

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 8, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
Selectmen's Conference Room**

- 1 Call to order – First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- 2 Members present – Kathleen Devlin, Lisa Pellegrini, and Joseph Tolisano. Also present Marcia Mitchell, recording; David Pinney, chair, Somers Housing Authority; Bob Landry and Bob Pettee, both representing Somers Housing Authority; Harvey Edelstein, REDI, development consultant to Somers Housing Authority; Bradley Pellissier, chair, Planning Commission and several other interested citizens.
- 3 Pledge of Allegiance

At this point, ***motion (Ms. Devlin), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini), and unanimously voted to take the agenda out of order, hearing item 8.1 first.***
After item 8.1 was heard, ***motion (Ms. Devlin), seconded, (Mr. Tolisano) and unanimously voted to take the agenda out of order, hearing item 7.3 next.***
After item 7.3 was heard, ***motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Devlin) and unanimously voted to take the agenda out of order, hearing item 7.2 next.***
After item 7.2 was heard, ***motion (Ms. Devlin), seconded (Mr. Tolisano) and unanimously voted to take the agenda out of order, hearing item 7.6 next.***
After item 7.6 was heard, the balance of the agenda was discussed in order.
- 4 Correspondence – Ms. Pellegrini shared an e-mail message from Catherine Tomson, 6 Lance Drive, sharing an incident where a child was approached by a stranger in a vehicle on Old County Road in Somers the weekend of April 3. The incident was reported to the police and they are handling it. She is concerned that excessive, unwanted traffic, and potentially other situations such as this occur because of the gate to the State Forest that is open on Old County Road. She requested that this gate be closed to help eliminate some of the traffic that goes up Old County Road. The selectmen expressed their concern; Ms. Pellegrini noted that the resident troopers are aware and monitoring the situation that took place. The selectmen believe that the balance of the issue should be classified as a traffic commission discussion. This gate is on state property controlled by the DEP, and that the town has no control over the gate. ***Motion, (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Devlin) and unanimously voted to have the First Selectman's office correspond with the DEP regarding closing the state park gate located on County Road, and to table the traffic issues related to this request until a response is received.***
- 5 Citizen Comments – Bob Pettee, 190 Springfield Road, asked to comment regarding the budget. He is concerned that education spending is out of balance, and that we cannot continue spending money that we don't have. He believes that certain basics are not being taught. He cited that high school students did not know what a "peck" or a "bushel" were; and that apprentices that came to work for him did not know how to read a ruler. The selectmen discussed systemic issues with Mr. Pettee regarding state mandated curriculum and teaching to prepare students for mastery tests. Mr. Pettee thanked the selectmen for hearing him.
- 6 Opportunity for Selectmen to add agenda items - none
- 7 Old Business
 - 7.1 Traffic Commission Items
 - 7.1.1 Bobolink Lane – Ms. Pellegrini presented a memo from Sgt. Claudio outlining the "stealth" data gathered at the intersection of Cricket and Bobolink. Based upon this data, Sgt. Claudio does not recommend installing four-way stop signs; however, the selectmen tabled any action and asked for clarification as to the appropriate location of the two-way stop, as to whether it should control traffic on Bobolink, where it was originally placed, or on Cricket, where it is currently placed. Ms. Pellegrini said she would request this clarification, invite the Walpole-Felix family (and any other interested residents) to a subsequent

meeting and ask Sgt. Claudio to make a presentation of the data so that the selectmen could vote at that time.

- 7.2 Potential combination of planning and zoning commissions – Ms. Pellegrini noted that she had spoken with the Chairs of both the Planning and Zoning Commissions about the potential combination. She had also attended meetings of both commissions and asked members for their concerns and ideas in this regard. She said that, in general, there were no substantive concerns, with the exception that, because Zoning is more tactical and planning is more strategic, members felt that planning issues might be neglected. This issue would effectively be addressed by forming a planning subcommittee of members of the combined board to advise the board on planning issues. Ms. Pellegrini has received a draft ordinance, which she will forward to the selectmen for review. After brief discussion, ***motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to move forward with the ordinance process and hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. to hear parties in interest and citizens' opinions about the "Ordinance combining the Planning and Zoning Commissions and Establishing the Somers Planning and Zoning Commission".***
- 7.3 Mowing/Trimming RFP – Mr. Tolisano reported that the committee had finished its evaluation, and based on objective scoring of all complete bid packages, recommended to the Board of Selectmen that the bid for spring cleanup and mowing/trimming services only be awarded to Beebe Landscaping. Beebe scored highest, based on the objective criteria set forth in the RFP document. Bill's Landscaping came in a close second, due to a slightly lower safety rating. Mr. Tolisano commented that many of the RFP responses were incomplete. The evaluation committee also recommended that the functions of fertilization and line painting and maintenance be kept in house. The Beebe bid for spring cleanup and mowing/trimming beginning April 1, 2010, totaled \$42,940; the average of all bids for spring cleanup and mowing/trimming only was \$68,291. Ms. Devlin said that she had received feedback that the bid should be awarded to an in-town firm; Beebe is located in East Windsor. Mr. Tolisano responded that, while the business is located in East Windsor, both owners of Beebe are Somers residents, with children in the Somers schools. ***Motion (Ms. Pellegrini), seconded (Ms. Devlin), and unanimously voted to award the bid for spring cleanup and mowing/trimming services to Beebe Landscaping, Inc.***
- 7.4 Kibbe Fuller Mold Remediation plan & budget – Ms. Pellegrini said that estimates were being reviewed to begin the cleanup and remediation.
- 7.5 Outstanding committee/commission issues – the following issues were discussed: the Planning Open Space Trails (POST) committee has not met since prior to the elimination of the Town Planner position, and Ms. Pellegrini has received communications regarding getting meetings of this group started again. She has requested that the Town Attorney review the origins and membership of the committee. Based upon his review, the committee was not properly commissioned, and should not be re-formed without proper charter and appointment. The selectmen agreed that a letter explaining this should be sent to the Planning Commission. The Fire ordinance and the ordinance establishing the design review committee were not properly noticed after adoption, and both need to be approved at a town meeting so that proper notice can be given. The selectmen agreed to place these items on the agenda for the Annual Town Meeting.
- 7.6 2010/2011 Budget – Interim CFO Linda Savitsky joined the meeting to review with the Selectmen several income/mil rate increase scenarios she had prepared for the Board of Finance for review prior to its special meeting scheduled for Monday, April 12. Mr. Tolisano will attend the meeting to represent the Board of Selectmen.
- 7.7 First Selectman update – Contracts for Somersville Streetscape STEAP grant funds have been executed and will be submitted back to DECD when Opinion of Town Counsel letter has been issued. Once these contracts are executed by DECD, project items can go out to bid.

8 New Business

- 8.1 Woodcrest Phase II Support – guests Harvey Edelstein and David Pinney – Mr. Pinney outlined the progress to date on Phase I of Woodcrest construction, noting that the renovation of the garden-style units is close to completion, with CO's expected in late May and June. He explained that the current waitlist was far in excess of the available units. The Housing Authority has received conditional approval for financing of Phase II, a 60-garden-style unit expansion, from both the DECD and Rockville Bank. They have an

investor to purchase the tax credits for the balance of the investment. Phase II will be able to sustain a PILOT fee (10% of shelter rent). The selectmen wanted to hear more about the vision of the Housing Authority, and expressed concern about the ability of Phase I and subsequently, Phase II to sustain resident coordinator staff to support the needs of the residents. Mr. Edelstein said that he was working with a specialized vendor to provide these services on a part-time basis for Phase I and on a full-time basis for Phase II, once it is complete. Part of the Housing Authority's vision is to provide reasonable quality housing for those most financially challenged; they are also working on a way to make give priority to Somers residents, relatives of Somers residents, etc., in the application process. Mr. Edelstein said that the Housing Authority is looking for a letter of support for their activities from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Pinney and Mr. Edelstein were asked to articulate the vision of the Housing Authority, in writing, and to provide with it a draft of a letter of support, which the selectmen will evaluate and issue based upon their evaluation.

- 8.2 Budget ballot advisory questions – Ms. Mitchell informed the selectmen that advisory questions had been posed on the budget ballot the last two years, and asked if they wanted to place the same questions on this year's ballot. After discussion, it was decided that Mr. Tolisano would discuss this issue with the Board of Finance at the 4/12/10 special meeting.
- 8.3 BOS goals & objectives for remainder of FY 10; FY 11 – The selectmen agreed that the following would constitute their goals for the remainder of FY 10, and that they would discuss FY 11 goals and objectives at a future meeting: Planning & Zoning combination; Efficiencies Committee and evaluation of Health District; Mowing/Trimming RFP & DPW Cross training program; Correction of ordinances related to Design Review Committee and Fire Commission; Excess & Surplus equipment inventory and subsequent sale; ongoing work with the Recreation and Somersville Streetscape STEAP grants; Technology Plan; Long Range Plan.
- 9 Authorization of Scheduled Payments – *motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Devlin) and unanimously voted to authorize scheduled payments totaling \$122,864.65.***
- 10 Appropriations/Transfers – none.
- 11 Approval of Minutes
March 11, 2010 regular meeting – ***motion (Ms. Pellegrini), seconded, (Mr. Tolisano), abstention (Ms. Devlin, who was not in attendance) and unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2010 meeting as written.***
March 25, 2010 regular meeting – ***motion (Ms. Devlin), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini), abstention (Mr. Tolisano, who was not present for the entire meeting) and unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the March 25, 2010 meeting as written.***
- 12 Board of Selectmen Remarks – The selectmen determined that there would not be a quorum available for the next regularly scheduled meeting (April 22, 2010), and asked Ms. Mitchell to post a cancellation notice for the meeting. They determined that all would be available for a special meeting on April 29, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. prior to the public hearing regarding the ordinance to combine planning and zoning.
- 13 Citizen Comments – none
- 14 Adjournment – *motion (Ms. Devlin), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Mitchell
Exec Asst/Ops Mgr
Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING