

TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AGENDA – REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.
Town Hall Auditorium

The meeting commenced following the conclusion of a Public Hearing scheduled for 7:00 PM

1. Location of Emergency Exits – not done, fewer than 50 people present
2. Call to Order – First Selectman Pinney called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
3. Members Present – Kathleen Devlin, David Pinney, Joseph Tolisano. Also present were Ann Logan, Town Clerk; Mike Provencher representing the Board of Assessment Appeals; and Marcia Mitchell, Exec. Asst./Ops. Mgr. as recording secretary.
4. Pledge of Allegiance – said at Public Hearing
5. Correspondence – Mr. Pinney stated that he had received a phonecall from Bob Minch recommending that he consider Ned Lynch for appointment to the Prison Liaison/Public Safety committee. Mr. Pinney subsequently contacted Mr. Lynch, to inform him of the committee's purpose and determine his level of interest. Mr. Pinney recommended to the Selectmen that they appoint Mr. Lynch. ***Mr. Tolisano moved that Mr. Lynch be appointed to the Prison Liaison/Public Safety Committee to replace Ms. Torres, who had declined reappointment, for a term to expire on 12/22/08. Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***
6. Citizen Comments – Mr. Provencher, as chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals, wanted to let the Board of Selectmen know that the Board had received a total of 8 appeals for consideration.
7. Old Business
 - 7.1. Review status of FY 08 budget and freeze on spending – Mr. Pinney commented that the freeze was in place, and that no major requests for spending had been received.
 - 7.2. Review process for presenting FY 09 budget to Board of Finance and public hearing. Mr. Pinney suggested that the Board of Selectmen move down the hall to the Board of Finance meeting to determine this item and, at 7:15 p.m. the members of the Board of Selectmen, and others present joined in the Board of Finance meeting already in progress. The Board of Finance requested that the BOS present the Town Budget at their meeting of 3/10/08. At 7:40 p.m. the Board of Selectmen left the in progress Board of Finance meeting and returned to the Town Hall Auditorium. At that time, the Selectmen discussed how the budget would be presented and by whom, and decided that it was best presented by Chief Financial Officer, Greg Simmons, with all senior town staff (Directors) and members of the BOS present to field questions if necessary.
 - 7.3. Discussion/possible adoption of proposed ordinance on tax exemption for qualifying organizations. Mr. Pinney said that he had been presented with a situation, separate from the Tax Exempt ordinance discussed at the Hearing earlier this evening. The situation concerned the outstanding tax liability on a property that was transferred mid-tax year from a taxable entity/individual to a tax-exempt entity individual, and exactly what happened to the outstanding tax liability, and who was responsible for it. Ms. Devlin recalled that this issue had been raised in the past and that prior administrations had been unwilling take action. Discussion ensued regarding whether the tax bills were for amounts in arrears or in advance, and who would be liable in either of these billing methods. Mr. Pinney said that this item would be tabled for future discussion. The tax-exempt ordinance that was discussed at the public hearing was briefly discussed. A language revision would need to be made and the selectmen agreed that the final determination as to adoption would take place at their next regular meeting on 3/10/08.
 - 7.4. Other – Mr. Pinney stated that the foreclosure motion for the Somersville Mill was in the process of being signed, and would continue to move forward. Ms. Devlin inquired as to the progress to date on the job descriptions, and Ms. Mitchell said that she was behind schedule but that she had received revised drafts from several individuals.
8. New Business
 - 8.1. STEAP grants for 2008 – Mr. Pinney said that the Somersville Planning Commission had met to discuss the needs, sequence, pricing of the necessary steps, etc. STEAP grant applications are due on 2/29/08, and Mr.

Pinney would submit two applications, one for planning process to include a consultant, and one for phase one of the implementation. He also commented that the planning process would be expanded to include Somers center, as well as “the triangle” area of Somersville.

8.2. Other – none raised.

9. Authorization of Scheduled Payments – The Selectmen reviewed two scheduled payment reports. ***Ms. Devlin moved that the Selectmen approve 73 payments totaling \$229,927.95, including 5 payments representing tax refunds totaling \$6,081.80. Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***

10. Appropriations/Transfers

10.1. Tax refunds – approved in item #9.

11. Approval of Minutes – ***Mr. Tolisano moved to accept the minutes of the February 4, 2008 and February 11, 2008 meetings as written; Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***

11.1. Special meeting of Feb. 4

11.2. Regular meeting of Feb. 11

12. Board of Selectmen Remarks

12.1. Update from first selectman – Mr. Pinney requested a brief recess at 8:35 p.m. so that the Selectmen might hold a non- meeting to discuss the recent Land Use bargaining unit negotiations. The Selectmen returned from their recess at 8:40 p.m. at which time ***Ms. Devlin moved that the Selectmen accept the proposed Land Use collective bargaining agreement; Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***

12.2. Other – none.

13. Citizen Comments– Mike Provencher inquired about e-mail correspondence received regarding the Recreation Commission’s request for the BOS to establish an ad-hoc committee to consider Skate Park options. The Selectmen said that they would consider this at their next regular meeting

14. Adjournment – Ms. Devlin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.; Mr. Tolisano seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Mitchell
Executive Assistant/Operations Manager
Recording Secretary

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting