

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, August 12, 2010
Town Hall**

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini

Members present: First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Selectmen Joe Tolisano, Kathy Devlin, CFO Kim Marcotte, Operations Manager Douglas Minich, recording

Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence: Letter from Mr. Roger Frangiamore Shady Lake moved to Old Business

Opportunity for Selectmen to add agenda items:

Ms. Devlin added zoning regulations on Field Rd.

Ms. Pellegrini added MEUI contract for Selectmen's approval to sign

Ms. Pellegrini added contract with Hinkley Construction for Sunset Drive work for signature.

Ms. Pellegrini added volunteer firemen Provident insurance policy for discussion

First Selectman's update: Discussion of ambulance billing. It has been ten (10) years since ambulance billing was sent out to bid. It was suggested by Mr. Tolisano to include someone from Board of Finance and CFO Kim Marcotte work on criteria for RFP. Ms. Devlin volunteered to participate as well.

Old Business:

d. Appointment of Mr. Caz Cruzel to Board of Recreation was moved up to accommodate Mr. Cruzel's schedule. Mr. Cruzel has volunteered in Somers since 2003 in Little League, serving as president in 2008. He has volunteered for soccer and flag football as well. Mr. Tolisano cited Mr. Cruzel's commitment to the community and recommended his appointment. ***Mr. Tolisano made a motion to appoint Mr. Cruzel to the Board of Recreation for a term ending December 22, 2010. Ms. Devlin seconded and the vote was unanimous.*** A letter confirming will be sent to Mr. Cruzel with copy to the Town Clerk and Recreation Commission

a. Somers Village tabled from July 29, 2010 was discussed. Mr. George Roberts, resident of Somers Village presented a letter to the board outlining his and other residents concerns regarding assessment and taxation. In summary Mr. Roberts, as well as other residents, of Somers Village are asking for a 5% reduction in assessment. Ms. Devlin suggested that the issue should be taken up by the Board of Assessment Appeal. Mr.

Tolisano questioned whether the Board of Selectmen is the proper forum for this decision. A letter from Mr. Roger Frangiamore, president of the Shady Lake Association was read. The letter stated that the Town currently collects over \$20,000 per year in tax revenue from the Shady Lake development and that services such as snow plowing and trash removal are not provided by the Town and they would like a reimbursement for these expenses. The Board of Selectmen decided that these issues, as well as, assessment and taxation concerns regarding Shady Lake be addressed by the Board of Assessment appeals. Mr. Roberts asked what the median assessment and taxation increase was for the Town of Somers after the last assessment. That information will be gathered from the Assessor and communicated to Mr. Roberts. A letter from the Board of Selectmen will be sent to Mr. Roberts and Mr. Frangimore regarding their decision.

b. Northern Connecticut Land Trust tax bill on Trappe Property tabled from July 29, 2010 meeting was discussed. Ms. Devlin asked if taxes have been paid on other property owned by NCLT, specifically, the Whitaker and Schlaff properties. Mr. Tolisano is not in favor of enacting an ordinance granting retroactive tax relief. He suggested that all interested parties appear at a future Board of Selectmen's meeting for further discussion.

c. High Ridge Estates tax bill tabled from July 29, 2010 was tabled again as Aspen Ridge has not been accepted as a Town road.

e. Anti Blight Ordinance was discussed. Resident David Reed commended the Board of Selectmen for their updating of this 1973 ordinance which covered only automobiles. The Board of Selectmen approved the ordinance to go to publication and a public hearing prior to the Selectmen's Meeting of August 26, 2010.

f. The Fire Commission ordinance was discussed and approved to go to publication and public hearing on August 26, 2010.

g. The CCSWA ordinance was discussed and approved to go to publication and public hearing on August 26, 2010. Mr. George Roberts asked if this ordinance obligated the Town in any way and was assured that it did not. He pointed out that there are other options than CCSWA.

New Business:

- a. Resolution for right of way agreement with CT DOT for reconstruction of 9th District Rd and Rte 190 was discussed. ***Motion by Ms Devlin, second by Mr. Tolisano to authorize First Selectmen Pellegrini to sign agreement. Unanimous decision.***

b. Traffic Commission

- i. Somers Great Escape 5K/5Mile Run/Walk was discussed. ***Motion by Ms. Devlin, second by Mr. Tolisano to approve. Unanimous vote.***
- ii. Hartford County 4-H Fair Association 5K Road Race, August 22, 2010 was discussed. ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, second by Ms. Devlin to approve. Unanimous vote.***
- iii. 4 Town Fair Parade was discussed. Suggestion was made to contact State Traffic Commission for approval of road closure for

parade. ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, second by Ms. Devlin.***
Unanimous vote.

- c. Recreation Camp: Pay scale was discussed regarding counselors' salaries. Mr. Tolisano suggested a tiered approach to salaries commensurate with experience. The Board of Selectmen suggested that Jennifer Charette work with Recreation Commission over the winter to formulate a plan for next summer's camp and submit the plan to the Board of Selectmen to encourage retaining experienced counselors.
- d. Added item. Zoning on Field Rd. The Board of Selectmen suggested a letter be sent to Planning Commission and Zoning Commission encouraging them to work together with Glenn Chalder of Planimetrics to discuss formulation and development of an affordable housing plan for the Town.
- e. Added item. MEUI contract discussion moved to Executive Session.
- f. Added item. Hinkley Construction contract for Sunset Drive work for WPCA discussed. Board of Selectmen authorized First Selectman to sign contract.
- g. Added item. Volunteer firemen ADD policy discussion. Board of Selectmen authorized a risk manager to do a thorough comparison of CIRMA and Provident policies to determine if duplicate coverage exists. Mr. Tolisano suggested evaluation cost not to exceed \$1,000.00

Authorization of Scheduled Payments: ***Motion by Ms. Devin, second by Mr. Tolisano to authorize payment. Unanimous decision.*** Signed by all Selectmen

Appropriations/Transfers: There were no appropriations or transfers.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of July 29, 2010 were approved with the following correction, "Dan Roulier was appointed as the Somers representative to the Central Regional Tourism District for a term ending July 29, 2013" ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano to approve as amended, second by Ms. Devlin. Unanimous vote.***

Board of Selectmen Remarks: None

Citizen Comments: Mr. George Roberts asked if the Board of Selectmen had the authority to amend the Town Charter. Charter may only be amended prescribed by Connecticut General Statutes.

Mr. Roberts asked for clarification on CCSWA and advised the Selectmen not to engage in an agreement similar to CRRA.

Joyce Steinmetz expressed concerns about frequency and amount of fees assessed by Fire Marshall for both 4 Town Fair and 4-H Fairs and asked the First Selectman for a separate meeting to discuss the issues. The Board of Selectmen agreed to a future meeting with representatives from the 4 Town Fair, the 4-H Fair and the Fire Marshall. The Board of Selectmen asked Mrs. Steinmetz for a list of specific concerns prior to the meeting.

Board of Selectmen entered into Executive Session at 7:40 PM

Board of Selectmen adjourned Executive Session at 8:04PM

MEUI contract: *Motion by Ms Devlin, second by Mr. Tolisano to authorize First Selectman Pellegrini to sign MEUI contract. Unanimous vote.*

Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous vote

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas H. Minich
Recording

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent Selectmen's meeting