

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
AGENDA – REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, March 11, 2010, 6:00 p.m.  
Town Hall Auditorium**

- 1 Call to order – First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
- 2 Members present – Lisa Pellegrini and Joseph Tolisano. Also present were Rep. Penny Bacchiocchi; Sen. John Kissell; Dr. Maynard Suffredini, Superintendent of Somers Schools; William Boutwell, Director of Business Services, Somers Schools; Sergeant Jose Claudio; Marcia Mitchell (recording) and approximately 25 interested citizens.
- 3 Pledge of Allegiance
- 4 Correspondence – e-mail from the Walpole-Felix family requesting an update on the Bobolink Lane stop sign situation. The Selectmen agreed to defer discussion in this regard to item 8.1.1.
- 5 Citizen Comments – Karen Murdoch, representing the Somers Recreation Commission stated that the commission had been informed about the possibility of the location of a regional Probate Court at the Kibbe Fuller community center. She respectfully requested that the opinion of the Recreation Commission be sought prior to any final decisions being made in this regard. Ms. Pellegrini said that, of course, input from the Recreation Commission would be sought prior to any final decision being made.
- 6 Special guests: Senator John Kissell & Representative Penny Bacchiocchi  
State/municipal budget discussion  
Senator Kissell and Representative Bacchiocchi discussed the current state budget deficit (approx. \$500 million) and the projected deficits for the coming four years (\$684 million next year and \$3 billion each of the following three years). They both commented that they are searching for ways to mitigate these deficits that will do the least amount of harm to the municipalities in their districts. In general they do believe that municipal funding will be cut. Ms. Pellegrini asked that they address (1) The outstanding consent order to extend the water supply on Sunset Drive and (2) Potential funding for an ambulance. Rep. Bacchiocchi and Sen. Kissell concurred that the funding for the Sunset Drive consent order was only a matter of time, and that they believed it would be funded. Sen. Kissell said that he had little confidence that there would be any funds available for the purchase of an ambulance; however, he suggested that the Board of Selectmen approach the Department of Corrections to determine if there might be some resources/assistance they could provide in this regard. The attached handouts were provided to the group.
- 7 Opportunity for Selectmen to add agenda items: ***Motion (Ms. Pellegrini), seconded (Mr. Tolisano) and unanimously voted that “resolution authorizing First Selectman to execute agreements related to Somersville Streetscape STEAP grant” be added to New Business as item 9.4 and that “Vision Boulevard” be added to old business as item 8.1.3***
- 8 Old Business
  - 8.1 Traffic Commission Items
    - 8.1.1** Bobolink Lane – Mr. Peter Felix asked what the status was of the request for a 4-way stop at the intersection of Bobolink and Cricket Lanes. He and his family believe there is a real danger to the children of the neighborhood. Sgt. Claudio commented that the problem with installing a 4-way stop is that there needs to be a basis for such an installation. He has stationed troopers at the intersection and acknowledged that driving behavior changes when a trooper is visible. He noted that the department had just received a stealth radar device that would record traffic patterns (speed, stops and starts – not identification of specific vehicles) without having a trooper present. J.J. Wassmuth asked if the existence of a school bus stop was a consideration when determining whether or not a 4-way stop was necessary. Sgt. Claudio said that the location of the bus stop had not been considered, and that he would contact the BOE Business Office to determine the exact location of the school bus stop. Reference was made to other 4-way

stops in town, and what data was used to determine they were necessary. Sgt. Claudio said that, while it was likely that data considered for each intersection was not available, he would consult the DPW to determine where and how comparable those intersections are. ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to have the stealth radar device installed at the intersection to gather data and to reconsider the situation at a future meeting.***

8.1.2 Bailey Lane – Ms. Pellegrini explained that Bailey Lane used to end in a cul-de-sac and that it had been extended. She had received a complaint that the extension was supposed to have a slow sign and a stop sign installed, and that those signs had not been installed. Ms. Pellegrini said that the Town Engineer had confirmed with the developer that those signs were still in the plans and would be installed.

**8.1.3** Vision Boulevard – Ms. Pellegrini said that Sgt. Claudio had received enough information from the State Department of Transportation to confirm that Vision Boulevard (the road that runs through the public schools complex was eligible to be a public way and that, since it would be a town road once accepted by the Board of Selectmen, it was up to the town as to whether or not to keep the speed bumps on the road. Sgt. Claudio recommends that the Board of Selectmen accept the road as a town road, establish a speed limit for the road (the current speed limit is 15 miles per hour, which he believes is acceptable for the traffic levels and conditions), after which the resident troopers office will implement a traffic control program. ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded, (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to accept Vision Boulevard as a town road, and to establish the speed limit as 15 miles per hour.***

8.2 Potential for combined Planning & Zoning Commission – Ms. Pellegrini commented that the Board of Selectmen have received a legal opinion that the combination of the two commissions may be completed by the adoption of an ordinance. She said that 139 of the 169 towns in Connecticut have a combined planning and zoning commission. She has had initial conversations with the current chairs of both the Planning and the Zoning Commissions, and expects to attend their upcoming meetings to discuss how a combination of the two commissions would benefit the town. No actions were taken.

8.3 First Selectman update – Ms. Pellegrini said that she would present the 2010/2011 town budget to the Board of Finance at its 3/22 meeting, and that the budget would be flat from the current year.

## 9 New Business

**9.1** Appointment – Advisory Commission to the Elderly – Ms. Pellegrini proposed that Marilyn Smith be appointed to the Advisory Commission to the Elderly. ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to appoint Marilyn Smith to the Advisory Commission to the Elderly for a term to expire on 12/22/2010.***

9.2 Probate Court District name – Ms. Pellegrini communicated that the new probate district (Somers/Stafford/Enfield) had to choose a name for itself and communicate that name to the state probate department prior to the end of March. The name that has been chosen is “The Probate Court District of North Central Connecticut”. Ms. Wassmuth, representing the Recreation Commission, commented that locating the probate court at the Kibbe Fuller Community Center would impact recreation programming. Ms. Pellegrini said that, ideally, the probate location would continue to be split between Stafford and Enfield; however, she believes that the potential for using three rooms of the Kibbe Fuller building for this purpose would still allow for recreation programming in the remaining rooms and would bring traffic and business into the town. No actions or final decisions have been made, and the topic was tabled until more information about costs and revenues becomes available.

9.3 Library Letter to Parents – Ms. Pellegrini noted the “Open Letter from the Library Board to the Parents of Somers School children” published in the most recent edition of the North Central News. After significant discussion, the Board of Selectmen stated that they would support the Library Board of Trustees in whatever steps it decided to take in this regard.

**9.4** Resolution authorizing First Selectman to execute agreements related to Somersville Streetscape STEAP grant – ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution:***

***That Lisa Pellegrini, the First Selectman, be and is herewith authorized to execute the necessary contract(s) on behalf of the Town of Somers with the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for STEAP grant, project #2006129001, Somersville Streetscape.***

- 10** Authorization of Scheduled Payments – ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to authorize scheduled payments totaling \$133,471.34.***
- 11** Appropriations/Transfers – ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to authorize one transfer for referral to the Board of Finance as shown below:***

<b><i>Amount</i></b>	<b><i>To Acct</i></b>	<b><i>From Acct</i></b>	<b><i>Requestor</i></b>	<b><i>Explanation</i></b>
<b><i>\$13,000</i></b>	<b><i>Reference Librarian</i></b>	<b><i>Part-time Library</i></b>	<b><i>Library Board of Trustees</i></b>	<b><i>Part-time reference librarian works more hours on a weekly basis</i></b>

- 12** Approval of Minutes  
February 25, 2010, special meeting - ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2010 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as written.***  
February 25, 2010, regular meeting – ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as written.***
- 13** Board of Selectmen Remarks - none
- 14** Citizen Comments – Several members of the group Citizens for Somers Education Excellence (CFSEE) were present and asked how they could get information to the Board of Finance until a new CFO was appointed. They have e-mailed the chair of the Board of Finance and have had no response. Ms. Pellegrini stated that, until the CFO was replaced, this was their best option
- 15** Adjournment – ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Mitchell  
Exec Asst/Ops Mgr  
Recording Secretary

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