

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 7, 2010
Selectmen's Conference Room**

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM by First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini.

Members present – First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini. Selectman Joe Tolisano, CFO Kim Marcotte, Operations Manager Douglas Minich, Fire Marshall Bob Morpurgo and members of the public

Pledge of Allegiance – All attendees participated

Correspondence – none

Citizens Comments – Robin Provencher spoke to the Board about some difficulties with their continued **COBRA** coverage after the retirement of her husband Mike. Ovation Benefits contacted Doug Minich on Thursday September 23, 2010 after contact from Ms. Provencher and assured him that coverage is in force.

Opportunity for Selectmen to add items – none

Selectmen's Update – Lisa Pellegrini announced the hiring of Jeff Bord as Town Engineer/DPW Director whose start date is 10/18/2010. Somers has been awarded three grants, one of \$4,888 for Emergency Performance and two STEAP grants; one for sidewalk construction on Battle Street in the amount of \$120,000 and another of \$100,000 for parking lot or Senior Center improvements. New computer servers have been installed in Phase I of the Town computer upgrade, some new desktop units have been installed and a new switch has been ordered to better serve the needs of the Town.

Old Business –

- 8.1 Fire Ordinance – Discussion was tabled for further study by the Board of Selectmen

New Business –

- 9.1 4 Town Fair/4H Fair concerns regarding inspections with Fire Marshall
Linda Horn, 4H representative addressed her concerns about inspections with the Fire Marshall and the need for the extent of them. Bob Morpurgo answered her questions to her satisfaction and offered to meet with the 4H Fair committee during the winter and keep them advised of fees and inspection criteria. One of their concerns was the limited amount of funds 4H has and the difficulty of their youth to raise money. Mr. Tolisano made the suggestion of a negotiation between the Town and 4H Fair to reduce the fees while still meeting safety code. He also suggested that there be better communication

between the Town, 4 H Fair, and 4 Town Fair acting as landlord. The present fee structure has been in place since 2008, and any increases have been due to size of tents or number of tents utilized, there have been no fee increases. It was pointed out that the fees consist of not only fire inspection fees, but food vendors fees as well which is under the purview of the Town Sanitarian. Mr. Morpurgo read a letter to written to Mr. Ron Horn citing the State fire code regarding sleeping with animals during fairs. It is the States position that this is against the State fire code and not allowed. Mr. Tolisano asked if the 4 Town Fair had insurance coverage and was assured that they did. Mrs. Pellegrini understands their concerns but stressed that the code must be met. While waiting for other members of the 4 Town Fair committee to arrive the Board moved to other matters on the agenda.

Motion was made by Mrs. Pellegrini to move to Authorization of Scheduled Payments and was seconded by Mr. Tolisano. The motion was approved. A motion to approve the payments was made by Mr. Tolisano and seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The motion to approve the payments was approved.

Approval of Minutes - Since Mrs. Devlin was not present at this meeting and Mr. Tolisano was not present at the Selectmen's meeting of 9/23/10 the approval of minutes of 9/23/2010 was tabled.

Recess – At 7:41 PM the meeting was recessed to await the arrival of Tom Kozikowski, president of the 4-Town Fair.

Reconvene – The meeting was reconvened at 7:48 PM

With the arrival of Mr. Kozikowski the 4 Town Fair questions about the Fire Marshall fees were addressed. Mr. Tolisano expressed that the Boards concern was safety and liability concerns for the Town and that the same fee structure has been in effect since 2008. Mr. Morpurgo offered to meet with the 4 Town Fair committee on a quarterly basis, to review any changes in the fire code or fee structure. Mrs. Joyce Steinmetz stated that insurance is required of tenants as well as the requirement to obtain any necessary permits. Mr. Morpurgo offered to make packets available to the 4 Town Fair containing all fire and vendor permits required. Discussion continued with the need for better communication between the Town, 4 Town Fair and 4 H Fair and an effort will be made to do so.

9.2 – ACO update – The Animal Control agreement with other towns has not been finalized and discussions continue. Mrs. Pellegrini read a letter listing the charges against the Animal Control Officer for failing to keep the pound up to the standards expected by the Town and recommended his termination.. The charges list two warning letters dated January and August 2010, the inspection failure of the facility by the State Regional Animal Control Officer and failure to submit required state reports on time. Mr. John Tennent responded to the charges citing among other things a lack of time to complete assigned tasks. Mr. Tolisano asked Mr. Tennent if he had any plan to address and correct the deficiencies. Mr. Tennent did not respond. Mr. Dave Yoho Enfield ACO and Mr. Eric Boucher attested to the lack of cleanliness of the facility and simplicity of

doing the required paperwork. Mr. Tolisano asked that the decision to terminate be delayed until the Special Selectmen's Meeting on Wednesday, October 13, 2010.

Adjournment – Mrs. Pellegrini made the motion to adjourn at 8:05 PM and it was seconded by Mr. Tolisano. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas H. Minich – Recording secretary

Minutes are not final until approved at a subsequent meeting