

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING  
Thursday, January 8, 2009, 6:00 p.m.  
Selectmen's Conference Room**

1 Call to order – First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

2 Members present – Kathleen Devlin, David Pinney, Joseph Tolisano (6:20 p.m.). Also present were guests Senator John Kissell and Representative Penny Bacchiocchi; Dr. Maynard Suffredini, Superintendent of Somers Schools; David Reed, Co-Chair, Economic Development Commission; and Marcia Mitchell, Exec. Asst./Ops. Mgr. as Recording Secretary.

3 Pledge of Allegiance – not done, no flag in room

The agenda was taken out of order. Item 8.1 was discussed, followed by item 4 and the remainder of the agenda.

4 Guests (both confirmed): Senator John Kissell  
Representative Penny Bacchiocchi  
Senator Kissell and Representative Bacchiocchi discussed their current knowledge regarding the potential for state budget cuts in aid to cities and towns. The discussion confirmed that most state agencies and many other towns in the Senator's and Representative's districts were planning budget cuts of 10%. Senator Kissell and Representative Bacchiocchi indicated that there is currently no legislative directive anticipating reduction in aid to cities and towns for FY 2010. They did indicate that the state budget deficit continues to grow, and that Governor Rell's budget would likely be delivered on schedule in mid-February. They proposed an informational meeting for Somers residents to discuss any state budget impacts to cities and towns in the early/mid March timeframe. The Selectmen thanked Senator Kissell and Representative Bacchiocchi for their comments.

5 Correspondence - none

6 Citizen Comments - none

7 Old Business

7.1 Outline FY 2010 Operating Budget Process

The selectmen discussed their satisfaction with the process as it had taken place last year, and determined that they will essentially follow the same process this year. Given the current state of the economy and the current information available regarding potential cuts to state aid to cities and towns, Mr. Tolisano and Ms. Devlin recommended that the staff prepare the operating budget under three scenarios – a level funded budget, and budgets anticipating 5% and 10% reductions in expenditures.

7.2 Outline FY 2010 Capital Budget Process

Ms. Devlin and Mr. Tolisano asked that a list of proposed additions to the CIP budget for the Selectmen be prepared and reviewed at the 1/15/09 meeting.

8 New Business

8.1 Meet with EDC re: Labor market report – Mr. Reed presented labor market data for the Enfield Labor Market Area (LMA), which includes Somers, from 2000 through 2008. The source of the data is the Connecticut Department of Labor. The data presented made the following points:

- Over the 9-yr. period, unemployment in Somers was slightly lower than that for the Enfield LMA;

- Unemployment rates for both Somers and the Enfield LMA were fairly flat in the low to mid 4% range from 2004 through 2007;
- Unemployment rates for both Somers and the Enfield LMA increased in 2008 to the low to mid 6% range (6.1% for Somers) in 2008; and
- The gap between the number of employed Somers residents and the total employable residents increased at a faster rate in 2008 than in any of the prior 8 years.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Reed for his presentation.

- 8.2 Reappointment of Treasurer and Tax Collector – Mr. Tolisano will establish the committee that will handle this task, and report back to the BOS with the committee's recommendations when the task is complete.
- 9** Authorization of Scheduled Payments – ***Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano, to approve scheduled payments in the amount of \$339,156.46. Motion unanimously carried.***
- 10 Appropriations/Transfers - none
- 11** Approval of Minutes – 12/18/08 Special Meeting – ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin, to approve the minutes of the 12/18/08 special meeting as written. Motion unanimously carried.***
- 12 Board of Selectmen Remarks - none
- 13 Citizen Comments - none
- 14** Adjournment – ***Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.***

Respectfully submitted,

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