

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday October 13, 2010
Downstairs Meeting Room**

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order by First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini and went into Executive Session immediately.

Members Present – First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Selectmen Joe Tolisano, Kathy Devlin, Board Attorney Pat McHale, Doug Minich – Recording Secretary.

The Board exited Executive Session and Attorney McHale read a statement by the Board regarding the charges against Building Inspector John Collins. The Board found the charges outlined in the letter by Mrs. Pellegrini to Mr. Collins were substantiated. As a result Mr. Collins was immediately suspended, without pay, for a period of 20 working days. Mr. Collins shall be reinstated to his position effective November 12, 2010 and upon his return to work if there is any substantiated act of willful misconduct, his employment will be terminated. Further; he will not accept any employment outside the Town of Somers without express written permission from the Board of Selectmen, and will work within the core hours of the Town Hall. Mrs. Pellegrini shall codify the disciplinary actions through a letter to Mr. Collins which shall become a permanent record of his employment. ***A motion was made by Mrs. Devlin and seconded by Mr. Tolisano to approve the suspension of Mr. Collins.*** Ms. Devlin stated that the Board seriously considered termination but decided to offer a last chance. Mr. Tolisano expressed his disappointment with the actions of Mr. Collins and his lack of remorse for his actions. Mrs. Pellegrini said that as a taxpayer she was outraged by Mr. Collins actions and as First Selectman disappointed in his behavior and considered it an insult to all other Town employees as well as residents. ***Mr. Tolisano asked that the question be moved and the vote to approve suspension was unanimous.***

Regarding the recommendation of the First Selectman to terminate the employment of Mr Tennant. Mr. Tolisano said he spoke to State Animal Control Officer Denise Alix and found there was no action on Mr. Tennent's part to not substantiate the charges. There was no plan by Mr. Tennent to correct his action or to make a plan to improve..

Mrs. Pellegrini made a motion to terminate the employment of Mr. Tennent which was seconded by Mr. Tolisano. A vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM