

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

- 1 Call to order – first Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- 2 Members present – Kathleen Devlin, David Pinney & Joseph Tolisano. Also present were Marcia Mitchell, Exec Asst/Ops Mgr, recording; and Greg Simmons, Chief Financial Officer, as well as several interested citizens.
- 3 Pledge of Allegiance
- 4 Correspondence - None
- 5 Citizen Comments - Representing the Recreation Commission, its chairman JJ Wassmuth commented that the reductions in the Recreation Budget were not discussed with the commission. She expressed specific concerns with the elimination of the funding for the Recreation Coordinator; reduction in the Publications account; and reduction in the Custodial Fees account. Mr. Pinney replied that the funding for the Recreation Coordinator had been transferred to the salary account for the Human Services Director, who continues to fulfill the duties of the Recreation Coordinator; that the Recreation Flyer will be published on-line, with hard copies available in multiple public places; and, that the Custodial fees will need to be covered by the sports associations, as the Town can no longer afford to pay these fees. There was discussion regarding the BOE's requirement that a janitor be present at all events – this discussion was joined by Troy LaMontagne and Karen Murdoch, both members of the Recreation Commission. Mr. Pinney said that the BOS would support communication with the BOE on this requirement and whether it could be loosened or eliminated with volunteer support. Ms. Wassmuth commented that the BOE needed to support town Recreation Programs in the same manner in which the BOS supports field maintenance for use by BOE programs.
- 6 Old Business
 - 6.1 2010 Operating Budget – Mr. Pinney shared with the Selectmen a final draft budget that he would endorse presenting to the Board of Finance on 3/16. Highlights of this 0% increase budget:
 - a salary freeze agreed to by all but a few unionized town employees;
 - 40% increase in workers' comp premium
 - decrease in resident trooper coverage from 5 troopers to 4 troopers.Mr. Pinney noted that municipal leaders would be fighting the increase on the state trooper program. He also noted that since 2003, state staffing levels had increased 41%, while Somers staffing levels (on the town side) had decreased.
 - 6.2 Potential appointments – Mr. Pinney proposed that Tom Mehl, Jr. be appointed to the Fire Commission, and that Dan Fraro be appointed as a full member of the Zoning Commission from his current position as an alternate to that commission. After a short conversation, ***motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano to appoint Tom Mehl, Jr. to the Fire Commission and to appoint Dan Fraro to full membership on the Zoning Commission. Motion unanimously carried.***
 - 6.3 Web survey re: upcoming budget year – Mr. Pinney shared preliminary results of the web survey through Monday, 3/9. He said that hard copies submitted to date into boxes at the Senior Center, Library and Town Clerk's office were also included. While the survey is not scientific, there are indications that a majority of respondents would support a small tax increase. Survey responses will be

accepted through 3/18; all responses will be compiled after that time for sharing with the Board of Finance at their 3/23/09 meeting.

- 6.4 Discuss scheduling of Public Hearing re: field development, and special Town Meeting re: transfers, appointments – as discussed at an earlier meeting, the Special Town Meeting and Public Hearing will be scheduled for 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, 3/19/09 in the Town Hall Auditorium.
- 7 Authorization of Scheduled Payments – ***Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Pinney to authorize payments scheduled March 11 & 12, 2009 totaling \$528,629.57. Motion unanimously carried.***
- 8 Appropriations/Transfers – ***Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Pinney to authorize a transfer request from the Tax Collector of \$500.00 from the Tax Collector Service account to the Postage account to cover an anticipated postal rate increase. Motion unanimously carried.***
- 9 Approval of Minutes – 2/26/09, 3/5/09 - Ms. Mitchell noted an error on the 2/26 minutes – the heading reads “agenda” where it should read “minutes”. ***Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Pinney, to amend the the 2/26/09 minutes as noted, to accept the 2/26/09 minutes as amended, and to accept the 3/5/09 minutes as written. Motion unanimously carried.***
- 10 Board of Selectmen Remarks - none
- 11 Citizen Comments – Ms. Murdoch and Mr. LaMontagne commented that they hoped the Recreation commission would have input into the finishing of the new field at the Field Road complex. Mr. Pinney advised them to continue working with Mr. Provencher as they have in the past, and to work with Mr. Cafarelli, Director of Public Works as necessary.
- 12 Adjournment – by unanimous consent at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Mitchell
Exec Asst/Ops Mgr
Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING