

TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, June 30, 2008, 7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall Auditorium

1. Location of emergency exits – not done, fewer than 50 in attendance
2. Call to order – First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
3. Members present – Kathleen Devlin, David Pinney & Joseph Tolisano. Also present were Marcia Mitchell, Exec. Asst./Ops. Mgr. as recording secretary, Lou Bachetti and David Reed of the Economic Development Council, and several interested citizens.
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Correspondence – Letter from Frank Lawlor documenting his resignation from the Fire Commission. *Ms. Devlin moved to accept, with thanks and best wishes, Mr. Lawlor's resignation; Mr. Tolisano seconded and the motion unanimously carried.*

Ms. Devlin moved that the selectmen discuss item 7.2 at this time; Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.

- 7.2 Economic Development Commission (EDC) – Business Survey Results. Some of the EDC's primary activities are designed to engage the town's businesses and promote networking among them. Mr. Bachetti said that they completed a survey of Somers businesses. One hundred twenty surveys were mailed, and 66 were returned; 44 by mail and 25 electronically. The top issue raised in the survey responses was uneven enforcement of signage regulations. The survey responses requested that the EDC do a newsletter, which they will attempt to do three times per year; as well as the possibility of "wayfinder signs" at the intersections of Rtes. 83 & 190 and Rtes. 186 & 190. Mr. Bachetti said that the Commission was proud of its accomplishments (despite its limited budget), and hoped that the Selectmen might find a way to increase the economic development budget in FY 2010. Ms. Devlin commented to the Selectmen that perhaps they would find support for increased budget funds for a new business welcome kit, the directory and the newsletter. She recommended that the EDC make a presentation to a joint meeting of the Planning, Zoning, and Conservation Commissions with the Board of Selectmen, and requested that this be facilitated for the September/October time frame to allow inclusion of the Board of Education and School representation.
6. Citizen Comments – Mr. Pinney recognized George Schober in the audience. He acknowledged that the town had received a notice of intention to sue from Mr. Schober's attorney; however, there is currently not a lawsuit in process. Mr. Schober thanked the Selectmen, and went on to say that he and his family had lived here in town for more than two years, his wife had just been hired as a music teacher at one of the Schools here in town, he had been active as a soccer coach, and that they were very happy here. He spoke at length about the events related to the land he had developed in this location, his conversations with the Town Planner, and his high level of satisfaction with the way his development had been approved in less than 2 months. Mr. Schober

said that he needs the Stafford building lot, and needs his attorney's fees paid. Mr. Pinney said that the Board of Selectmen did not know why this had happened, and while they would prefer to resolve this situation out of court, they were not in a position to negotiate anything with him in this forum. Sharon Miller of 18 Rocky Dundee Road was present on Mr. Schober's behalf. Mr. Schober's subdivision was built all around her property, and she came to most of the meetings during the subdivision process, and recalls the original plan with the open space immediately behind her house. Mr. Tolisano stated that the Planning Commission was independent, but that the Town Planner was employed by the town to work with the Planning Commission. Mr. Pinney said that the Selectmen appreciated Mr. Schober's willingness to speak with the Board of Selectmen outside of the legal system, and that the Selectmen would prefer to work as broadly and aggressively as they could to resolve the problem outside of the legal system. Mr. Pinney said that the Selectmen would consider the issues Mr. Schober presented in executive session.

## 7. Old Business

- 7.1 Field conditions – status of plan estimates. The selectmen reviewed the initial estimates and said that this was a good start, that the estimates needed to be reviewed and endorsed by the Director of Public Works prior to meeting with the Rec commission and the sports associations. After more discussion, the selectmen said that this was just the first part of a comprehensive plan for the assets of the town – the fields, the buildings, the roads & drainage systems. The Selectmen discussed having the Building Official complete the buildings assessment, and Mr. Pinney asked Ms. Mitchell to pursue this with John Collins. Mr. Pinney said that the Public Works administrative assistant was in the process of developing a roads database, and that drainage should be added. Also discussed was the need for a new roof for Piedmont Hall. The Selectmen stressed the need for communication of this planning process to the Board of Finance, but all agreed that the asset plan should be complete before presenting it to the BOF.
- 7.3 Update – Woodcrest and Tax Abatement Agreement. Closing is not yet complete with SunAmerica. Mr. Tolisano wanted to know what, if any, liability would fall to the town, and Mr. Pinney said that the financial liability was nil to the town; the financial liability lies with the Housing Authority.
- 7.4 2008 budget status – all heating oil tanks in town have been topped off, and cots ordered for emergency shelter.

## 8 New Business

- 8.1 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan – procedure for adopting. Mr. Pinney explained the process for adoption, which can be completed by action of the BOS. ***Mr. Tolisano moved that the Board of Selectmen resolve to adopt the Capitol Region Pre-Disaster Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan; Ms. Devlin seconded and the motion unanimously carried. The resolution will be attached to the minutes.***
- 8.2 Other – Mr. Pinney has met with Diane Yensen to discuss her possible appointment to the Housing Authority, and recommended that appointment. ***Ms. Devlin moved that the Board of Selectmen appoint Diane Yensen to the Housing Authority of the Town of Somers to fulfill the balance of the term created by the removal of Gil Rivard; Mr. Tolisano seconded and the motion unanimously carried.***

The Selectmen had also received an e-mail from David Reed recommending Mary Ann Olsen to fill the Republican opening on the Cultural Commission created by the passing of Jaci Larabee. ***Mr. Tolisano moved that Mary Ann Olsen be appointed to the Cultural Commission for a term to end December 22, 2008; Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***

Mr. Pinney said that, while there is a grant application in process with the Hartford Foundation to partially fund a full-time social services position, Connie Carenzo

would be retiring effective July 7, 2008, and there was currently no one to replace her. He has arranged for her to continue for ½ day per week through the summer or until she can be replaced.

9 Authorization of Scheduled Payments & Tax Refunds

9.1 Authorization of Scheduled Payments & Tax Refunds – ***Ms. Devlin moved that the Selectmen approve scheduled payments in the amount of \$785,715.77; Mr. Tolisano seconded and the motion unanimously carried. One tax refund was included in these payments.***

9.2 Authorization procedures during First Selectman’s vacation – availability of Selectmen. Mr. Tolisano and Ms. Devlin agreed that they would like to be informed of any payments needing issuance during Mr. Pinney’s vacation, and they would decide at that time how to approve those payments.

10 Appropriations/Transfers - None

11 Approval of Minutes – 6/11/08, 6/16/08, 6/18/08 – ***Ms. Devlin moved that the minutes of the 6/11/08 and 6/18/08 meetings be approved as written; Mr. Tolisano seconded and the motion unanimously carried. Ms. Devlin moved that the minutes of the 6/16/08 meeting be approved as written; Mr. Pinney seconded, and the motion unanimously carried on a vote of 2-0, with Mr. Tolisano abstaining, as he was not present at that meeting.***

12 Board of Selectmen Remarks - none

13 Citizen Comments – Dan Thayer thanked the Selectmen for his “low tax bill” that correctly reflected a transferred vehicle.

Mr. Pinney said that the Selectmen needed to consider salary increases for the staff for the new fiscal year. ***Ms. Devlin moved that the Selectmen recess to Executive Session to consider annual salary increases and discuss pending litigation; Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried. Recess to Executive Session began at 9:10 p.m.***

Executive Session concluded at 9:40 p.m., at which time ***Ms. Devlin moved that staff salary increases be approved as discussed; Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***

14 Adjournment – ***Mr. Tolisano moved for adjournment at 9:40 p.m.; Ms. Devlin seconded and the motion unanimously carried.***

Respectfully submitted,

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

**MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING**