

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 12, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
Selectmen's Conference Room**

- 1 Call to order – First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- 2 Members present – David Pinney & Joseph Tolisano. Also present were Marcia Mitchell as recording secretary, and several interested citizens.
- 3 Pledge of Allegiance
- 4 Correspondence - none
- 5 Citizen Comments - none
- 6 Old Business
 - 6.1 2010 Operating Budget – Mr. Pinney said that the impact of the Governor's proposed budget on the 2010 operating budget will be a decrease in state funding of approximately \$851,000, as well as an increase in the cost of the Resident Trooper program of \$125,000, for a total negative impact of \$976,000. For the 2011 operating budget, the same \$851,000 of funding decrease applies; however, the Resident Trooper program will increase an additional \$125,000 for a total negative impact on the 2011 budget of \$1.1 million. The selectmen discussed projected expense changes, the potential impact and consequences of deferring revaluation, and the feasibility of a tax increase in the upcoming and subsequent years. Budget planning will continue as directed with zero increase on the expense side.
 - 6.2 Status of new DPW staff – Mr. Pinney commented that the new foreman was assimilating well into the DPW environment.
 - 6.3 Reappointment of Treasurer and Tax Collector – Mr. Tolisano said that he had assembled the required panel of four individuals to consider these reappointments, that he had solicited votes from the panel as to whether or not to reappoint, and that he had received three affirmative votes, and no response from the fourth member. Based on this majority vote, ***motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Mr. Pinney to reappoint the Treasurer and the Tax Collector for the current year. Motion unanimously carried.***
 - 6.4 Board/Commission vacancies – Ms. Mitchell reviewed the remaining vacancies and the lack of responses from currently seated individuals. Mr. Pinney and Mr. Tolisano instructed Ms. Mitchell to send another letter of interest to the individuals noted.
- 7 Authorization of Scheduled Payments – ***motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Mr. Pinney to authorize scheduled payments totaling \$448,501.16. Motion unanimously carried.***
- 8 Appropriations/Transfers – ***motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Mr. Piney to authorize four transfers listed below. Motion unanimously carried.***

Requestor	From Account	To Account	Amount	Explanation
Fire Department	20-16-561.1	20-16-566.1	\$ 700.00	Cover vehicle repairs
Tax Collector	10-13-520.1	10-13-516.1	\$ 230.50	Cover increased advertising cost
Selectmen	10-10-511.1	10-10-513.2	\$ 2,734.00	Cover outstanding unemployment liability for remainder of year
Selectmen	10-10-511.1	10-10-536.1	\$ 4,560.00	Cover inc. in fire protection exp. due to water main expansion and increase in # of hydrants

- 9 Approval of Minutes – 1/15/09 Special/Regular Meeting, 1/27/09 Special Meeting – Ms. Mitchell proposed an amendment to the 1/15/09 minutes at the end of item 9 reading “Ms. Mitchell noted that the minutes of the 1/8/09 meeting had been completed and filed. After a short review, motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Pinney to accept the minutes as written. Motion unanimously carried.” ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Mr. Pinney to accept the 1/15/09 minutes as amended and the 1/27/09 minutes as written. Motion unanimously carried.***
- 10 Board of Selectmen Remarks – Mr. Pinney and Mr. Tolisano discussed the supplier for the Town’s propane needs. Mr. Tolisano said that he would follow up with the current supplier for their evidence of ownership of certain in-ground tanks.
- 11 Citizen Comments – Question from Kim Urbon regarding staff cuts in the Board of Education budget, and what, if anything, the Board of Selectmen could do about those cuts. Mr. Pinney explained that the Board of Education sets its budget independently of the Board of Selectmen and under the direction of the Board of Finance. He also shared what he had heard at the Board of Education meeting earlier that week. Bruce Urbon asked if the town was responsible for the maintenance, i.e. mowing, removal of dead trees, etc., for the open space it received or acquired. Mr. Pinney said that the town was responsible for maintenance of open space only to the extent covenants attached to the acquisition require specific maintenance. So, if the space was wooded, unimproved land, as is the case with most open space the town acquires, there would be no mowing or tree removal required.
- 12 Adjournment – Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Mr. Pinney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING