

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AGENDA – REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, May 21, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Auditorium**

- 1 Call to order
The meeting was called to order at 6:10
- 2 Members present
Kathy Devlin and David Pinney were present
- 3 Pledge of Allegiance
- 4 Presentation of Awards
 - 4.1 Robert B. Percoski Community Service Award
The selectmen presented the 2008 Percoski Award to the School Building Committee
 - 4.2 Adolph P. Anderson Quality Employee Award
The selectmen presented the 2008 Anderson Award to Marcia MitchellThe meeting recessed at 6:20 to enjoy some refreshments with the award recipients. The meeting resumed at 6:35.
- 5 Correspondence
A letter was received from Phillips Roland and read at the meeting in which Mr. Roland thanked the selectmen for recognizing the good work done by the Building Committee.
- 6 Citizen Comments
None offered
- 7 Old Business
 - 7.1 Budget Review – referendum results
David Pinney noted that even as the town has now approved a budget for 2009-2010, there is still much uncertainty regarding levels of funding from the state. He also indicated there is a growing likelihood that Federal funds from the American Recovery and Reimbursement Act intended to support local education will have to be sent directly to the school district rather than through the state as part of the Education Cost Sharing grant from the state to the town. The town anticipated this grant as part of town revenue used to support the funding commitment to the school district adopted within the recently approved town budget. Appropriate actions at the town level will have to wait for resolution of federal and state actions.
The selectmen confirmed their continued commitment to aggressively review town services and staffing department by department in the face of sustained challenges to maintain current levels of funding not only in the coming year, but the years beyond.
 - 7.2 Resident Trooper Services – update
David Pinney indicated it appears unlikely that the original proposal to increase the town's reimbursement rate to the state for resident trooper services will be adopted. A different effort by the state to bill the towns for reimbursement of the cost of fringe benefits associated with overtime pay, which would add approximately 53% to the cost, is currently being implemented by administrative order. It is under review by the state Controller's office and may be deferred from the proposed July 1, 2009, start date if not withdrawn entirely.
 - 7.3 Somersville Planning Committee – update
David Pinney reviewed a recent meeting of the committee attended by several residents along Main Street in Somersville and one business owner. They were all concerned about the prospects that a new sidewalk proposed for the north side of Main Street would encroach too substantially on their use of the land in front of their homes and businesses. While acknowledging that the land involved was mostly state land within the right of way for route 190, they still felt a sidewalk was unnecessary and would represent a disruption

for them. The committee continues to focus most of its attention to work proposed for the south side of Main Street and work on School Street.

8 New Business

8.1 Roofing opportunity

David Pinney reviewed an offer from the contractor at the library project to sell the town shingles left over from the work being performed there. There would be enough material to finish re-roofing at the police station, including the back building used by the fire department, and also re-roof the gazebo at Field Road. Anticipating a cost of less than \$5,000 and the prospect of a prison crew doing the work, the selectmen decided the town should purchase the shingles.

8.2 Mil rate survey options

The selectmen discussed the likelihood that postage paid post cards included in the tax bills would require that the postage be paid on all the cards printed. This would drive the cost up substantially. It was decided to go forward with an insert in the motor vehicle bills that would present the survey questions and encourage responding on line at the town's website or mailing or dropping off the paper form. No postage would be provided on the form.

9 Authorization of Scheduled Payments

Kathy Devlin moved and David Pinney seconded and it was unanimously approved to authorize payments in the amount of \$458,812.20 as presented.

10 Appropriations/Transfers

Kathy Devlin moved and David Pinney seconded and it was unanimously approved to endorse the following transfers:

<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Health Insurance	Building Maintenance	\$4,450.00
Legal Services	Zoning Legal	\$2,000.00
Legal Services	Planning Legal	\$ 500.00
Recycling	Transfer station electricity	\$ 450.00
Recycling	Transfer station heat	\$ 604.03
Recycling	Transfer vehicle fuel	\$1,770.00
Zoning ZEO	Zoning advertising	\$1,000.00

11 Approval of Minutes – 5/7/09

Kathy Devlin moved and David Pinney seconded and it was unanimously approved to accept the minutes from the meeting of May 7, 2009, as presented

12 Board of Selectmen Remarks

None

13 Citizen Comments

Mike Provencher indicated staff at Public Works appreciated the letter from the First Selectman thanking them individually for their willingness to accept a wage freeze as part of building a budget proposal the public would support.

14 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30

Respectfully submitted,

David Pinney,
First Selectman

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting of the selectmen.