

1. Location of Emergency Exits – not reviewed as fewer than 50 people were in attendance
2. Call to order @ 7:02 p.m.
3. Members present – Kathleen Devlin, David Pinney & Joseph Tolisano

A number of interested citizens were also in attendance, as well as Parks Department Maintenance Foreman, Michael Provencher, and Executive Assistant/Operations Manager, Marcia Mitchell.

4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Correspondence was reviewed
 - 5.1 Central Conservation District – thank you for partnership with certificate of appreciation enclosed.
 - 5.2 Town of East Longmeadow – thank you for assistance provided by Somers Fire Department during recent fire at Bluebird Estates.

At this point, Ms. Devlin motioned that item 8.3 regarding the Skate Park be brought forward to this time of the meeting. Mr. Tolisano seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.

8.3 Skate Park: A brief background and history of the skate park were discussed. Photographs of the current condition of the skate park were provided by citizen John Taylor, and circulated between the Selectmen and staff. Mr. Provencher commented that the condition of the skate park had so deteriorated that he and his workers were no longer able to maintain the safety of the equipment. Mr. Tolisano and Ms. Devlin expressed concern about the Town's liability and the safety of the citizens that use the skate park, as well as the lack of supervision. Other citizens in attendance commented that they were concerned that the park was no longer serving residents of Somers, that in fact non-residents from towns where the skate parks had been closed were using the park regularly. General consensus was that the park was unsafe and should be closed. ***Mr. Tolisano moved that the Selectmen direct the Parks Department to dismantle and remove the skate park immediately as their schedule allowed, and that the Parks Commission be asked to reinvent the skate park as a safe, maintainable, supervised facility. Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.*** Mr. Provencher asked that a notice be drafted for posting at the skate park prior to beginning the process of dismantling, and Mr. Tolisano took responsibility for drafting that message in the next 24-48 hours.

6. Citizen Comments – none at this time.

7. Old Business

7.1 Feedback from 10/22 staff meeting – generally positive. Mr. Pinney noted that he had been informed of several instances of current employees who receive direction from multiple individuals and/or boards, commissions etc. Ms. Devlin reiterated that the shared vision of the Selectmen was to have every employee reporting to a director, and the directors reporting to the First Selectman. She suggested that the Selectmen communicate this shared vision of the organization to all committees/commissions/ boards and councils that provide input and guidance to town employees. In discussion, it was agreed that this communication should begin with the Board of Finance. It was also noted that neither Mr. Tolisano nor Ms. Devlin were available for the next regular meeting date on November 12, 2007. The selectmen concluded that the 11/12/07 regular Selectmen's meeting be cancelled, that a special Selectmen's meeting be scheduled for 11/19/07 prior to the Finance Board meeting, and that Mr. Pinney would arrange for the Selectmen to conduct a joint meeting with the Board of Finance as part of their scheduled meeting on 11/19/07

7.2 Open positions review – Three positions currently open

Animal Control posting concluded 10/26/07, 11 applicants to date, and applications still coming in. The selectmen agreed that an interview committee comprised of the First Selectman, one other selectman, the incumbent Animal Control Officer, Police Administrative Sergeant, and the operations manager should review those applications that most closely match the requirements for the position. Ms. Mitchell will identify those and distribute to the group.

Tax Collector posting concluded 10/26/07, 19 applicants to date including the incumbent, and applications still coming in. Mr. Tolisano agreed to convene the same group that interviewed for the CFO position, and asked that he be provided copies of the applications that most closely match the requirements for the position. Ms. Mitchell will identify those and deliver to Mr. Tolisano.

Highway Foreman posted internally on 10/25/07, due to the high level of interest expressed by existing staff. Mr. Cafarelli, the incoming Director of Public Works will be speaking with interested staff when he is in on 10/30/07. Ms. Devlin expressed interest in having the Selectmen, as a group, communicate their shared vision of the organization to the new directors, as a group, once they are all on board in their positions. It was agreed that this would take place as part of the special meeting on 11/19/07

7.3 Retirements update – Formal retirement letter received from Ken Anderson, effective 11/2/07. ***Ms. Devlin moved that the retirement of Kenneth Anderson be accepted, with regret, and with grateful acknowledgement of 41 years of outstanding service to the town. Mr. Tolisano seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.*** Refreshments will be served at the Town Garage at noon on 11/2/07, and the public is invited to stop by and thank Ken for his years of service.

An unsigned letter was received via e-mail from Frank Lawlor, resigning his position on the Somers Fire Commission. In the past, town attorneys have told the Selectmen that any

resignation must be signed. Mr. Pinney will contact Mr. Lawlor to discuss his resignation and request a signed letter.

7.4 Position descriptions update – existing position descriptions have been identified and are being matched up to the employees currently in the positions. Mr. Tolisano asked if the 30-60 day timeframe for completion of the revisions by the employees was still realistic, and Ms. Mitchell confirmed that it is and that she will inform the selectmen immediately if she believes the timeframe is not achievable.

Mr. Pinney brought forth three employee conference requests for consideration and approval by the selectmen. ***Ms. Devlin moved to approve three employee conference requests, Mr. Tolisano seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.***

Mr. Pinney raised the topic of the Land Use employee contract negotiations as appropriate to this section of the agenda. ***Ms. Devlin moved that the discussion regarding the Land Use employee contract negotiations be taken up in executive session, Mr. Tolisano seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.***

7.5 Update on Mill redevelopment activity – negotiations still pending, and Mr. Pinney requested that this be taken up in executive session. ***Mr. Tolisano moved that the discussion regarding Mill redevelopment negotiations be taken up in executive session, Ms. Devlin seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.***

7.6 Reconstruction of intersection at Main Street, Ninth District and Sokol Road – a brief discussion of the history of this project, going back prior to the year 2000, took place. An e-mail from Sergeant Claudio regarding the need for this project was reviewed by the selectmen. Mr. Pinney stated that a highway grant from the state had been secured with the approval of both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance; however, the engineering costs for the project were the sole responsibility of the town, and that it was time to engage an engineer. Mr. Tolisano asked what the expected cost would be and Mr. Pinney estimated the cost in the \$300,000 range. The fact that the funds were not budgeted, and would have to be appropriated was discussed. Mr. Pinney will send correspondence to the Board of Finance to initiate the process.

7.7 Town Seal Contest – Cultural Commission will handle this and wanted to know if the selectmen would make some funds available for a prize. After a brief discussion, ***Mr. Tolisano moved that \$250 be made available as a prize for the winner of the Town Seal Contest, Ms. Devlin seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.***

8. New Business

8.1 Consider opportunities to join shared services grant proposals being considered by Connecticut Regional Council of Government (CRCOG) - CRCOG has been taking the lead on exploring opportunities to take advantage of \$8,400,000 authorized in the last legislative session to be used to fund projects that represent efforts by two or more towns to develop a shared means of providing a service and thereby saving money for the individual towns. The selectmen had a brief discussion regarding potential projects and

identified the following – Social Services, Public Health, Senior Center Coordinator, Grant Writer. Mention was also made of shared IT services/webmaster, and major equipment. Mr. Pinney will contact his counterparts in Somers' neighboring towns to determine if there is any interest. The state's timeline is short.

8.2 Review CIP process – This review will be delegated to the new Director of Finance/CFO after he joins the staff on 11/13/07.

8.3 Skate Park – moved to earlier point in agenda

8.4 Other

9. Authorization of Scheduled Payments – after short review, ***Mr. Tolisano moved that the Selectmen approve the payments as scheduled on October 22, 25, and 29, 2007, Ms. Devlin seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.***

10. Appropriations/Transfers

10.1 Tax Refunds – Mr. Pinney noted two tax refunds totaling \$84.99. Mr. Tolisano moved that the Selectmen approve tax refunds presented totaling \$84.99, Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

10.2 Appropriations – An appropriation request for \$150 to the Kibbe Fuller maintenance was presented. Mr. Tolisano moved that the Selectmen approve the \$150 appropriation to the Kibbe Fuller maintenance account, Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

11. Approval of Minutes

11.1 Regular BOS minutes of 10/15/07 – Mr. Tolisano moved that the minutes be accepted as written, Mr. Pinney seconded, and the motion was carried by a vote of 2-0, with Ms. Devlin abstaining since she was not in attendance at the subject meeting.

12. Board of Selectmen Remarks

12.1 Update from First Selectman – Mr. Pinney conveyed the status of the Woodcrest housing project. Once the new phase is completed, the project will be controlled under a different legal structure, and the housing authority has requested that since this will necessitate renewing the cooperation agreement between the housing authority and the Town, that the Town act to waive the PILOT payment called for in the current agreement. After brief discussion, the selectmen agreed to wait for an opinion from the Town Attorney as to the implications of this request.

12.2 Other – Temporary relocation of Children's Library during Library expansion project – Children's Library is considering relocating to the Town Hall's large meeting room during construction. During this time, Town Meetings would be held at an alternative location.

High-deductible insurance plan & HSA (Healthcare Savings Account) – Ms. Devlin asked

if the presentation had been made, to whom, how it went, and what the enrollment period was for these benefit plans. Mr. Pinney said that the presentation was made in mid-October to the Land-use union employees and other interested town employees. He said that the meeting appeared to go well and that the enrollment period would not take place until next June, that this meeting was informational in nature only. Ms. Devlin offered written information tools on this topic that would help the employees better understand the concept.

13. Citizen Comments – Mr. Provencher commented that he had heard some negativity regarding the HSA, specifically that the individuals presenting the information were unable to respond to hypotheticals or give specifics regarding individual situations. Some of the employees had expressed frustration at the answer being “we can’t tell you that until you sign up”, given that they wanted the information so they could sign up. Ms. Devlin and Mr. Pinney commented that they would try to get some more information, and that it will be possible to look at actual implications for premium share and hypothetical implications for out of packet expenses for the employee.

14. Adjournment – at 8:50 p.m. Ms. Devlin moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Selectmen and move to executive session. Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried. Executive session adjourned at 9:30 p.m.