

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING  
Monday, May 12, 2008  
Following the 7:00 p.m. Annual Town Meeting  
Town Hall Auditorium**

- 1 Location of emergency exits – not done, fewer than 50 people present
- 2 Call to order – First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.
- 3 Members present – Kathleen Devlin, David Pinney, and Joseph Tolisano. Marcia Mitchell, Exec. Asst./Ops. Mgr. was present as recording secretary; Ann Logan, Town Clerk, and several interested citizens were also present.
- 4 Pledge of Allegiance
- 5 Correspondence
  - 5.1 Request from Glen Reynolds to present Fire Prevention Poster winners at 5/19 BOS mtg. This item will be added to the 5/19/08 BOS Agenda
- 6 Citizen Comments - NONE
- 7 Old Business
  - 7.1 Current year financial review – freeze still underway; Mr. Pinney expects that we will not have to appropriate additional funds to finish the year.
  - 7.2 Confirm Budget referendum date as established at Annual Town Meeting – Budget referendum confirmed for Tuesday, May 20, from 6 AM to 8 PM.
  - 7.3 Website – Agreement signed with E-Gov Link. Steering committee is proceeding on schedule to have new site live for July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - 7.4 Job Descriptions – Ms. Mitchell said that she has received edits from about half of the full-time employees. Still needs to do a couple of Town Hall employees; Public works, Fire & Police. Target is to have revised job descriptions in place for new fiscal year.
  - 7.5 County Road – A signed agreement is in place to resolve issues. Settlement includes cash (mostly from insurance companies) as well as new drainage structures to be purchased by town and installed by developer in four of the five driveways. Contractor will install new drainage pipe under roadway and town will install a detention structure at end of culvert.
  - 7.6 Main/Sokol/Ninth District Intersection – small group has interviewed finalists for the engineering project and has identified a preferred vendor that will be reviewed with state for approval. Once approved, town will negotiate fee with engineering firm. State anticipates construction will begin in spring of 2011.
  - 7.7 Somersville Planning – Director of Transportation Planning from CRCOG attended last meeting and reviewed with group the process of integrating the group's wants for street improvements with the role of the region and more importantly with the State. State will have to give approval for any improvements, and CRCOG may be able to identify and help obtain funding. E-mail confirmation was received by Mr. Pinney from the CRCOG representative that the \$2 million earmark to replace the Bridge still appears to be in place. Funding availability needs to be verified and projects need to be prioritized.

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- 7.8 State Legislative Session – State funding to towns will not be reduced as yet, though there is discussion about a special session. Since our budget was built utilizing the funding as it was set forth in the original biennial budget, Somers will not be impacted. Ms. Devlin wants in the future for our State Representative and Senator to help us understand why Somers’ PILOT funding is less than that of other towns that seemingly have less basis for PILOT funding. Why was Somers not part of the top PILOT receivers? Mr. Pinney said that both our Rep and Senator advocate for full funding of PILOT. Mr. Pinney also said that the temporary increase to the Conveyance Tax that was put in place 4-5 years ago which has been extended several times, and was expected to be made permanent in this session, has seen a late push for allowing the increase to sunset and phase out. The impact to the town if the increase is allowed to phase out is about \$80,000. Mr. Pinney will follow this issue and report back as necessary.
- 7.8 Fire Department Boiler – A mechanical engineer has made a proposal to evaluate, design, bid, and manage the work for the boiler project for a total (depending on the scope of work retained) of \$14,000-\$16,000. The cost of evaluation only would be \$5,000, and Mr. Pinney suggested that we should get one more proposal for doing this evaluation before proceeding. Fred Meyer has given us an evaluation that suggests that repairing the system is feasible, Fahrenheit Mechanical has suggested a complete replacement – and we really need to get a handle on what course to take. Mr. Tolisano wanted to know if the system was properly installed; and if not, would we be able to pursue the contractor for a remedy. Mr. Pinney believes that we could pursue the contractor, but our chances of prevailing are somewhat limited.
- 7.9 Design Review Board – proper name of this Board is Design Advisory Board per the ordinance. The group is scheduled for its first meeting on Wednesday, May 14.

## 8 New Business

- 8.1 Appointments
- 8.1.1 Lincoln Pease to Prison Liaison/Public Safety Committee for term to expire 12/22/08 – replaces E. Moylan.
- 8.1.2 Chris Anthony to Cultural Commission for term to expire 12/22/08.
- Mr. Tolisano moved that Lincoln Pease be appointed to the Prison Liaison/Public Safety Committee for a term to expire 12/22/08, and that Chris Anthony be appointed to the Cultural Commission for a term to expire 12/22/08. Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***
- Mr. Pinney noted that Paige Rasid had approached him regarding volunteering for a board or commission. He met with her and determined that she would be well suited to serve as a Zoning Alternate. ***Mr. Tolisano moved that Paige Rasid be appointed as a Zoning Alternate for a term to expire 12/22/08; Ms. Devlin seconded and the motion unanimously carried.*** Mr. Pinney noted that this appointment would need to be confirmed at a Town Meeting; Ms. Devlin asked if Ms. Rasid could serve as an alternate prior to confirmation, and Ms. Logan said she didn’t see why not, but that she would recommend we verify with Town Attorney Carl Landolina before proceeding.
- Mr. Pinney asked the Selectmen if they wanted input into the appointments to the Skate Park Ad-Hoc committee, and they said they did not, that it was up to the Recreation Commission to appoint those members. Mr. Pinney said that Alicia Albert has expressed an interest in serving on the Skate Park Ad-Hoc Committee, and that he would convey the Selectmen’s sentiment that that appointment was up to the Recreation Commission.
- 8.2 Senior Bus – It has been determined that Federal Funds being used by the Hartford Transit Authority to support 80% of the program are not to be used to support transportation for a limited part of the population. They will be phasing out the program beginning with the units that have been fully depreciated, which includes our older van. We have the option to turn over the unit, or to buy out the lease for \$2,000. Mr. Pinney commented that, if we were going to expand programming for seniors, we would need this bus, and it seems that we should go ahead. The selectmen would have to recommend a transfer to the Board of Finance to make the funds available. ***Mr. Tolisano moved that the Selectmen recommend a transfer of \$2,000 to the Board of Finance to make the funds available to purchase the older of the Senior buses; Ms. Devlin seconded and the motion unanimously carried.***

- 8.3 Hartford Foundation Grant – Mr. Pinney said that he had received preliminary positive feedback from the Hartford Foundation, and that he had been invited to submit a grant application for funding of a Social Services position that would expand the function of the Senior Center as a source of support to town seniors. The grant would be for \$60,000 over three years for the hiring of a licensed social worker to expand services for seniors, and Mr. Pinney asked the selectmen for their endorsement of this application. ***Ms. Devlin moved that the selectmen endorse the First Selectman's application to the Hartford Foundation for the hiring of a licensed social worker; Mr. Tolisano seconded and the motion unanimously carried.*** Along the same topic, Mr. Pinney said that the Town was participating in a housing rehab grant with Ellington and Suffield. The first information meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 15 at the town hall. Mr. Pinney said that another grant round had begun, that it was possible for Somers to re-apply in conjunction with Ellington for another grant year, and that he needed a resolution from the Selectmen to endorse making this application. Mr. Tolisano and Ms. Devlin reviewed the resolution and ***Mr. Tolisano moved that the Board of Selectmen adopt the resolution to endorse the First Selectman to make application for another year of Housing Rehab grant funding in conjunction with the Town of Ellington as written; Ms Devlin seconded and the motion unanimously carried.***
- 8.4 2007 Anderson and Percoski Awards – After a brief discussion, ***Ms. Devlin moved that the 2007 Percoski Award be made to the Playground Committee; Mr. Tolisano seconded and the motion unanimously carried.*** After a second brief discussion, ***Mr. Tolisano moved that the 2007 Anderson Award be made to Donna Doyker; Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***
- 9 Authorization of Scheduled Payments – ***Mr. Tolisano moved that the Selectmen approve payments scheduled on April 28, May 5, 8, and 12, 2008, totaling \$196,299.86; Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***
- 10 Appropriations/Transfers
- 10.1 Tax Office transfers - ***Mr. Tolisano moved that the transfer of \$1,500 by the Tax Collector be recommended to the Board of Finance as written; Ms. Devlin seconded and the motion unanimously carried.***
- 11 Approval of Minutes
- 11.1 April 23, 2008 Special Meeting
- 11.2 April 28, 2008 Special Meeting
- Mr. Tolisano moved that the minutes of the Special Meetings of the Board of Selectmen on April 23, 2008 and April 28, 2008, be approved as written; Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***
- 12 Board of Selectmen Remarks
- 13 Citizen Comments – Fred Meyer commented that perhaps the funding for the current Senior Bus would be continued if the service were expanded to the full population of the Town. Mr. Pinney commented that that possibility may exist, but he was given the impression that the program was to be discontinued. Mr. Meyer suggested that the question be asked just to determine if there was another alternative to losing the funding.
- 14 Adjournment – There being no other business, Ms. Devlin moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m.; Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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