

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 21, 2010
Downstairs Meeting Room**

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Lisa Pellegrini

Members Present – First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Selectmen Kathy Devlin and Joe Tolisano, CFO Kim Marcotte and Operations Manager Doug Minich.

Pledge of Allegiance – All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen Comments – Somers High School students in the audience said they were glad to be there.

Opportunity for Selectmen to add items – Mrs. Pellegrini asked to add an item in Executive Session regarding an update on personnel/legal matters and Mrs. Devlin added a discussion regarding CCM and her involvement on an advisory committee. Mrs. Pellegrini also added a discussion of vandalism and security issues at Field Road recreational facility.

Selectman's Update – Mrs. Pellegrini asked for an update on the Town's email system and Mr. Minich had an update on Whalley Associates hosting the email. After set up fees of \$500.00, 50 mailboxes will cost \$60.00/month. The Board agreed that this would be the best plan and Whalley will be contacted to set up and host our email. Whalley will also have a meeting Wednesday with all users to determine basic and any specialized software needs. Security concerns were also discussed and the need for tighter control of access to the Town computer system was emphasized. Formal computer use documentation will be written and distributed to each employee.

Mrs. Devlin asked that the Board recognize and be introduced to our new Town Engineer, Mr. Jeff Bord. Mrs. Pellegrini made the introductions and after exchanging greetings and pleasantries, Mr. Bord excused himself from the meeting.

The need to repair the leaking roof on the Resident Trooper's office was discussed and a quote for \$4,340.00 was obtained by Todd Rolland. *A motion to repair the roof before winter was made by Mrs. Devlin and seconded by Mr. Tolisano. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.* The need for garage door replacement was discussed and quotes for door replacement will be sought.

Old Business –

Payment Authorization WPCA – The 3% pay raise for the plant operator and the 3% stipend increase for the Sanitarian were discussed, with the funds coming from the Sewer Fund. It was clarified that as a Town employee the plant operator already received his 3% raise in July. A question was raised by Mrs. Pellegrini regarding how the WPCA determines the stipend increase for the Sanitarian in his role as WPCF

Superintendent. A request to have WPCA Chairman Jim Botellio meet the Selectmen to provide further explanation of job descriptions and sources and uses of funds was made. Mr. Botellio will be invited to a future Board of Selectmen's meeting.

NCCD/Town of Somers Agreement – The renewal contract between the North Central Conservation District, the Town of Somers, the Somers Planning Commission, the Somers Zoning Commission and the Somers Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission was presented and discussed. *A motion to approve the signing of the agreement was made by Mrs. Devlin and seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.*

New Business –

Cultural Commission appointment - Mr. John Reeves, newly recommended member of the Cultural Commission due to a vacancy caused by a resignation, was introduced to the Board of Selectmen. He provided brief background of his interests and how he would contribute to the Cultural Commission. *A motion was made by Mrs. Devlin to appoint Mr. Reeves to the Cultural Commission and seconded by Mr. Tolisano. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.* An official letter from the Board of Selectmen will be sent to Mr. Reeves appointing him to the Cultural Commission.

Other Boards and Commissions vacancies – Some Boards and Commissions have terms expiring in 2010, and letters will be sent to those citizens asking them of their interest in continuing to serve on the respective boards. A suggestion was made by Mr. Tolisano to seek the advice of the Town Republican and Democrat chairmen on political appointments, and also to advertise vacancies in the North Central News and Reminder.

Mr. Eric Boucher, newly hired as the temporary part time Animal Control Officer, was introduced to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Boucher has animal control training and is currently serving as a part time Animal Control Officer for Enfield as well as Somers.

Fire Inspection Fees Charged By Town –

Service Clubs & Small Businesses – A discussion regarding the fees charged to service clubs such as 4-H and Rotary was entered into. Fire inspection fees were previously implemented by the former First Selectman two years ago. Since then there has not been an increase in fees. It was expressed by the Board of Selectmen that a future review of fees for service (charitable) organizations may be reviewed, however there will be no change in the safety inspections as they are required by code and are there to protect the public.

The Fire Marshal will be asked for his input and to submit a report on revenues and where they originate from.

STEAP Grant for Senior Center – Mrs. Pellegrini asked the Board for their input regarding the grant for the STEAP Grant for the Senior Center Expansion/Senior Center Parking Lot Repaving since the grant received was less than originally requested. The Board recommended that Mr. Jeff Bord, Town Engineer, prepare a recommendation on how best to use the \$100,000.00 STEAP Grant for Senior Center improvements. It was suggested he investigate what other towns have done in this regard.

Pension Plan – A Scope of Work was presented to the Board of Selectmen from consultant Linda Savitsky to examine the Somers pension documents in order to extend the payout and have members contribute more. The suggestion was made that the

deliverable be limited to \$10,000.00 or less with the money coming from Pension Fund expenses. *A motion to approve the contract with Mrs. Savitsky, limiting it to a \$10,000 deliverable, was made by Mr. Tolisano and seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The vote to approve the motion was unanimously approved.*

RFP for Insurance advisor – Rather than have insurance broker, Mrs. Pellegrini proposed that the town hire an insurance adviser who can examine our insurance program and find any gaps and redundancies. The Board agreed to send out an RFP/RFQ for an insurance adviser.

Added items -

CCM Policy Committee – Mrs. Devlin expressed her disappointment that Connecticut Conference of Municipalities did not contact her regarding her willingness to participate in their policy committees. Mr. Minich said he would contact them and find out why she was not included.

Fencing and Security – A proposal to provide additional security including security cameras and fencing for Field Road recreation facilities was raised by Mrs. Pellegrini. Mr. Tolisano suggested that the remaining funds from the STEAP Recreation grant be closed out and used for these projects. *Mr. Tolisano made the motion that the First Selectman expends the remainder of the STEAP recreation grant for security and fencing improvements and it was seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.* The vendor for the security cameras will be asked to meet with the Selectmen at a future meeting for further explanation on the capabilities of the proposed system.

Authorization of scheduled payments – *Mr. Tolisano made a motion to approve the payments of \$109,100.46 which was seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A vote to approve the motion was unanimous.*

Approval of Minutes – *Mrs. Pellegrini made a motion to approve the minutes of 09/23/2010 which was seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A vote to approve the motion was two in favor with one abstention. Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/13/2010 which was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. A vote to approve was unanimous.*

Executive Session – The Board entered Executive Session at 7:00 PM. The Board exited Executive Session at 7:10 PM.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned immediately after exiting Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas H. Minich – Recording Secretary

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

