

TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, November 18, 2010
Selectmen's Meeting Room

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

Members Present - First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Selectmen Kathy Devlin, Joe Tolisano, Operations Manager Doug Minich - recording.

Pledge of Allegiance - All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence - Mrs. Pellegrini read a letter from Tim Caravello announcing his resignation from the Planning Board. The Board commented favorably on his contributions to the Planning Board and decided to hold off accepting his resignation until additional communications take place.

Citizen Comments - None

Opportunity for Selectmen to Add Items - Mrs. Pellegrini added the following items: Sale of old fire hose, Fireman's Collective Bargaining Agreement, Budget Discussion and Elderly & Social Services. Mrs. Devlin added Fire Ordinance and Woodcrest.

Selectmen's Update - Mrs. Pellegrini commented on Gov. Rell's interim budget and notified the Board that it indicated a 500 million dollar cut in aid to municipalities. A freeze on Somers discretionary spending is being reviewed and will be discussed further. Work cubicles have been acquired from the closing of Kaman Music at no cost to the town. They will be installed at locations in Town Hall, Resident Troopers Office and Senior Center. The Woodcrest tax abatement is being reviewed by Town attorney Carl Landolina and he has sent to the David Pinney, Chairman, a letter asking him to respond to not reporting audits to the Town for the past two years. When the response is returned from Mr. Pinney, the Board will be notified. The Firemen's Collective bargaining agreement has been signed by the Firemen and the board authorized Mrs. Pellegrini to sign the agreement.

Boards and Commissions - Some term for members of various boards expire on December 22, 2010 and renewal notices will be sent to them asking for their interest in continuing to serve. Several members of the public appeared and spoke to the Board expressing their interest in serving the Town as well. Mrs. Judy Reeves initially expressed interest in the Ethics Committee but is exploring other Boards as well. Mr. Tolisano suggested that with her experience, Mrs. Reeves might be a good representative for the Housing Authority. Mr. Dan Marceau also met with the board expressing interest in serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals. After discussion with the Board it was determined that Mr. Marceau would be a good representative for the Zoning Board of Appeals. *A motion was made by Mr. Tolisano to appoint Mr. Dan Marceau to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals which was seconded by Mrs. Devlin and was approved by a unanimous vote.*

Old Business - Computer Transfer - The upgrade of the computer system continues with the installation of Thin Client units in Town Hall offices. Printer sharing is also being explored and the installation of new network printers will eliminate old serial printers and the high cost of their maintenance. Email continues to be a problem, but the goal is to convert to Microsoft Outlook Exchange Server for ease of email usage and sharing of calendars.

New Business - Some members of the Advisory Committee to the Elderly voiced their concern and spoke of the need at the Housing Authority to be a strong advocate for the elderly residents. The Committee is concerned about Woodcrest residents being heard by the Housing Authority, gas billing issues and rental contracts as well as the ability to approach the Housing Authority to discuss these issues. They were also concerned about the relationship that the Housing Authority has with the developer. The Board of Selectmen recommended that the Committee approach the Housing Authority with their concerns and discuss each item with them.

The Senior Club was discussed and a method for their meeting place needs to more defined. It was noted that the Senior Center is owned by the Town and all residents should have equal access to all areas of it. Due to the need for contractors to have access to all areas of the Senior Center in implementing the STEAP grant, it is required that no offices be locked and if so, such locks must be removed.

The Independent Contractor Agreement for the development of the online and printed version of the Somers Business Directory was discussed. It was noted that in the future 3 bids must be obtained to insure fairness and the best cost to the Town.

It was decided that the Town would continue with the lease agreement with the Village Players, but would self insure the building and maintain it at its present insurance level. Cybercrime insurance was discussed and Mr. Tolisano pointed out that there is little need for it as we do not do extensive internet transactions. It was recommended by the Board that the WPCA add flood insurance as they in a Zone A flood plain, and also that the Sewer User Fees billings done by the Tax Collector's office be charged back to the WPCA.

The Planimetrics Zoning Application Assistance Agreement regarding the application for affordable housing was discussed and also the Town Engineer Jeff Bord will be lead for the Town on this application ***Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the agreement with Planimetrics which was seconded by Mr. Tolisano. The motion was passed unanimously.***

Acting as Traffic Commission the Board approved Grammar School Old Mill 5K in April of 2011. ***Mr. Tolisano made the motion to approve the Grammar School Old mill 5K which was seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The motion was approved unanimously***

Since the Somers Fire Department purchased new hose and have no need for the old hose, they have offered it for sale and have found a buyer in the Town of Vernon. The offer is for \$50.00 per 100 feet with the proceeds going into the General Fund. ***A motion to approve the sale of the fire hose was made by Mr. Tolisano and seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The motion was approved unanimously.***

Mrs. Devlin searched her records at home and found the original Fire Ordinance which she will present to the Board for their review at future meeting.

After further reflection regarding the tax abatement issue at Woodcrest, Mrs. Devlin recalls that she, as well as Mr. Tolisano, never saw a final version of the contract between the Town and Woodcrest regarding tax abatement and questioned its validity.

The Board discussed the Land Use office and it was determined that due to low levels of activity, furlough days will be enacted as follows;

Sanitarian Steve Jacobs will have furlough days the first and third Wednesday of every month.

Building Official John Collins will have furlough days the second and fourth Wednesday of every month and the first and third Thursday of every month.

This decision is supported by monitoring activity for the past several months and will be effective in December 2010 or January 2011.

Due to the impending Blight Ordinance and other ordinances scheduled to be enacted, the need for a stronger effort in Zoning Enforcement was discussed.. A part time ZEO, acting as an independent contractor, was recommended and further investigation will be undertaken.

Authorization of Scheduled Payments - *A motion to approve the scheduled payments of \$121,388.78 made by Mr. Tolisano and seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.*

Appropriations/Transfers - The Senior Center/Human Services budget requests a transfer of funds to cover the cost of Senior newsletters for the remainder of the fiscal year as noted below:

\$1,000.00 from account 100-5130-070--890-5-02 to account 100-5130-070-0550-5-01

Misc. Expense Needs

Printing & Reproduction

A motion to approve the transfer of \$1,000.00 as noted above was made by Mrs. Pellegrini and seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The vote to approve the transfer was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of November 4, 2010 were approved with the following correction, the meeting was held in the Selectmen's Conference Room, not in the Downstairs Meeting Room. ***A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Mrs. Pellegrini and seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The motion was unanimously approved.***

Adjournment - Mr. Tolisano made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The motion to adjourn was approved at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas H. Minich - Recording secretary

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

