

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, June 4, 2009, 6:00 p.m.  
Selectmen's Conference Room**

- 1 Call to order – First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.
- 2 Members present – Kathleen Devlin, David Pinney and Joseph Tolisano. Marcia Mitchell, Exec. Asst./Ops. Mgr. was also present as recording secretary, as well as a number of interested staff members and citizens.
- 3 Pledge of Allegiance
- 4 Correspondence – none
- 5 Citizen Comments – none

Mr. Pinney asked that the agenda be taken out of order to allow those citizens in attendance to comment on those items in which they had an interest. Item 6.3, Skatepark update, and item 7.1, First Selectman Staffing Recommendations, were heard respectively at this point with the remainder of the agenda following, after those two discussions were complete.

6 Old Business

- 6.1** Draft ordinance re: Building Official & Fire Marshall Permitting Fees – Mr. Pinney stated that the ordinance had been drafted by the Town attorney, that the building permit schedule had been updated by the Building Official, and that the Fire permit fee schedule had been developed by the Fire Marshal. A public hearing is needed to consider adoption of the ordinance by the BOS. ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin and unanimously carried to schedule a public hearing for the purpose of receiving town input on the proposed ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Establishing Fees for Permits from the Building Official and Fire Marshal" immediately following the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2009.***
- 6.2** Open Space – Trappe – Mr. Pinney said that the purchase of the Trappe Property for open space preservation was at a point in the transaction process that it needed to be brought for resolution by a special Town Meeting. ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin and unanimously carried to call a Special Town Meeting to consider adoption of a resolution to purchase approximately 138 acres located on the east side of Scully Road (The Trappe Property) for the purchase price of \$550,000, such purchase price being paid using an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant from the state of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$275,000 and a contribution from the Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Inc. in the amount of \$137,500, with the balance coming from town funds.***
- 6.3 Skatepark update – Karen Murdoch – Ms. Murdoch stated that the Skatepark committee was actively fundraising for the future skatepark, which would likely cost in excess of \$200,000. They have raised approximately \$2,000 to date. Her concern was that the Selectmen are still committed to the agreed location at the Field Road Park. The First Selectman had received some negative feedback on a demo sponsored by the Skatepark committee last fall, with concerns being voiced about skaters utilizing the playground equipment in the Connor's Place playground. After some discussion, the Selectmen renewed their support of

locating a future skatepark at the Field Road Park site as previously discussed. No official action was taken.

- 6.4 Mil rate survey question for inclusion in tax bills – The selectmen reviewed a brief questionnaire regarding what level of mil rate increase taxpayers might be willing to pay in the 2010-2011 budget year for inclusion in the tax bills and gave their approval to proceed with the insertion.

## 7 New Business

- 7.1 First Selectman Staffing Recommendations – Mr. Pinney briefly reviewed his written recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that the position of Town Planner be eliminated. Mr. Pinney said that this was a business decision and one that would not be made lightly or without due consideration of facts. The selectmen agreed to hear comments from interested parties present. The following individuals were heard with some presenting written comments for the record: Joe Iadarola, Culver Modisette, Jim Gage, Scott Sutter, Rex Joffray, Todd Whitford, Brad Pellissier, Steve Jacobs, Rick Cheney, Debbie Barnes, Steve Barnes, Rob Martin, Joan Formeister, Barbara Flebotte, Rick Cheney, Debra Joffray, Patrice Carson. Mr. Pinney said that all comments would be heard and considered in the Selectmen's decision making process. Mr. Tolisano commented that the BOS was looking at every part of the Town's \$5 million plus budget, and that we need to find lower cost, more efficient/effective ways of doing business in the face of declining state grant funds. No formal action was taken, and no date for a decision was set.
- 7.2 Purchasing Policy – revisions to the current purchasing policy were discussed. The proposed revisions include criteria for obtaining at least three prices for purchases below a certain threshold and following a bid process for purchases above a certain threshold. The selectmen recommended that the process be centralized within the Finance Department under CFO Greg Simmons, that consequences of non-compliance be documented as part of the policy, and that the final draft be presented to them for review in time for a July 1, 2009 implementation. No formal action was taken.
- 7.3 BOS recognition of Donna Hanks – Mr. Pinney explained that Ms. Hanks, the Assistant Town Clerk, has been deployed to whatever department or functional area needed help, given the current level of work incoming to the Town Clerk's office. Ms. Hanks is a solid worker who seeks out things to do when her work runs out, and has shown a high level of flexibility in deployment to different departments. The Director staff discussed this situation and recommended that Ms. Hanks be recognized for her flexibility and willingness to fulfill a range of assignments with a paid day off. Ms. Mitchell said that she had used this type of incentive in past situations as a "spot recognition award" with the presentation to the employee of a "paid day off certificate". ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin and unanimously carried 1. to make spot recognition awards of a paid day off certificate based on the recommendation by the Director staff of a specific employee or employees; and 2. to present a spot award to Ms. Donna Hanks in recognition of her flexibility and willingness to take on a range of assignments.***
- 7.4 Authorization to enter into contract with Department of Environmental Protection re: resolution of well water contamination issues on Sunset Drive – Mr. Pinney briefly reviewed a draft resolution and discussed the cost and reimbursement structure of the Sunset Drive project. The town will have to front the funds for this project, which will be reimbursed in full by the DEP, less the cost of the installation of any fire hydrants. The expenditure of these funds will necessitate approval by a Town Meeting when the exact costs are available. ***Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano and unanimously carried 1. to adopt a resolution authorizing James Botellio, chair of***

***the WPCA, to enter into and sign contracts with the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the installation of a water main on Sunset Drive; and 2. to present the project at a special town meeting as soon as the exact cost figures are available.***

**8** Authorization of Scheduled Payments – ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin and unanimously carried to authorize scheduled payments totaling \$190,667.19.***

**9** Appropriations/Transfers – ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin and unanimously carried to authorize three transfers listed below:***

<b><i>Amount</i></b>	<b><i>From Acct</i></b>	<b><i>To Acct</i></b>	<b><i>Requestor/Explanation</i></b>
<b><i>\$ 750</i></b>	<b><i>30-34-588.1-Recycling</i></b>	<b><i>30-18-565.1-Uniform Cleaning</i></b>	<b><i>Public Works/Cover higher than expected expenses</i></b>
<b><i>\$ 2,500</i></b>	<b><i>30-34-588.1-Recycling</i></b>	<b><i>30-18-531.5-Vehicle Maint.</i></b>	
<b><i>\$ 2,500</i></b>	<b><i>30-35-588.1-Recycling</i></b>	<b><i>30-18-587.1-Garage &amp; Equip.</i></b>	
<b><i>\$ 3,500</i></b>	<b><i>10-10-515.2-Bonds &amp; Ins.</i></b>	<b><i>10-10-531.1-Capital Bldg.</i></b>	<b><i>Selectmen/purchase surplus shingles from library project for use on police station</i></b>
<b><i>\$ 190.97</i></b>	<b><i>10-15-545.1-Mapping</i></b>	<b><i>10-15-534.1-Dues &amp; seminars</i></b>	<b><i>Assessor/User conf with Vision Appraisal Technology-new software vendor</i></b>

**10** Approval of Minutes – 5/21/09 – ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin and unanimously carried to approve minutes as written.***

**11** Board of Selectmen Remarks – the Selectmen discussed hosting a picnic, at their expense, in recognition of all town employees who accepted the wage freeze. Ms. Devlin will draft a personal invitation to be sent to the employees when the date is scheduled.

Ms. Devlin also noted that the employee manual is in need of revision, and requested that the task be given priority in the new fiscal year. The other selectmen agreed, and Ms. Mitchell will own the process.

**12** Citizen Comments - none

**13** Adjournment – ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

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

***MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING***