

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, May 13, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Auditorium**

- 1 Call to order – First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- 2 Members present – Kathleen Devlin, Lisa Pellegrini, and Joseph Tolisano. Also present, Marcia Mitchell (recording) and approximately 20 interested citizens.
- 3 Pledge of Allegiance
- 4 Correspondence – Ms. Pellegrini reviewed a letter received from the Economic Development Commission supporting the potential location of the probate court at the Kibbe Fuller building. Ms. Pellegrini reminded the group that no final decisions had been made in this regard, and publicly thanked the EDC for its input. Ms. Devlin said she wanted to be sure that the potential for locating the probate court at Kibbe Fuller was discussed with the Planning Commission as appropriate.
- 5 Old Business
 - 5.1 Traffic Commission Items
 - 5.1.1 Bobolink & Cricket Intersection – Sgt. Claudio reviewed the data gathered from the stealth radar posting and commented the neither the speed data nor the volume data supported the installation of a four-way stop at the intersection. Comments were heard from Mr. Roger Wassmuth, 54 Bobolink, as well as from Mr. Peter Felix at 44 Cricket. Both of their homes are at the intersection, and they both believe that the intersection is unsafe for the residents without a 4-way stop sign. After brief discussion among the selectmen and Sgt. Claudio, ***motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Devlin) and unanimously voted to install 4-way stop signs at the intersection of Bobolink & Cricket.***
 - 5.1.2 Charlie's Ride authorization – Charlie's Ride is a first annual charity motorcycle ride dedicated in loving memory of Charlie Lewandoski, who lost his 20-year battle with heart disease in July 2009. The ride is being held on Sunday, August 15, 2010 beginning at 11 AM in Ellington and ending at 1 PM at Big Shot billiards & Bar in East Windsor, and passes briefly through Somers from Rt. 83 in Ellington to Rt. 190 in Stafford. Ms. Mitchell explained that the organizers of Charlie's Ride were instructed by CT Department of Transportation (DOT) that they needed permission of each town through which the ride would pass in order to receive a permit from the DOT. ***Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Devlin) and unanimously voted to give written permission to Charlie's Ride organizers for the ride to pass through Somers on the specified route.***
 - 5.2 Mowing & Trimming Contract – Ms. Pellegrini noted that the Selectmen had received the contract for their review and approval. Ms. Devlin said that the selectmen would not authorize signing the contract until they had had the opportunity to thoroughly read the contract. Mr. Tolisano said that he had received questions via e-mail from Karl Walton, 45 Sunset Drive, regarding the process used to issue the RFP, determine who would sit on the selection committee, and how the RFP responses were evaluated and ultimately how the vendor was selected. Mr. Tolisano provided historical information, process information, evaluation information, and selection information to the group. Mr. Walton wanted to know why the meetings were not made public; Mr. Tolisano said that he had tried to follow the State RFP process as closely as possible and that a subjective analysis of objective data could be discoverable if a vendor who was not chosen brought suit. Barry Moynihan, 119 Maple Street asked if the RFP/contract covered all mowing for the town, and whether or not any positions were to be eliminated; Mr. Tolisano replied no, that only the mowing for the town's athletic fields had been outsourced. Ms. Pellegrini replied that no positions were to be eliminated at this time, but that we had received notice of a retirement from one of the public works employees, and that that position would not be replaced. Mr. Tolisano added that funding for an unfilled position in Public Works would cover the mowing expenses for this year. Ms. Devlin said that she had had the opportunity to review the contract during the discussion and wanted to point out how well-written, and specific the contract was, setting forth a defined mowing season, with a specific number of times the fields were to be mowed during the peaks and slow growth periods during the season, a specific fee schedule, and clauses allowing both parties to cancel the contract with appropriate notice. After further brief discussion, ***motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded***

(Ms. Devlin) and unanimously voted to approve the mowing & trimming contract with Beebe Landscaping Services, Inc. for Ms. Pellegrini to sign.

- 5.3 Planning & Zoning Combination – Ms. Devlin started by stating her position as not in favor of combining Planning & Zoning. She explained why, and said that if the combination were to proceed it should be done only through a charter revision and not by ordinance. She recommended that in the future large, complex applicants come before a joint meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commissions to streamline communications, and that the Planning Commission should devote the second meeting of each month to the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Ms. Pellegrini said that based on the feedback received at the Public Hearing, and since then, she would recommend proceeding with the combination only through a charter revision. Mr. Tolisano said he had nothing more to add to these comments. The selectmen heard comments from several individuals in this regard, relating to appreciation for the openness the BOS has shown in this regard and wanting to know when and if a charter commission would be convened. Ms. Pellegrini said that the BOS needed to do more work with the commissions prior considering convening a charter revision committee, and that no further action would be taken to combine the Planning & Zoning Commissions through adoption of an ordinance. No actions were taken.

- 5.4 Health District – Ms. Pellegrini said that the BOS would hear comments from those in attendance. The following individuals spoke;

Karl Walton Jim Botellio Bob Pettee Brad Pellissier

The comments were mostly against joining the health district, and in favor of keeping the sanitarian. Ms. Pellegrini thanked the participants for their input and said that the dialogue would be ongoing and she would give sufficient notice prior to any public hearing in this regard.

- 5.5 Senior Bus Purchase – The Greater Hartford Transit District (GHTD) has again given the Town the opportunity to buy out the vehicle lease, this time on the newer Senior Bus still owned by the GHTD. The cost will be \$4,000. **Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Devlin) and unanimously voted to purchase the remaining bus owned by the GHTD at a cost of \$4,000.**

Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Devlin) and unanimously voted to consider items 5.6 and 5.7 at the next meeting of the BOS. Ms. Devlin said that she would not be available to attend the next meeting scheduled for 5/20/10.

- 5.6 Anti-blight ordinance

- 5.7 Budget changes

- 6 Authorization of Transfers & Scheduled Payments – **Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to authorize scheduled payments totaling \$121,821.10. Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Devlin) and unanimously voted to authorize the following transfers for referral to the next Board of Finance meeting:**

Amount	To Acct	From Acct	Requestor	Explanation
\$17,690	Recreational Maintenance	Highway Salaries	Selectmen	Cover outsourced field mowing/trimming for FY 10
\$11,500	Heat-Kibbe Fuller	Kibbe Fuller Maintenance	Selectmen	Cover mold remediation out of unspent heating budget

- 7 Adjournment - **Motion (Mr. Tolisano), seconded (Ms. Pellegrini) and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Mitchell
Exec Asst/Ops Mgr
Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING