

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 9, 2007
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Auditorium**

1. Location of Emergency Exits: not necessary, less than 100 present

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 Sewer Plant Expansion:

The total cost of this project has more than doubled from the original estimate of \$400,00 to \$884,264 for the total project. One of the reasons is that the cost of sand has also doubled since the original estimate was made. The town bears half of the cost of this expansion and the developer the other half. \$300,000 has already been approved for the town's share of this project. Now we will need another \$150,000 to cover the town's cost. The Board needs to go before the Board of Finance to request the additional money. Reimbursement will be made at some point in the future from assessments on the properties involved. This project will need to go before a special town meeting for approval of about \$900,000 total expenditure. The Board of Selectmen should recommend approval by the Board of Finance and refer the matter to a special town meeting for approval of an additional \$600,000 with the understanding that our partners will be able to reimburse at least half of this amount immediately. Kathy Devlin made a motion to this effect, seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved.

There was a brief discussion about bonding at least half of this money. David Pinney will verify that the Board of Finance is still meeting on Monday, July 16, 2007. Jim Botellio, Chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), has been present for this discussion and feels that if we do not act by August, we will have to re-bid and the price will go up even more.

Kathy Devlin made a motion to set a special town meeting date of July 25, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium to act on all of the items coming up from the Board of Finance that require town meeting approval. Joe Tolisano seconded this motion that was unanimously approved.

It was the consensus of the Board to skip the next item at this time and go directly to item 7.3.

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7.3 Fire Marshal:

David Pinney reviewed with the Board that when the selectmen last met, he had been seeking support from the selectmen to increase the rate of pay for the part-time fire marshal position but that the discussion at that time turned once again to the possibility of Glen Reynolds - as an already certified fire marshal working for the town as a firefighter - including the fire marshal functions as part of his job. David had discussed this issue again with Deputy Chief Frank Falcone, Fire Chief Bill Meier and Fire Commission member Frank Lawlor. While it is conceivable to have one of the career firefighters separate out 16-18 hours of his work week for fire marshal duties, the challenge continues to be the reliability of scheduling part-time help to replace that firefighter while the firefighter is scheduled to engage in fire marshal functions. We reviewed once again the possibility of adding a permanent part-time firefighter but see very limited prospects in being able to fill that position or alternatively adding an additional full-time firefighter where we continue to struggle to find sufficient funds for a new position.

After further discussion, Joe Tolisano made a motion to raise the hourly rate for a part-time fire marshal from \$25 to \$30 per hour and stipulate that the fire marshal reports directly to the Fire Commission. Kathy Devlin seconded this motion that was approved unanimously.

Bill Meier talked about year-end numbers. The ambulance account is already about \$500 over budget. Bill Meier feels that the Fire Department will make its budget but there will be nothing left.

7.2 Somersville Mill: This discussion will be saved until the end of the meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to proceed directly to New Business, item 8.1.2.

8. New Business:

8.1.2 Tax Rebate Proposals – Conval

Frank Siver, General Manager of Conval, stated that Conval wishes to expand, bringing public water up to the range of their buildings. Going with Ellington Acres Water Company and Connecticut Water Company would cost about \$100,000 for the extension of the

water main. Frank Siver stated that all of the businesses on Field Road pay higher fire insurance because there is no public water available. He will talk to his neighboring businesses to see if they would be agreeable to paying for some of the water main.

Frank Siver said Conval bought land directly across the street from their buildings that is zoned industrial and would like to construct another building offering at least another

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20,000 square feet of shop space. Conval would prefer to build 40,000 square feet of shop space but the land is only a little over two acres and zoning regulations probably would not support this large a building. Conval currently has 46,000 square feet of shop space. He estimates the total cost of the expansion to be about two million dollars. Mr. Siver is requesting a tax abatement. Conval would also have to pay for the water line coming up to Conval property, unless an agreement can be worked out with other properties. Mr. Siver said that Conval would like to remain in Somers and hopes that something can be worked out with the town in the way of a tax rebate or help with the water line. David Pinney will contact the Town Attorney to see what the town can do within the law. The Board of Selectmen would also like to have Conval remain in town. They employ over 100 people and would be adding new employees when the extra shop space is available. The Water Pollution Control Authority should also be involved with the additional water line proposed by Conval.

8.1.1 Tax Abatement Proposals – 58-60 Springfield Road

David Pinney gave copies to the Board of a letter from Barbara Lastrina and Joseph Gosselin, owners of commercial property at 58-60 Springfield Road. This property was found to be contaminated with cadmium. All tenants vacated the property and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) spent four million dollars in remediation costs to clean up this property. The property can now be sold and the EPA has agreed to accept 40% of the sale price (after all debts have been paid) as payment for the clean-up of the property and the owners can keep 60% of the sale price. The owners would like the taxes abated for the years during which the property was being cleaned up with a total tax owed on the property set at \$1719.24 to become current. The tax collector and assessor are in favor of this abatement.

Joe Tolisano made a motion to endorse an abatement of taxes on 58-60 Springfield Road and establish the total taxes owed for this property in order to become current to be \$1719.24. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

8.2 Training Program for Glen Reynolds

Glen Reynolds has submitted a training program to keep up with his certification as a fire marshal. Kathy Devlin made a motion to approve this training program; seconded by Joe

Tolisano and unanimously approved.

8.3 Other:

The Fire Department has a grant from their annual fire act. They qualified for \$44,250 worth of new radios; 95% to be paid by the grant and 5% (\$2,212) paid by the town. Joe Tolisano made a motion to approve the town paying 5% of the cost of the new radios, \$2,212. Kathy Devlin seconded this motion which was unanimously approved.

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Geno Baloga, local plumbing contractor, thanks the Board for the new building inspector. He said he is doing a good job and getting a lot of things cleared up. He is hopeful that he will become our full-time building official.

Steve Barnes, also a local contractor, heard about going to Johnson Memorial Hospital to help with our public health requirements. He is definitely in favor of this and keeping Steve Jacobs as our town sanitarian.

The Board indicated that they would like to meet with our state representative Penny Bacchiochi to review our options on public health requirements as well as several other issues. David Pinney will talk to Penny to see if a morning coffee can be arranged to discuss these matters.

David received a request from a senior citizen that a bus pass be used on the senior bus instead of paying \$1.00 each time the bus is used, because some seniors use the bus several times a week. After a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to leave things as they are as there would certainly be considerable objection to the use of a bus pass.

Kathy Devlin said it is very important to develop position descriptions as soon as possible for: Financial Director; Director of Public Works and Administrative Assistant in Public Works. Time is getting short before these positions need to be filled.

David Pinney reported that the Transfer Station has one new employee who has already started work.

It was the consensus of the Board to return to item #7.2 under Old Business which has yet to be discussed.

7. Old Business:

7.2 Somersville Mill:

David Pinney distributed copies of recently received proposals from two additional developers interested in the mill. The selectmen will review those but continue to focus on the need to get some guidance on how to go forward with the review process. David Pinney will contact the attorney from Pullman and Comley that he met recently who specializes in brownfield redevelopment work.

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 \$1,036,532.98 generated on June 28, July 3, 5 and 6, 2007.

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10. Appropriations/Transfers:

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

Library:

transfer \$285 from acct. #50-21-503.2 part-time to acct. #50-21-508.5 reference
transfer .38 from acct. #50-21-508.2 part-time to acct. #50-21-502.1 assist. lib.
transfer \$75 from acct. #50-21-520.1 supplies to acct. #50-21-531.1 bldg. maint.
transfer \$160 from acct. #50-21-611.1 services to acct. #50-21-612.1 audio visual

Police:

transfer \$215.12 from acct. #20-17-520.1 equipment to acct. #20-17-508.2 part-time
transfer \$445.00 from acct. #20-17-531.5 vehicle maint. to acct. #20-17-501.2 dog warden
transfer \$270.58 from acct. #20-17-503.1 clerical to acct. #20-17-501.2 dog warden
transfer \$3951.00 from acct. #10-10-508.1 proposed salary to acct. #20-17-501.2 dog warden

Selectmen:

transfer \$1879.17 from acct. #10-10-510.1 social security to acct. #10-10-504.5 registrars
transfer \$335.40 from acct. #10-10-506.1 overtime to acct. #10-10-515.2 bonds & insur.
transfer \$842.61 from acct. #10-10-510.1 social security to acct. #10-10-517.1 elections
transfer \$1448.36 from acct. #10-10-513.2 unemployment to acct. #10-10-516.1 advertising
transfer \$54 from acct. #10-10-504.4 board secretary to acct. #10-10-534.1 dues & seminars
transfer \$1752.89 from acct. #10-10-559.3 police heat to acct. #10-10-560.3 police electric
transfer \$332.55 from acct. #10-10-559.3 police heat to acct. #10-10-559.2 Kibbe Fuller heat
transfer \$740.05 from acct. #10-10-559.3 police heat to acct. #10-10-536.1 fire protection
reimbursement appropriation of \$1,575.40 to acct. #10-10-560.1 electricity

Town Clerk

transfer \$728.92 from acct. #10-12-533.1 postage to acct. #10-12-543.1 computer data

Transfer Station:

transfer \$299.67 from acct. #30-34-589.6 maintenance to acct. #30-34-506.1 overtime

transfer \$863.66 from acct. #30-34-589.3 tipping fees to acct. #30-34-508.2 part-time salaries

transfer \$445.15 from acct. #30-34-559.1 heat to acct. #30-34-508.3 MSW hauler

transfer \$49.25 from acct. #30-34-559.1 heat to acct. #30-34-589.3 electric

transfer \$5035.00 from acct. #30-34-589.3 tipping fees to acct. #30-34-588.1 recycling

transfer \$906.26 from acct. #30-34-589.3 tipping fees to acct. #30-34-589.1 landfill oper.

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11. Approval of Minutes

11.1 BOS regular meeting of 6/25/07

11.2 BOS special meeting of 6/29/07

11.3 BOS special meeting of 7/3/07

Joe Tolisano made a motion to approve the above three Board of Selectmen minutes, as written. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

12. Board of Selectmen Remarks

12.1 Update from First Selectman – nothing further was discussed.

12.2 Other – nothing further was discussed.

13. Citizen Comments: There were none.

14. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Carenzo, Recording Secretary
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.