

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 17, 2007
following the Special Town Meeting
scheduled for 7:00 p.m.**

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 7:10 p.m.

3. Members Present:

Selectmen David Pinney and Joe Tolisano

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

5. Public Hearing:

5.1 to consider a new “Fire Fighting Water Supply” Ordinance

David Pinney said the concern that he has heard raised is if this ordinance is approved, it would create a requirement to put public water in all new developments that are within a certain proximity to existing water mains. The fire protection costs that are borne by the town would be increased considerably if this were the case. Our current fire protection cost paid to Connecticut Water Company is about \$126,000 a year and even a medium sized subdivision with public water would cost between \$4,000 to \$5,000 per year in fire protection costs.

Karl Walton remarked that having an ordinance does not change the current rules that require extending public water when it is within 200 feet of a proposed subdivision. A developer could use an existing pond with dry hydrants or install a cistern large enough to provide water for the firefighters.

Bill Meier said that in those areas served by public water, our insurance rating (ISO) is 5, which is a good rating. Homes with fire protection nearby are granted lower rates on their home insurance. He also compared Somers with Enfield, even though it is a much larger town. Residents there are assessed for their own fire district tax. There are five fire districts in Enfield. In Somers, the fire hydrants on the Hazardville Water Company water lines are owned by Somers and are maintained by Somers. The Connecticut Water Company hydrants are owned by them and CWC is supposed to maintain them. This is not done on a regular basis.

Joe Tolisano asked how much water is carried by the Fire Department to a fire. He was told 7,000 gallons that would only last about ten minutes with a serious fire.

Frank Falcone and Bill Meier are both in favor of enacting the ordinance.

David Pinney said the selectmen will defer a decision until all three selectmen are present.

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There were no other comments. The public hearing closed at 7:35 p.m.

6. Correspondence

Carol Pyne, President of the Somers Historical Society, sent the Board a copy of a letter sent to Michael Eldridge for painting the museum again and donating his time and materials. It was the consensus of the Board that a letter of appreciation should also be sent to Mr. Eldridge from the Board of Selectmen.

7. Citizen Comments: There were none.

8. Old Business:

8.1 Discussion – possible decision – new Fire Fighting Water Supply Ordinance

The Board said the only issue is the cost and do we share it amongst all the taxpayers? David Pinney will look into a fee or assessment that could be levied on properties that are near these water improvements.

9. New Business:

9.1 Fee Schedule for Water Pollution Control Authority

Steve Jacobs, Sanitarian, presented an increased fee schedule for his department. The fee schedule has not been revised since July 1, 2003 and is still considerably lower than the fees charged by surrounding health districts.

Joe Tolisano made a motion to approve the new fee schedule for WPCA/Health, effective October 1, 2007. This motion was seconded by David Pinney and unanimously approved.

9.2 Town Constables:

Francis Parrett, part-time constable, has resigned which leaves only one part-time constable serving the town. There was a brief discussion about the pros and cons of maintaining part-time constables as opposed to using strictly state troopers assigned to Somers. We have a contract that sets their pay scale, and it is a lot less expensive to use part-time constables for certain event coverage rather than relying on state troopers. David Pinney will work with our resident sergeant to see if the town can hire one or two more part-time constables.

The Animal Control Officer, Jennifer Rose, has said that she and her husband will be moving out of town in early December. We will need to replace her and will advertise as soon as possible. Jennifer Rose has been a competent and well-respected Animal Control Officer for many years and she will be missed.

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9.3 Other:

The Library Building Committee is investigating various options to make the library project move faster and would like to relocate some of the library services during construction. They want to move Children Services into the Town Hall Auditorium. The Board agreed that the auditorium is seldom used to full capacity and felt that the auditorium could be used to help out as much as the library needs.

Our computer consultant is developing a town website to do municipal functions and has quoted a price of \$20,000. Joe Tolisano will look the proposal over and come back with his recommendations.

10. Authorization of Scheduled Payments:

Joe Tolisano made a motion to authorize schedule payments in the amount of \$452,452.91 generated on September 6, 12, 13 and 17, 2007. This motion was seconded by David Pinney and unanimously approved.

11. Appropriations/Transfers:

Joe Tolisano made a motion to approve the following appropriations/transfers; seconded by David Pinney and unanimously approved:

Maple Street Bridge:

additional appropriation of \$446.53 to acct. #69-10-230.1

Planning Department:

transfer \$3.00 from 10-25-534.1 Dues and Seminars to acct. #10-25-846.1 Engineering

Police Dept.

transfer \$104.48 from 20-17-539.1 State Police to acct. #20-17-565 Uniform Maintenance

transfer \$42.00 from 20-17-561.2 cell phone to 20-17-565.1 uniform maintenance

Police Outside Services:

additional appropriation of \$8,401.05 to acct. #90-99-767.2

Sanitarian:

transfer.83 from 40-19-521.2 Map Copier Maint. to 40-19-530.5 new equipment

Selectmen:

appropriation of \$2,766.60 to acct. #10-10-525.1

appropriation of \$6,873.00 – funds supplied from a state grant to support work done for the town on preserving farmland by CCM

appropriation of \$9,687.00 – funds supplied from a state grant to support work done for the town on preserving farmland by CCM

Tax Collector:

transfer \$364.32 from 10-13-508.2 taxC p/t salary to acct. #10-13-599.2 taxC state allocation

transfer \$109.00 from 10-13-516.1 advertising to acct. #10-13-599.2 TaxC state allocation

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transfer \$1414.00 from acct. #10-15-503.1 assessor clerical assistant to 10-13-599.2 TaxC state allocation

Town Clerk:

transfer \$500 from 10-10-511.1 health insurance to 10-12-533.1 postage

transfer \$50 from 10-10-511.1 health insurance to 10-12-538.1 vital statistics

transfer \$700 from 10-10-511.1 health insurance to 10-12-543.1 computer data processing

transfer \$80.00 from 10-12-530.1 supplies to 10-12-521.1 copy machine

Transfer Station:

transfer \$2.99 from 30-19-560.1 parks electricity to acct. #30-34-589.3 tipping fees

transfer \$199.50 from 30-19-560.1 to 30-34-589.6 maintenance operations

12. **Approval of Minutes:**

12.1 **BOS regular meeting of 9/4/07**

Joe Tolisano made a motion to approve the BOS minutes of 9/4/07; seconded by David Pinney and unanimously approved.

13. **Board of Selectmen Remarks:**

13.1 **Update from First Selectman**

The Cultural Commission is interested in coming up with a town seal and is planning on running a contest and review the entries. Joe Tolisano suggested letting the schools know about the contest so that students could submit their ideas. A small monetary prize of \$100 could be given to the winner.

David Pinney talked with the town attorney about the Housing Authority having come up with the funding for expansion of low income housing as well as obtaining the proper permits. David Pinney is now authorized to transfer the 13 acres of property to the Housing Authority.

Joe Tolisano offered to draft up a current position description for the tax collector position.

The First Selectman's office has received several applications for the Chief Financial Officer position but has not received any applications for the Town Engineer/Director of Public Works position as yet. It was the consensus of the Board that another ad should be placed right away for this position.

Reverse 911 – data submitted in response to the request distributed with the tax bills has not been entered into the Reverse 911 system as yet. Paula LaFrance, the new administrative assistant for Public Works is supposed to do this input as soon as she settles into her new job. The Board agreed that we need to stage a mock event to check out the system.

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14. Citizen Comments: There were none.
15. Adjournment:
The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Carenzo, Recording Secretary
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.