

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES  
JULY 1, 2010  
SELECTMAN'S CONFERENCE ROOM – 6:00 pm**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**2. MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Members present included: Lisa Pellegrini, Kathleen Devlin, and Joseph Tolisano. Also present a handful of interested citizens.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**4. CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

**5. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

Ms. Pellegrini asked audience members for any issues or input. Elizabeth Gable, 320 Billings Road addressed the Board. She informed them that in the past 4 years, there have been 4 traffic accidents which ended up on her front lawn, one involving a fatality. She is asking the BOS for stop signs to be placed at Billings & Sunshine Farms, creating a 3-way stop. Mrs. Gable has spoken with the Police, who agreed with her assessment that traffic needs to be slowed at that intersection. The Police agreed to monitor speeding. Ms. Pellegrini will follow up with the Police department. Ms. Devlin suggested they speak with the Planning Commission as well.

**6. OPPORTUNITY FOR SELECTMEN TO ADD AGENDA ITEMS:**

Ms. Pellegrini suggested adding the following item, which would require a vote from BOS this evening.

**6.1 WPCA Proposed Fees**

Ms. Pellegrini distributed copies of the new fee schedule for the WPCA, which had been submitted to BOS by Steve Jacobs, Town Sanitarian and James Botellio, Chairman, WPCA.

- *A motion was made by Joseph Tolisano to approve the new WPCA Fee schedule, with an effective date of August 1, 2010; seconded by Lisa Pellegrini. A unanimous vote followed.*

*A motion was made by Kathleen Devlin to change the order of tonight's agenda items and move to 8.3 – New Business, Tennis/Basketball STEAP Grant as a number of Recreation Committee members were in attendance. Joseph Tolisano seconded the motion.*

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

**8.3 Tennis/Basketball Court STEAP Grant**

Ms. Pellegrini outlined the current status of the project. She recently had met with the contractor, JSL Asphalt, Inc., reviewed concerns regarding pitch, color, gate placement. Ms. Pellegrini also asked for and received a bid of \$20,000 to resurface the practice courts. She believed the Grant can be amended to include

this cost, which had not been included on the RFP. The project has a tentative start date of July 19, 2010. Kim Marcotte, Town CFO is currently looking into the insurance cost/liability issue surrounding the originally proposed skate-park at the site. Ms. Pellegrini then opened the discussion to the audience.

J.J. Wassmuth, from the Town Recreation Committee addressed the Board. She was dis-satisfied that the Rec Committee was not able to participate in the selection process of the vendor. She pointed out that the tennis courts need to meet USTA approved standards and questioned whether an asphalt company would be able to meet those standards.

Ms. Wassmuth also focused on the possible change in expenditure of the \$200,000 STEAP Grant. She reminded the BOS of the original intent to fund the tennis courts (\$150,000) and a skate-park (\$50,000). She was concerned that the resurfacing of the practice courts (\$20,000) would be at the expense of the skate-park.

Ms. Pellegrini responded that the office of the BOS worked with the DPW and the Town Engineer on the technical aspects of the RFP, and that the Evaluation Committee looked at a total of 4 vendors before selecting JSL. Ms. Pellegrini also stated that a member of the Recreation Committee was chosen as a member for the Evaluation Committee. She added that information is not complete on the skate-park, which she had communicated to Ms. Wassmuth. Ms. Pellegrini informed all that CIRMA is in the process of re-writing its skate-park policy.

Mr. Tolisano asked if JSL's previous work met USTA standards. Ms. Pellegrini said no specific statement was included in their response. Mr. Tolisano then suggested drafting a Request for Information ("RFI") to JSL Asphalt questioning their ability to meet USTA standards. He asked Ms. Wassmuth and other members of the Rec Committee to supply him with data points by next week.

Ms. Devlin suggested to Ms. Wassmuth that she speak to someone in the Enfield Rec department, regarding the Taylor Road skate-park as a source of information/comparison. She suggested tabling further discussion until more information was available to the group.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **7.1 Fire Commission Ordinance**

Ms. Pellegrini asked members for proposed changes to the ordinance. Mr. Tolisano stated that as the Fire Department is the largest Town budget, the way the Fire Chief is elected ought to be changed. Currently the Chief is elected by the volunteers, and the Fire Commission then approves (or not), with no vote from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Tolisano's concern is that the BOS to some extent is abdicating their responsibility by having such limited oversight on both selection and accountability of this role. He added that language should be changed, in that a Chief is "...nominated with the approval of the Board of Selectmen." Both Ms. Pellegrini and Ms. Devlin agreed. Mr. Tolisano agreed to draft specific language and bring it back to the next BOS meeting.

### **7.2 Anti-Blight Ordinance**

Ms. Devlin distributed copies of Enfield's Blight Ordinance. After reviewing, she felt that the ZBA should be involved. Ms. Pellegrini questioned it as another layer of government. All members agreed that the Town needs a Blight Ordinance, but felt the proposed ordinance to be excessive. Ms. Devlin agreed and will re-draft her recommendation for the next BOS meeting.

### **7.3 Design Review Ordinance**

Ms. Pellegrini informed members this Ordinance had been adopted without an effective date. She suggested it be added to the Agenda of the next Town Meeting. The Ordinance would then be effective 15 days later.

- *A motion was made by Joseph Tolisano to add adoption of the Design Review Ordinance to the Agenda of the next Town Meeting; seconded by Lisa Pellegrini. A unanimous vote followed.*

#### **7.4 Vendor, Hawkers & Peddlers Ordinance**

Ms. Pellegrini suggested changing language on this Ordinance to also address the selling of crafts (during Farmers' Market) as well. Ms. Devlin felt that to be too narrow and suggested exemptions approved by BOS instead.

- *A motion was made by Joseph Tolisano to amend the Vendor Ordinance to include "exceptions to be approved by the Board of Selectmen." The motion was seconded by Kathleen Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.*

#### **7.5 Budget Update**

Ms. Pellegrini informed members that the Town received the State Police invoice. Whereas, \$595,000 had been expected; instead the invoice was for \$539,353, at a savings of \$55,000.

Ms. Pellegrini stated that the Library has submitted wage increases for FY 2011 (ranging from 0 to 3.5%, with an average of 3%).

- *A motion was made by Joseph Tolisano approve salary increase based on the FY 2010-2011 Budget; seconded by Ms. Pellegrini. A unanimous vote followed.*

### **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **8.1 Senior Center Paint**

Ms. Pellegrini told members that the interior of the Senior Center will be painted in a soft green tone.

#### **8.2 New 2010 STEAP Grants**

Ms. Pellegrini reminded members that new STEAP Grants applications are due by 7/20/2010. Some ideas her office received included:

- Recreation requested on-line registration software
- Possible expansion of the Senior Center
- Technology Center at the School Complex
- Ms. Devlin – Community Center
- Mr. Tolisano – Security cameras, guard rails at Field Road

#### **8.3 Tennis/Basketball Court STEAP Grant**

See pages 1 and 2.

### **9. AUTHORIZATION OF TRANSFERS AND SCHEDULE PAYMENTS:**

- *A motion was made by Joseph Tolisano to authorize payment in the amount of \$150,706.23; seconded by Kathleen Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.*

### **10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –**

In each instance, Ms. Pellegrini asked members for comments, changes on Meeting Minutes.

#### **June 10, 2010 Special Meeting**

- *A motion was made by Kathleen. Devlin to approve the June 10, 2010 Board of Selectmen Special meeting Minutes as written; seconded by Lisa Pellegrini. In the vote that followed, Ms. Devlin and Ms. Pellegrini voted to approve, whereas Mr. Tolisano abstained.*

#### **June 17, 2010 Regular Meeting**

Ms. Pellegrini pointed out that on Page 7, 7.2 Board Appointments, Scott Sutter should have been listed as “Alternate Member” in both the initial recommendation and the motion that followed.

- *A motion was made by Mr. Tolisano to approve the June 17, 2010 Board of Selectmen Regular meeting Minutes as amended above; seconded by Lisa Pellegrini. A unanimous vote followed.*

#### **June 23, 2010 Special Meeting**

- *A motion was made by Lisa Pellegrini to approve the June 23, 2010 Board of Selectmen Special meeting Minutes as written; seconded by Kathleen. Devlin. In the vote that followed, Ms. Devlin and Ms. Pellegrini voted to approve, whereas Mr. Tolisano abstained.*

#### **June 29, 2010 Special Meeting**

- *A motion was made by Kathleen. Devlin to approve the June 29, 2010 Board of Selectmen Special meeting Minutes as written; seconded by Lisa Pellegrini. A unanimous vote followed.*

#### **June 30, 2010 Special Meeting**

- *A motion was made by Lisa Pellegrini to approve the June 30, 2010 Board of Selectmen Special meeting Minutes as written; seconded by Kathleen. Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.*

### **11. BOARD OF SELECTMAN REMARKS:**

- *A motion was made by Lisa Pellegrini to add Aileen Henry to the Elderly Advisory Board for a period of 1 year; seconded by Kathleen Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.*
- *A motion was made by Kathleen Devlin to add Karen Norrie to the Advisory Committee to the Elderly for a period of 1 year; seconded by Joseph Tolisano. A unanimous vote followed.*

### **12. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS:**

None

### **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- *A motion was made by Kathleen. Devlin to move to Executive Session; seconded by Lisa Pellegrini. A unanimous vote followed.*

Ms. Pellegrini declared the public portion of the BOS July 1, 2010 meeting to be over at 7:55 pm. The Executive Session concluded at 8:15 pm

### **14. ADJOURNMENT:**

*The July 1, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen adjourned at 8:20 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly E. Dombek, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.