

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 28, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Auditorium**

1. Location of emergency exits
2. Call to order – First Selectman Pinney called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
3. Members present – Kathleen Devlin, David Pinney and Joseph Tolisano. Town Attorney, Carl Landolina; Town Planner, Patrice Carson; and, Planning Commission Chair Karl Walton were present, as well as a number of interested citizens. Marcia Mitchell, Exec. Asst./Ops. Mgr., was present as recording secretary,
4. Pledge of Allegiance

7.1 Mr. Pinney requested that the agenda be taken out of order, and asked for a motion to recess to Executive Session; *Ms. Devlin moved that the BOS recess to an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, Schober v. Town of Somers, and that Carl Landolina, Patrice Carson, and Karl Walton be invited to participate in the executive session. Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.* The BOS recessed to an executive session at 7:06 p.m., and reconvened at 7:32 p.m. No action was taken.
5. Correspondence: Resignation letter – Edward Mack Sr. from Zoning Board of Appeals – Mr. Pinney asked that this item be held and raised under item 8.1.
6. Citizen Comments – Ms. Kelley Gaskell, 33 Braeburn Drive, asked the selectmen if there is any ordinance on the books requiring property owners to maintain their lawns and property. Mr. Pinney said there was not. Ms. Gaskell asked what the process was to have the Selectmen consider enacting an ordinance in this regard; Mr. Pinney said that there were two ways; first, citizens could petition the BOS to enact an ordinance by obtaining 50 or more verifiable signatures (number of signatures confirmed with the Town Clerk's office); second, the Selectmen could propose such an ordinance. Either way, if the ordinance included penalties for non-compliance, it would have to be adopted by an action of a Town Meeting. Mr. Tolisano said that he would support the Selectmen putting forth such an ordinance, and the BOS agreed to research and explore the possibility of doing so.
7. Old Business
7.1 Executive Session: Pending Claims/Litigation – Schober v. Town of Somers – handled earlier in meeting.
7.2 Farm Tax Exemption – Mr. Pinney recognized a number of supporters of this tax exemption in the audience. He said that the BOS was willing to hear further comments, that the Selectmen must engage the Board of Finance (BOF) prior to taking any further action regarding this exemption. He said that the Selectmen expected to be on the BOF 8/25/08 agenda, and advised the group to be prepared to support their case, including their research, at that meeting. Ms. Mitchell will notify Jeff Lipton once the BOF meeting date is confirmed.
7.3 Field Conditions – Comments from Bob Cafarelli – The selectmen will review the information and make recommendations at their next meeting.

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING

7.4 Update – Woodcrest and Tax Abatement Agreement – Financing with the Sun America syndicate has been completed, and money has exchanged hands. Construction continues with occupancy of the new building currently projected for October 2008. Relocation details are being presented to the current residents of the older Woodcrest units.

7.5 Website Update – New website will be live on August 1st or 4th depending on technical requirements. Mr. Tolisano recommended that the page owner's name and contact information be placed on the bottom of each page.

7.6 Skatepark – risk management clarification on square footage requirements. A memo outlining risk management clarification on the space requirements for a newly-constructed skate park was distributed to the Selectmen. This memo will be made available to the skate park ad-hoc committee.

7.7 Performance management process – job descriptions, organization chart – Ms. Mitchell said that about half of the position descriptions had been drafted. The Selectmen reviewed a draft organization chart. No other action was taken.

8. New Business

8.1 Board/Commission Appointments – Mr. Pinney presented correspondence from Ed Mack, submitting his resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Ms. Devlin moved that the resignation be accepted with regrets; Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried. Mr. Pinney commented that some research would need to be done to identify a replacement. The BOS agreed that they were not yet prepared to discuss a replacement on the Housing Authority for Lois Matczak. Mr. Pinney said that he had received several names as potential replacements for Frank Lawlor on the Fire Commission; he proposed that the BOS support Vincent Navin, a Somers resident currently a Fire Inspector in the City of West Hartford, as the replacement. After brief discussion, ***Ms. Devlin moved that the BOS appoint Vincent Navin to complete the term of Frank Lawlor expiring 12/22/09, contingent on his registration as a voter in the Town of Somers, to the Fire Commission; Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***

8.2 Status of Computer Committee – only one member remains, and Mr. Pinney wants the Selectmen to consider the purpose of the committee and in what capacity it should continue. Consideration should be given to building an “IT Advisory Board” to determine the operating standards and how we support our IT functions, and populate it with IT professionals. The BOS will give this further thought. ***No action was taken.***

8.3 Preliminary discussion - other towns going to 4-day work week – Mr. Pinney stated that there is clear benefit for the individual employees in going to a 4-day work week; however, the benefit to the town and its citizens needed to be further researched and documented prior to considering this idea. ***No action was taken.***

8.4 Proposed regulations for work in Town right-of-way – Mr. Pinney presented a draft policy proposed by Director of Public Works, Bob Cafarelli, for requirements to be placed on vendors doing work in the Town right-of-way (ROW). The policy would set forth processes for residents and vendors to follow and standards for restoration when breaking pavement, sidewalks, tree belts, etc. ***Mr. Pinney moved that the policy be adopted by the BOS as an operating policy; Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***

8.5 Public Cable Opportunities – Mr. Pinney has been contacted by Peter Stone, Media Specialist for the school, that the opportunity to have cable broadcast programming exists for the town. East Hartford has discussed utilizing this tool to broadcast from the Emergency Operations Center during a state of emergency. The equipment would be funded through a grant, which Peter Stone is ready to pursue. ***Mr. Tolisano moved that the BOS support the pursuit of this grant for installation of cable broadcast equipment at the EOC; Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***

- 8.6 Authorize Memo of Agreement for Homeland Security Grant – Mr. Pinney presented a resolution to support this grant and to authorize the First Selectman to take action as necessary on behalf of the BOS in the pursuit of the grant funds. ***Mr. Tolisano moved to adopt the resolution as written; Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***
- 8.7 Other – Mr. Pinney briefed the BOS on activities to revitalize the Labor Day craft fair for the town. He also shared a notice regarding a late September Veterans event at Brainard field that is seeking sponsors/advertisers; no action was taken in this regard. Mr. Pinney asked Ms. Devlin to obtain a list of WWII veterans for an event to be hosted by Susan Byseiwicz honoring each town's veterans.
- Ms. Devlin wanted to remind the BOS about hosting a combined meeting with the Economic Development Commission and the Land Use Boards & Commissions early this fall – Mr. Pinney will initiate a communication to all the involved parties. Ms. Devlin also shared copies of some Cemetery Commission correspondence that she wanted to share with the BOS, and she expressed her concern at the tone of the correspondence. Copies will be shared with the BOS.
9. Authorization of Scheduled Payments & Tax Refunds – ***Ms. Devlin moved to approve scheduled payments totaling \$698,358.33; Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***
10. Appropriations/Transfers – year-end transfers – Mr. Pinney presented a series of transfers to accomplish year-end balancing of accounts. ***Mr. Tolisano moved to approved transfers totaling \$112,541.00; Ms. Devlin seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***
11. Approval of Minutes – 6/30/08 – ***Ms. Devlin moved to accept the minutes of 6/30/08 as written; Mr. Tolisano seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.***
12. Board of Selectmen Remarks – none
13. Citizen Comments – none
14. Adjournment – ***Mr. Tolisano moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 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