

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, January 13, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
Selectmen's Conference Room**

- 1 Call to order – First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- 2 Members present – other than Ms. Pellegrini, Kathleen Devlin and Joseph Tolisano were present. Marcia Mitchell was present as recording secretary. Approximately 30-40 interested citizens were in attendance, and the meeting was convened in the Town Hall Auditorium instead of the selectmen's conference room.
- 3 Resolution authorizing First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini to execute documents related to the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of CT Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police and the Town of Somers Volunteer Fire Department to use the Soapstone Mountain telecommunication facility- Ms. Pellegrini commented that this MOU is a formalization of the ongoing use by the Fire Department of the state police radio repeater on Soapstone Mountain. ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Devlin) and unanimously voted to adopt the resolution, which is appended to and made part of these minutes.***
- 4 Appointment/reappointment of Board/Commission members – Ms. Pellegrini noted that she and Ms. Devlin had both had conversations with Bob Pettee regarding his interest in participating on the Housing Authority. Ms. Devlin commented that she thought Mr. Pettee would bring a wealth of knowledge based on his background in electrical contracting. ***Motion (Ms. Devlin), seconded (Mr. Tolisano) and unanimously voted to appoint Bob Pettee to the Housing Authority filling a vacancy created by the recent resignation of a member, for a term expiring 12/22/2012.*** Ms. Mitchell noted that she had heard from several more current appointees that they would accept reappointment, and read those names. ***Motion (Ms. Devlin), seconded (Mr. Tolisano) and unanimously voted to reappoint those members as listed below:***

<i>Name</i>	<i>Commission</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
<i>Kathryn Worcester</i>	<i>Cultural Commission</i>	<i>12/22/2010</i>
<i>George VanTasel</i>	<i>Prison Liaison/Public Safety</i>	<i>12/22/2011</i>
<i>Jerome Young</i>	<i>Prison Liaison/Public Safety</i>	<i>12/22/2011</i>
<i>Raymond LaFlamme</i>	<i>Prison Liaison/Public Safety</i>	<i>12/22/2011</i>
<i>Karen McGuane</i>	<i>Recreation Commission</i>	<i>12/22/2011</i>
<i>George VanTasel</i>	<i>WPCA</i>	<i>12/22/2012</i>

- 5 Ambulance discussion – Ms. Devlin noted that the Board of Finance, at its last meeting, had suggested that the selectmen employ some “out of the box” thinking when considering the challenge of creating a level-funded budget in the coming year, and in considering how they would recommend financing of items like the replacement ambulance. Ms. Pellegrini noted that, while the state had not yet cut municipal funding, she fully expected that cuts would be made, and that the Board would need to be creative in dealing with the anticipated economic difficulties. Ms. Devlin recommended that one of the ways that this should be done would be to evaluate the service and utilization of all fixed assets to determine if any underutilized assets could be sold. There was general agreement among the selectmen that a fixed asset review should be pursued.
- 6 Review and confirmation of snowplow trade. Ms. Pellegrini reviewed the facts of the snowplow trade, which has been the topic of recent controversy. She stated that, while she did not agree with the approach that had been taken, the value of the two plows was roughly equivalent. She also noted that she had investigated the potential for any wrong-doing in the transaction and had satisfied herself that none had taken place. She also noted that Board of Finance had requested that the Board of Selectmen confirm the trade in compliance with the new capital asset policy established by the CFO, and she requested confirmation by the board. ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Devlin) and unanimously voted to confirm the trade of the 12-foot snowplow for a 10-foot snowplow with Cooker Construction.***

- 7 Use of Town letterhead by boards/commissions – Ms. Pellegrini said that a business person in town had brought to her attention a skate park fundraising letter on Town Letterhead issued by the Recreation Commission. There are two issues, first, the communication was issued on town letterhead without the knowledge of the Selectmen; second, the letter notes that none of the donations would go into the town's general fund, which is a material misstatement, since all funds received by the town flow through the general fund, and are allocated out to special accounts as they are needed. Ms. Devlin expressed concern that town letterhead ever be used to solicit funds, and considers doing so inappropriate use of the town letterhead. Michael Provencher, Parks Coordinator noted that when the Playground Committee raised funds, they did so with the Town's endorsement, but used letterhead specifically created for the Playground Committee. J.J. Wassmuth, Chair of the Recreation Commission stated that they were given permission to use the town letterhead by former first selectman, David Pinney. Ms. Pellegrini noted that the town attorney had advised her that donors needed to be notified of the misstatement of process in the letter, and refunded if they so requested, and that it was up to the Selectmen as to whether or not boards/commissions use Town letterhead for any such communications. Ms. Pellegrini noted that one check for \$100 had been deposited, and that several other checks for a total of \$700 donated to date as a result of the letter were being held by the CFO until next steps could be determined. Mr. Tolisano expressed concern that the Board of Finance considered any funds in the general fund as being usable for any town requirement, and recommended that sign-off by the Board of Finance be obtained noting that these donations were to be expressly set aside for sole use in the development of the skate park. The selectmen agreed that town letterhead should be used strictly for town business, and that a policy should be drafted and adopted in this regard. Ms. Devlin asked how many businesses had been contacted using this letter, and Ms. Pellegrini said that she had requested a list from the Recreation commission but had not yet received the list. Karen McGuane, Recreation commissioner, said that the list was forthcoming, and that there were roughly 200 businesses on the list.
- 8 Preliminary draft of Fire ordinance – Ms. Pellegrini shared a preliminary draft of a Fire ordinance. The statute refers to such an ordinance, but one has not been adopted. Ms. Pellegrini asked that the selectmen review the draft, and said that she would be requesting the Fire Commission, the Fire Chief and the Career Deputy chief for their input as well. The input will be provided with the draft to the town attorney and the process for adopting an ordinance will be started. The selectmen will review and provide input.
- 9 Authorization of Scheduled Payments – ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Devlin) and unanimously voted to authorize scheduled payments totaling \$66,379.66.***
- 10 Adjournment – ***Motion (Ms. Pellegrini), seconded (Mr. Tolisano) and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Mitchell
Exec Asst/Ops Mgr
Recording Secretary

Resolution attached as part of minutes on the following page

CERTIFICATION

I, Ann Marie Logan, Town Clerk of the Town of Somers, duly elected and qualified according to law and having custody of the seal of the Town of Somers, hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Somers held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, and that said resolution has not been amended, rescinded or revoked and remains in full force and effect.

Resolved: That Lisa Pellegrini, the First Selectman be and is herewith authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Somers Fire Department with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety Division of State Police for use of telecommunications facility located at Soapstone Mountain in Somers Connecticut

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Town of Somers this _____ day of _____, A.D. 2009.

Ann Marie Logan
Town Clerk

AFFIX TOWN SEAL HERE

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING