

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, August 25, 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 7:10 p.m.
3. Members present – Kathleen Devlin, David Pinney and Joseph Tolisano. Also present were Robert Cafarelli, Director of Public Works, for item 7.1; Marcia Mitchell, Exec. Asst./Ops. Mgr. as Recording Secretary; interested residents.
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Correspondence – none
6. Citizen Comments – Mr. Pinney announced that the Selectmen would not be joining the Board of Finance meeting, to discuss information on the Farm Tax Exemption. Interested citizens raised their concerns about the timing of the potential adoption of this exemption as it relates to the filing deadline for this year. The Selectmen assured the group that any action taken would be done so to accommodate this year's filing deadline.
7. Old Business
  - 7.1 Field conditions – Comments from Bob Cafarelli – the Selectmen asked Mr. Cafarelli what, if any, additional work the budget allows for in the current fiscal year. Mr. Cafarelli commented that the work to replace the drainage pipe at the Somersville fields could be completed by staff at a reduced cost, but that the budget would allow only for routine maintenance otherwise. The Selectmen will invite the Recreation Commission and heads of the individual sports associations to their next regular meeting, and asked Mr. Cafarelli to plan on presenting a field condition report at that time.
    - 7.1.1 – Skate Park Proposal – Karen Murdoch made a presentation on behalf of the Skatepark Ad Hoc committee, and requested that the BOS approve the proposal so that the Ad Hoc committee could proceed with fundraising activities. ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin, to approve the proposal of the Skatepark Ad Hoc committee as presented. Motion unanimously carried.***
  - 7.2 Farm Tax Exemption – recess to join BOF in progress – ***no action taken.***
  - 7.3 Status of Somersville Mill – Mr. Pinney said that Fire Marshal Bob Morpurgo has obtained the owner's agreement to comply with regulations to secure the Mill site.
  - 7.4 Somersville Planning Committee Activities – activities discussed by Selectmen. ***No action taken.***
  - 7.5 Plan meeting with EDC/Land Use Commissions – Selectmen will dedicate the 10/6/08 regular agenda to a shared vision discussion with the EDC, Zoning, Planning, and Conservation Commissions.
  - 7.6 Internal Control for accessing Town Attorney – Mr. Pinney will draft a policy for review by the Selectmen.
  - 7.7 Website Update – New website is up and running. The Directors are developing a plan for ongoing improvements that will be shared with the Selectmen at their next meeting.

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- 7.8 Performance management process update – Ms. Mitchell distributed a draft procedure for non-exempt employee evaluations. She reported that there are five full-time job descriptions remaining to be drafted. Her goal is to roll out the entire process before October 1.
8. New Business
- 8.1 Amy Stegall & Marian Beland re: tax abatement for search & rescue volunteers – Ms. Beland made a brief supporting presentation and answered questions from the Selectmen. Under CT Public Act 04-241, towns may annually abate \$1,000 of property taxes for canine search and rescue volunteers. She is the only canine search and rescue volunteer currently residing in Somers of approximately 16 volunteers statewide. The Selectmen acknowledged that the tax abatement Ms. Beland is seeking falls under the same CT statute under which Somers Fire Volunteers are paid their stipends. The Selectmen thanked Ms. Beland and said they would take her presentation under advisement. **No action was taken.**
- 8.2 Use of Consulting Engineer – The Selectmen discussed the use of consulting engineering services vs. use of the Town Engineer on staff. **No action was taken.**
- 8.3 Emergency Preparedness Activities – Mr. Pinney discussed the availability of grant funding for emergency activities, and asked for authorization to proceed in applying for the grant. **Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano to authorize Mr. Pinney to act on the Town's behalf on this grant. Motion unanimously carried.** Status of cots ordered for emergency shelter was discussed, and delivery of cots was confirmed.
- 8.4 Energy Policy discussion – Selectmen will seek the support of the EDC for analysis and ideas for policy development. **No action was taken.**
- 8.5 Other – none
9. Authorization of Scheduled Payments & Tax Refunds – **Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin, to approve scheduled payments in the amount of \$269,140.37, including 19 tax refunds. Motion unanimously carried.**
10. Appropriations/Transfers - none
11. Approval of Minutes – 7/28/2008 – **Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano to approve 7/28/08 minutes as written. Motion unanimously carried.** 8/14/08 – **Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Pinney to approve 8/14/08 minutes as written. Motion unanimously carried.**
12. Board of Selectmen Remarks – none
13. Citizen Comments – none
- At 8:45 p.m., Mr. Pinney asked for a motion to add an executive session to the agenda. **Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin to add to the agenda an executive session. Motion unanimously carried. Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano to recess to executive session to discuss property acquisition. Motion unanimously carried.** Selectmen returned from recess at 9:10 p.m.
14. Adjournment – **Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano at 9:10 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Mitchell  
Recording Secretary

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