

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
JULY 29, 2010
TOWN HALL – 6:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order:

First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Members Present:

Members present included: Lisa Pellegrini, Joseph Tolisano, and Kathleen Devlin. Also present was Richard Barlow, First Selectman, Town of Canton and several interested citizens.

3. Pledge of Allegiance:

The pledge of allegiance was taken.

Ms. Pellegrini made a motion to move item 10a. CCSWA Presentation up on the agenda to precede Item 4. Correspondence. Joseph Tolisano seconded the motion, and it was unanimously voted on.

10. New Business

a. CCSWA (Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority) Presentation from CRCOG (Capital Region Council of Governments)

Ms. Pellegrini introduced Dick Barlow, First Selectman of the Town of Canton and Chairman of the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority, to the Board of Selectman. Mr. Barlow stated that the 70 member towns in mid-Connecticut in the CRCOG currently have contracts with the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA), which are due to expire in 2012. At this point, the Towns will have the option to discontinue with CRRA.

CCSWA was formed as a way to provide a comprehensive, long-term solid waste management solution for municipalities that would be both responsive and cost effective. Many towns are dissatisfied with the level of services that CRRA provides, and also are not happy with the way the CRRA models runs. The CCSWA governance would include elections of the Board by the member municipalities rather than the political appointment model in place at CRRA. It is the feeling that the CCSWA would give the Towns more control over waste management and recycling. In anticipation of the pending 2012 date, most municipalities feel that it is their obligation to request additional bids for solid waste services. Rather than bid separately for services, the CCSWA would go to bid for all the towns in the association.

The CCSWA membership consists of 16-18 towns in the central Connecticut region. The association is in the process of developing by-laws, and meets monthly. A \$1,500 to \$2,000 commitment would be required to join, which is based on the population and volume of waste for a town.

The CCSWA would send out request for proposals, and would expect bids from CRRA, as well as other private vendors.

The Board discussed who the specific private vendors might be and the timeline for joining the CCSWA. The next meeting of the CCSWA is August 18th, with a by-laws meeting on August 11th. The CCSWA will be issuing the RFP in the next couple of months, in order to have new contracts in place by 2012.

Ms. Pellegrini will obtain a copy of the ordinance for the Board's review before making the decision to join the CCSWA.

4. Correspondence:

- Letter from Gary Carra of 104 Rye Hill Circle. Mr. Carra would like to acquire a small parcel of land adjacent to his property, and needs a referral to the Planning Board for an 8-24 (Section 8-24 of the State Statute).

A motion was made by Kathleen Devlin to refer this request for an 8-24 to the Planning Board; seconded by Joseph Tolisano; and unanimously voted on.

- Letter from Jim Gage, North Central Connecticut Land Trust will be discussed later in the meeting under new business.
- Letter from George Roberts, a resident of Somers Village. Mr. Roberts would like the property to be considered for a lower tax rate because it is a condo complex. The property is currently taxed as a single-family residence, as there are no separate provisions in the Somers tax code for condos. It was recommended that this request be tabled to the next Board of Selectmen meeting due to time constraints.
- Letter from the Central Region Tourism District.

A motion was made by Lisa Pellegrini to make an appointment; seconded by Joseph Tolisano; and unanimously voted on.

5. Citizen's Comments:

There were no comments from any of the citizens present.

6. Opportunity for Selectman to add agenda items:

The following agenda items were added and voted on:

6.1 Opportunity to sign the tennis court contract with JSL.

A motion was made by Joseph Tolisano to approve the contract; seconded by Kathleen Devlin; and unanimously voted on.

6.2 Affordable housing application

The Town recently received an affordable housing application. Due to the time constraints with the application a request was made to Ms. Pellegrini from the Planning Commission Chairman (Brad Pellissier) to hire a planning consultant (Planimetrics) to assist in the creation of affordable housing regulations. A meeting with Planimetrics is scheduled for the week of August 2nd. Planimetrics, a planning and zoning consulting firm was previously contracted by the Town of Somers to write the POCD and is believed to be the best consultant. The Board agreed to hire them. Mr. Tolisano suggested that a limited number of hours be included in the agreement.

6.3 Appointment of Kaz Cruzel as a new member of the Recreation Commission.

Communication from JJ Wassmuth, Chairman of the Recreation Commission recommends the appointment of Mr. Kaz Cruzel as a member of the Recreation Commission. As all members of the Board of Selectmen have not met with Mr. Cruzel, Ms. Devlin suggested that he introduce himself at the next Board of Selectman meeting before the Board votes.

6.4 Request to Planning Board for an 8-24 (Section 8-24 of the State Statute) Referral regarding the Kibbe Fuller Building.

Ms. Devlin would like to make a request to the Planning Board for an 8-24 referral regarding the possibility of a Probate Court at the Kibbe Fuller Building.

A motion was made by Kathleen Devlin to refer this request for an 8-24 referral to the Planning Board; seconded by Joseph Tolisano; and unanimously voted on.

6.5 Request to discuss the Anti Blight Ordinance.

Ms. Devlin requested to discuss the Anti Blight Ordinance following the discussion of the Fire Ordinance under Old Business.

7. First Selectman's Update:

- \$500,000 in STEAP grant applications were submitted to the State by Ms. Pellegrini. They include \$120,000 for Sidewalk Construction along Battle Street from the Cemetery to Main Street; \$80,000 for the repaving of the Senior Center Parking Lot; \$200,000 for the expansion of the Senior Center and \$100,000 for a Water/Splash Park at Field Road Park.
- While reviewing the list of insured vehicles it was discovered that the Town has been paying insurance on vehicles that were sold in 2006, 2007 and 2008. There was also a piece of equipment that was not insured. This has been corrected and a credit has been requested from the insurance company. It was also discovered that the contents (books, DVD's, etc.) of the library were under-insured by over \$500,000. All insurances lists for all the buildings and vehicles in Town have now been reviewed and corrections have been submitted to the insurance company. Ms. Devlin suggested that the Board of Finance be made aware of the extra charges that will result from the additional insurance.

- A new oil contract will provide savings of \$9,000/year to the Town. The Board of Education will save \$20,000/year, about .25/gallon. The contract is locked in for a year, and will be reviewed again at the time of expiration.
- Ms. Pellegrini communicated that an additional person should be designated to post Meetings, Agendas and Meeting Minutes on the website when the Town Clerk is on leave. The issue arose in the Town Clerks' Office when there was no staff trained to post those items on the website. Putting the town in a potential FOI violation status. It was agreed that the Assistant Town Clerk be cross-trained to do this, as well as to train another person to perform notary public services and prepare passport applications. Ms. Pellegrini will discuss this with the Town Clerk.

11. Authorization of Transfers and Scheduled Payments:

- Transfer of \$800 from construction account to engineering consultant account.

A motion was made by Joseph Tolisano to transfer the funds; seconded by Lisa Pellegrini; and voted on unanimously.

- Payment authorization of \$88,134.21.

A motion for a payment authorization of \$88,134.21 was made by Lisa Pellegrini; seconded by Joseph Tolisano; and voted on unanimously.

- \$9,583.99 supplemental appropriation to CIP account to purchase a zodiac inflatable boat.

A motion for a supplemental appropriation of \$9,583.99 to the CIP account based on a donation to the fire department was made by Kathleen Devlin; seconded by Lisa Pellegrini; and voted on unanimously.

8. Old Business:

a. Fire Commission Ordinance Review

Mr. Tolisano distributed copies of the Fire Commission Ordinance to the Board for review. Ms. Pellegrini suggested clarification on the third page. Where the word "Board" exists, specify whether it is the Board of Selectmen or Board of the Fire Commission.

A motion to approve the fire commission ordinance with the amendments, specifying which board is taking which action, was made by Joseph Tolisano; seconded by Lisa Pellegrini; and unanimously voted on.

b. Blight Ordinance Review

Ms. Devlin suggested removing the first paragraph and changing the wording to building official, and submitting to Atty. Carl Landolina to review. She also suggested a change on page four, substituting "hearing officer" with "Zoning Board of Appeals."

10. New Business (continued)

b. Northern Connecticut Land Trust Tax Bill for Trappe Property

Ms. Pellegrini read a letter from Jim Gage, Treasurer of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust, requesting that the tax bill of \$1,706.82 be waived. Due to time constraints, this item was tabled and will be discussed at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

c. High Ridge Estates, LLC Tax Bill for Aspen Ridge 37-13 Road

Ms. Pellegrini read a letter from Mike Leaska, President of Leaska Construction Company disputing the tax bill of \$234.44. Due to time constraints this item was tabled to the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

12. Board of Selectmen Remarks:

There were no further remarks.

13. Citizen Comments:

There were no further citizen comments.

14. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Lisa Pellegrini to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. and seconded by Joseph Tolisano. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Submitted by:

Janine M. Hewitt
Recording Secretary