

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 22, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Auditorium**

1. Location of emergency exits
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, Marcia Mitchell as recording secretary.
4. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was recessed at 7:05 p.m. to join the Board of Finance meeting already in progress. BOS meeting reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

5. Correspondence – request from Carl Rohrbach, acting Chair of the Fire Commission, to stagger expiration of fire commissioners' terms. Four of the five commissioners are scheduled to expire on 12/22/09; the fifth will expire 12/22/08. No action was taken
6. Citizen Comments – Mr. Morey & Mr. Johnston residents of Northwest Drive were present and wanted to know what progress had been made in the evaluation of the flooding on and around their properties. Mr. Pinney said that the Director of Public Works, along with the Wetlands officer and Sanitarian were in the process of developing an assessment. Mr. Morey & Mr. Johnston wanted to know if there would be any findings in time for the October 6 meeting and Mr. Pinney responded that he would expect some findings to be reported in four weeks at the October 20 BOS meeting.

7. Old Business

7.1 Recess to join Board of Finance Meeting in progress – recessed from 7:05 – 7:25 p.m.

7.2 Discuss scheduling of Special Town Meeting on October 6. ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin to schedule a special Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2008 to take the following actions:***

- ***approve Zoning appointment;***
- ***approve transfers and appropriations in excess of \$20,000;***
- ***consider/establish local tax exemption for farm buildings, equipment/machinery;***
- ***consider/establish tax abatement for volunteer canine rescue workers;***
- ***consider/authorize the town to enter into agreements with the North Central Land Trust to acquire 138-acre Trappe property.***

Motion unanimously carried.

7.3 Housing Authority Update – Brian DuPerre/Harvey Edelstein – Housing authority representatives were not present at the meeting. Mr. Pinney stated that the new building would receive a CO in early October, and the Housing authority expected to move people into it beginning mid-month, with the goal of completing the moves by October 28. Completion of the renovation of the existing units is expected to take another two year.

7.4 Energy Policy – review draft. ***Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano to adopt the attached energy policy as written. Motion unanimously carried.***

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7.5 Review plans/agenda for meeting with EDC/Land Use Commissions – Agenda will revolve around the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), what steps have been taken, need to be taken, haven't been taken (and why), whether or not all the actions still apply, and ongoing updating process for the POCD.

7.6 Board/Commission vacancies – Mr. Pinney reported that he had a potential candidate for the opening in the Housing authority. He expected to have a recommendation for the BOS at their next regular meeting. No action was taken.

7.7 Mill update – Thanks to action taken by Fire Marshal, Bob Morpurgo, the current Mill owner has begun boarding up the Mill.

7.8 Somersville planning project – Mr. Pinney met with DOT representative and CRCOG Senior Transportation consultant regarding application of available funds and the relative imperative as regards working on one area vs. another. State is reviewing some of the cost information that was developed as part of the Somersville planning process regarding some potential improvements – on street parking, tree belts, sidewalks, etc. Various options were discussed. No action was taken.

7.9 Human Services Director update – to date, 14 resumes have been received. Mr. Pinney reported that Susan Lather, Enfield Senior Services Director, has volunteered to sit on the interview panel. It was the general consensus of the Board that Ms. Devlin should also sit on the interview panel. Mr. Tolisano recommended that Brian DuPerre, Chair of the Housing Authority, be asked to participate as a member of the interview panel. Resumes will be received throughout this week, and evaluated to determine the top five candidates. No action was taken.

7.10 Recognition ceremony for WWII veterans – At the initiative of the Secretary of State, who is sending out formal invitations to 100+ individuals, a ceremony will take place at the High School on November 14, conferring certificate of service to WWII veterans from Somers. Advisory Commission to the Elderly has expressed interest in providing refreshments, and we need someone to sing the national anthem. Ms. Devlin suggested that somewhere Somers needs a WWII monument.

7.11 Performance management process update – Job descriptions have been circulated for review in the Finance areas (tax collector, assessor, finance), and in the Land Use area. Comments are being applied to final copies. Fire Department career staff descriptions are complete and will be reviewed with the shift commander prior to being distributed for review by the staff. Public works job descriptions are still being drafted. No action was taken.

8. New Business

8.1 Review building permit and fire marshal inspection fees – Mr. Pinney said that the Building Official and Fire Marshal have both approached him about increasing fees so that they are more in line with fees charged by surrounding towns. Ms. Devlin and Mr. Tolisano said they would agree with an increase for the purpose of equalization with other towns. Mr. Pinney said he would ask the Building Official and Fire Marshal to come back with proposed fee scheduled for BOS review.

8.2 Whitaker property – Dedication ceremony scheduled for Sunday, October 5th, at noon; Mr. Pinney will attend and asked the other selectmen to attend if they were available. Also, Mr. Pinney mentioned that one of the building lots the town received as part of the Whitaker transaction had yet to be sold. Sale of the first two lots covered \$290,000 of the \$375,000 needed to cover the town's costs in the open space acquisition. Consensus of the Selectmen was to auction the final lot with a minimum price requirement.

8.3 Parking policy at Field Road Park – Assistant Principal at the HS has asked if the overflow from the student parking lot can be allowed to park at the School end of Field Road park; however, the school's operating policy states that students are only allowed to park on school property, and that when the space is exhausted, no more parking permits are given. Impact to the town is that unpermitted teens end up parking at Field Road. Ms. Devlin and Mr. Tolisano suggested that Mr. Pinney refer this issue back to Dr. Suffredini for his consideration and a formal request from the schools back to the Selectmen.

8.4 Other – Mr. Tolisano wanted to know if the Somersville field repairs could be completed this fall. Soccer organization said they were willing to curtail this fall's use of the field if work could be completed this fall. Public works/parks will be asked to evaluate this possibility.

9. Authorization of Scheduled Payments & Tax Refunds – ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin to approve scheduled payments totaling \$144,247.50. Motion unanimously carried.***
10. Appropriations/Transfers – single transfer from Historical Records Grant Funds to Town Clerk operating budget in the amount of \$2,500. ***Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano to approve transfer of \$2,500 from grant funds to Town Clerk operating budget. Motion unanimously carried.***
11. Approval of Minutes – 9/8/08 – ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin to approve minutes of 9/8/08 meeting as written. Motion unanimously carried.***
12. Board of Selectmen Remarks - none
13. Citizen Comments - none
14. Adjournment – by unanimous decision at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

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

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TOWN OF SOMERS

Energy Systems Policy

The Selectmen of the Town of Somers believe that it is in the best interest of the Town to conserve natural resources and to pursue energy efficiency in the course of that conservation. To this end, the Selectmen hereby adopt the following policy for the evaluation and installation of mechanical systems in all Town buildings:

It shall be the policy of the Town of Somers to evaluate and install state-of-the-art, energy-efficient mechanical systems, including plumbing, heating, ventilation and cooling systems,

- in all newly constructed buildings;
- as total replacement for systems in existing buildings where cost of repair of existing equipment would exceed 50% of the original value of the equipment; and
- as total replacement for systems in existing buildings where $\frac{1}{2}$ or more of the useful life of the equipment being considered for such substantial repair has been expended.

Further, the Selectmen, while recognizing their duties and responsibilities to be fiscally responsible in the policies they set forth, acknowledge that the initial capital investment for installing state-of-the-art, energy-efficient mechanical systems, may be more costly than the initial capital investment for installing less energy-efficient, traditional systems. Therefore, as part of the process when evaluating mechanical systems for installation:

It shall be the policy of the Town of Somers to require a five-year or less payback of the incremental difference between the cost of installing any state-of-the-art, energy-efficient mechanical system and the cost of installing any less energy-efficient, traditional mechanical system.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen
September 22, 2008
Somers, Connecticut