$1,575.49 as presented by the tax collector.

11. Approval of Minutes:

11.1 BOS Meeting of 5/29/07

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin; seconded by Joe Tolisano and approved unanimously to approve the BOS minutes of 5/29/07.

12. Board of Selectmen Remarks

12.1 Update from First Selectman: Nothing further was discussed.

13. Citizen Comments: Nothing further was discussed.

14. Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Carenzo, Recording Secretary
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.

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