

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 7, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Auditorium**

1. Location of emergency exits – not done, fewer than 50 people in attendance
2. Call to order – First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.
3. Members present – Kathleen Devlin, David Pinney and Joseph Tolisano. Also in attendance were Marcia Mitchell, Exec. Asst./Ops. Mgr. as recording secretary, Ann Marie Logan, Town Clerk, guests Paul Salva and Marjorie Madden, and several interested citizens.
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Correspondence
 - 5.1 Deputy Fire Chief Frank Falcone re: 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The letter represents an FYI from the Deputy Chief that he is applying for grant funds to replace the breathing equipment (SCBA) filling station at a total cost of \$45,000. The grant amount would represent 95% of the cost, and the town would be expected to fund the remaining 5%, or \$2,250.00 if the funds are awarded. *No action was taken by the Selectmen at this time.*
 - 5.2 Copy of correspondence to Ann Logan from Terri Henderson assigning Tim Potrikus to the special projects building committee. Ms. Logan provided the copy as a reminder that Mr. Potrikus has not been officially re-appointed to the committee. *Mr. Tolisano moved that Tim Potrikus be reappointed as the Board of Education representative to the special projects building committee for a term to expire on 12/22/2009; Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.*
 - 5.3 Mr. Pinney shared a memo from Connie Carenzo confirming her retirement, effective Tuesday, July 8, 2008.
6. Citizen Comments - none
7. Guest Discussions:
 - 7.1 Paul Salva & Mark Trescott - SomersNow discussion – Dr. Salva noted that Mr. Trescott was unable to attend, and that he was present to represent the Rotary Club's offer to continue supporting the town's web pages through SomersNow. He commented that he would hate to see the town/website be at cross purposes with SomersNow, and wanted to determine what exactly the town was looking for from the SomersNow site to continue supporting the town. Mr. Tolisano commented that the Selectmen view SomersNow as a "portal" to many organizations and activities within the town, and that they wished for that to continue. Mr. Pinney commented that the functionality the town is evaluating comprises tools and architecture developed specifically for municipalities. All the Selectmen commented that they were in agreement that they wanted SomersNow

to continue to serve as the Somers “portal” to all the town organizations – library, fire department, police, schools, etc. and that none of them had envisioned SomersNow going away.

- 7.2 Registrars Joann Hornyak & Marjorie Madden – possibility of one vs. two voting districts – Ms. Madden wanted to discuss the possibility of having one polling location within Somers for the upcoming Presidential election. She clarified for the selectmen the fact that Somers is a single voting district, and that for major elections there had been two polling locations for quite some time, while for minor elections and referenda, only one polling location was supported. She commented that it was becoming increasingly difficult to staff polling sites with certified volunteers, especially since the installation of the new optical scanning voting machines, due to the required training and the length of the voting days. A discussion ensued regarding the specifics around going from two polling sites (one at the Senior Center and one at Town Hall) to a single site at the Town Hall – topics including people traffic flow, vehicle traffic flow, parking, impact of the change on citizens, etc. all were raised. The Selectmen also proposed the possibility of maintaining two polling sites for the upcoming Presidential election, and making a permanent change to a single polling site beginning with subsequent elections. Ms. Madden commented that she and Ms. Hornyak were uncertain about their ability to get the number of certified volunteers required to staff two polling sites for the upcoming election. The Selectmen asked Ms. Madden to work with Ms. Hornyak to develop a plan and work/traffic flow for a single polling site and to present such plan for their consideration before they take any action in this regard. Ms. Madden said they would develop such a plan and come back to the Selectmen when it was complete.

8. Old Business

- 8.1 2009 budget status – operating and capital – Mr. Pinney reviewed for all present the Board of Finance’s mandate to the Town and School to keep budget increases at 4.5%, the projected CIP budget of \$517,000, and the proposed mill rate increase of .35 mil. These numbers represent a net \$13,000 reduction in the town’s proposed budget. There was further conversation about CIP priorities within the projected budget, as well as re-working the CIP process.
- 8.2 2008 budget status – evaluation of freeze – Mr. Pinney said that after reviewing incurred expenses through the end of March, it was his recommendation that the freeze continue through year-end.
- 8.3 Woodcrest – Pilot waiver – Given that the legal entity responsible for the Woodcrest expansion is the Somers Housing Authority Inc. as the general partner and its limited partners, and that the PILOT agreement was between the Housing Authority and the Town, that PILOT agreement is likely no longer applicable. Mr. Pinney is trying to get a definitive answer to this issue, and it seems to be pointing to the Town providing an abatement to SHA, Inc., by ordinance, and applying to the state DECD for a PILOT from them. He said that the financier, Sun America, wanted some assurances that this was all in place. Mr. Tolisano asked if a motion was required, and Mr. Pinney said that the selectmen needed to place this on a Town Meeting agenda, but for now this was an FYI to the Selectmen, since an ordinance needed to be prepared.

8.4 Library construction project and related expenses – BOF challenged BOS as to the inclusion in the operating budget of part-time salaries for the temporary relocation of the Children’s Library. Ms. Warner said that with the Library expansion, they had planned on an additional 2 part-time people once the expansion was complete, so the expense is just being taken on sooner. The BOF challenge was whether the cost of the increased staffing should more appropriately be included in the Library construction. The Selectmen wanted to be able to defend this inclusion, and by moving the expense to the construction budget, we would be paying staffing expenses out of borrowed money that we are being charged interest on.

8.5 Design Review Board – appointment of recommended candidates; this board will serve as an advisory committee to the Planning and Zoning boards. Five candidates have been recommended to establish this board, and the boards members are to be appointed on staggered terms with 1 member expiring in 1 year; 2 members expiring in 2 years; and, 2 members expiring in three years. **Mr. Tolisano moved that the following individuals be appointed for the following terms:**

Design Review Board appointments

Individual	Term expires
Ken Albert	12/11/10
Richard Cheney	12/22/09
Neil Connell	12/22/09
James Meagher	12/22/10
Gail Panciera	12/22/08

Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion to appoint these individuals for these terms unanimously carried.

8.6 Website Vendor Recommendation – Ms. Mitchell said that she had completed one of three reference checks with excellent feedback, and that she expected the other two to be complete before the next meeting.

8.7 April & May BOS Meeting schedule – Due to conflicts, the Selectmen agreed that the following schedule changes would be necessary:

Current Schedule	Proposed Schedule
Cancel 4/21/08 regular meeting	Schedule special meeting for 4/23 at 5:30 to handle current business prior to continuation of 4/1/08 hearing
Cancel 5/5/08 Regular meeting	Schedule special meeting for 5/12 immediately following Annual Town Meeting.
Leave 5/19/08 regular meeting in place	Leave 5/19/08 regular meeting in place

9. New Business

- 9.1 Open Space Grant – These funds continue to be available to cover 40-45% of cost of purchasing property to maintain as open space. Planning Board and Town Planner are actively soliciting available properties for Town to purchase under these funds. Ms. Devlin may know of some available property, and will have the individual contact the Town Planner
- 9.2 Conference approval – Steve Jacobs – Mr. Pinney said that the Town Sanitarian, Steve Jacobs, has the opportunity to receive brownfields training over 4 days in May and June. The training is free and Steve will cover his own mileage, so there is no cost to the Town. **Ms. Devlin moved that the Selectmen approve Brownfields training for the Town Sanitarian; Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.**
10. Authorization of Scheduled Payments & Tax Refunds – **Mr. Tolisano moved that the Selectmen approve scheduled payments, including 6 tax refunds, totaling \$158,119.01; Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.**
11. Appropriations/Transfers
- 11.1 Transfer Request from Ann Marie Logan – Mr. Pinney presented a small transfer requested by the Town Clerk. **Mr. Tolisano moved that the Selectmen approve the transfer of \$15 from account 10.12.521.1 to account 10.12.538.1; Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.**
12. Approval of Minutes
- 12.1 March 24, 2008 Regular Meeting – **Ms. Devlin moved that the minutes of March 24, 2008 be approved as written; Mr. Tolisano seconded and the motion unanimously carried.**
13. Board of Selectmen Remarks - none
14. Citizen Comments - none
15. Adjournment – **Mr. Tolisano moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:02 p.m.; Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Mitchell
Exec. Asst./Ops. Mgr.
Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT CONSIDERED FINAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING