

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 25, 2007
7:00 p.m. (immediately following the Town Meeting)
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 7:30 p.m.

3. Members Present:

Selectmen David Pinney, Kathy Devlin and Joe Tolisano

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

5. Presentation of the Adolph P. Anderson Quality Employee Award for 2006
and the Robert B. Percoski Citizenship Award for 2006

First Selectman David Pinney presented the Adolph P. Anderson award to Pat Juda, Assessor, in recognition of the outstanding way in which she runs the Assessor's office. A plaque was given to her and her name will be placed on the large plaque in the hallway of the Town Hall as the recipient for 2006.

First Selectman David Pinney also presented the Robert B. Percoski Citizenship Award to the Beautification Committee. There are 26 members of this committee and they keep all the public areas of Somers well-landscaped and beautiful throughout the planting season. The group gave special thanks to Len VanWingerden of Grower Direct who donates all of the plants that they use in their displays. David also awarded them a plaque and their committee name will be displayed on the large plaque located in the Town Hall as the recipient for 2006.

The meeting adjourned for a 20-minute refreshment break.

6. Correspondence: None was presented.

7. Citizen Comments: No comments were made.

Kathy Devlin made a motion to take the agenda out of order and proceed to item 9.1 on the agenda under New Business. This motion was seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved.

9. New Business:

9.1 Public Health District

David Pinney reported that he met with Pamela Kilbey-Fox of the State Department of Health and Dr. Segool, our part-time Health Director, and they expressed concern about proper coverage for the town in the areas of disease prevention and terrorist activity. They want Somers to join the North Central Public Health District in Enfield and would like to come before the Board to present their case directly.

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David Pinney said this has been an issue under discussion for some time. The town accepted a \$5,000 state grant to be used to evaluate our current situation and examining alternatives through the district. David Pinney has not arranged for anyone to do this evaluation. Health services from the district such as septic, sewer and water systems is currently unacceptable as far as timely service.

After a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the present arrangement with Steve Jacobs as Sanitarian works much better for the town than joining a district. All of the contractors in the audience agreed with this decision.

David Pinney said legislation has been proposed but not passed and will likely be proposed again to require every town to have a full-time health director. If this becomes law, then the town might have to join a district or take some other approach to obtain the services of a full-time director. We can use the grant money to investigate options.

Fred Meyer:

Fred asked what the small towns are doing. Steve Jacobs replied that most of the small towns are in a health district. There are only 37 towns that are still served by their own self-contained district.

Chet Ladd:

Chet suggested that the Board check with Johnson-Memorial Hospital to see if they would give us the support that we need.

Joe Tolisano said that infectious disease or a terrorist attack and the services of the sanitarian are two different functions.

8. **Old Business:**

8.1 **Update on Fire Marshal and Building Official Positions**

On the fire marshal position, we have one applicant. The Fire Commission wants us to re-advertise the position at a higher rate of pay. The job was posted in the newspaper and

the internet job posting at an hourly rate of \$18-22 per hour.

We did a survey of area towns and hourly rates for a fire marshal are more in the range of \$25 - \$30 per hour. Kathy Devlin feels the town should use Glen Reynolds as fire marshal as he is already certified for the job, and possibly hire a part-time firefighter to help with Glen's duties when he is busy doing fire marshal work.

Chet Ladd asked who is responsible for hiring a fire marshal. David Pinney said the Fire Commission and the Fire Chief would do the hiring but the Board of Selectmen would establish the hourly rate. Chet suggested using Glen Reynolds and pay him an

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additional amount for handling the fire marshal duties.

David Pinney said that Glen Reynolds does want to do the fire marshal job if things can be worked out. The Fire Commission is planning to meet again soon and David Pinney will attend their meeting and review the situation with them.

There has been a lack of applicants for the building official full-time position. David Pinney said he does have a candidate that will be starting to work part-time as the building official beginning tomorrow. He is recovering from a foot injury and has only been released by his doctor to work part-time. He will work 5 hours a day, 3 days a week. Steve Dupre will continue to do inspections on a part-time basis and will act as assistant building official until we can fill the position on a full-time basis.

8.2 Other:

Regarding the three lots from the Whitaker property that the town will sell, Patrice Carson is putting together a legal notice that will be published in the newspaper. We will identify a minimum bid for each property, and "For Sale" signs will be posted.

The Board feels that we need to move forward with the sale of the Somersville Mill. The first group had a valid marketing plan and the financial backing to proceed with the plan. The town needs the advice of an attorney as to what steps to take to finalize the sale.

David Pinney reported that he received a letter of resignation today from the Assistant Treasurer, Cathy Cabral. She has accepted a position as Assistant Financial Director in Windsor Locks for a substantial increase in pay. She will be leaving in two weeks and July 6th will be her last day of

work for Somers. The selectmen agreed that it is immediately necessary to advertise for the position of Financial Director to replace Ed Sullivan who will retire the beginning of November. It will take at least two months to get a new Financial Director in place. In the meantime, hire a part-time temporary accountant to fill the gap when Cathy leaves. The selectmen felt that the new financial director should be the one to hire his assistant.

David Pinney received a letter from ASCAP requesting that the town enter into an arrangement (that their internal lawyers worked out) to pay an annual fee of \$284 so the town could use copyrighted songs in public performances without paying a royalty. It was the consensus of the Board that the Board of Education should review this request as the school musical productions might be affected. David will forward this letter to the school administrative department.

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10. Authorization of Scheduled Payments

Joe Tolisano made a motion to authorize scheduled payments in the amount of \$441,040.27 generated on June 18, 22 and 25, 2007. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

11. Appropriations/Transfers:

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin; seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved to approve the following appropriations/transfers:

Park Maintenance:

transfer \$1,000 from acct. #30-19-552.1 fertilizer to acct. #30-19-521.5 playground expense

Selectmen:

transfer \$428.16 from acct. #10-10-586.1 streetlights to acct. #20-29-571.1 emergency preparedness

Senior Center:

reimbursement appropriation of \$50 to acct. #51-30-640.1 senior center expenses

Tax Collector:

transfer \$670 from acct. #10-10-561.1 telephone to acct. #10-13-508.2 part-time salary

11.1 Tax Refunds:

Kathy Devlin made a motion, seconded by Joe Tolisano and approved unanimously to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$115.64 as recommended by the Tax Collector.

12. Approval of Minutes

12.1 BOS Regular Meeting of 6/11/07

12.2 BOS Special Meeting of 6/13/07

Joe Tolisano made a motion to approve, as written, both the BOS regular meeting minutes of 6/11/07 and the BOS special meeting minutes of 6/13/07. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

13. Board of Selectman Remarks:

13.1 Update from First Selectman:

Nothing further was discussed.

14. Citizen Comments: There were none.

15. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned by mutual consent at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Carenzo, Recording Secretary
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.