

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 9, 2011  
SELECTMEN'S CONFERENCE ROOM – 6:00 pm**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

**2. MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Members present included: Lisa Pellegrini, Kathleen Devlin, Joseph Tolisano, and CFO Kim Marcotte.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**4. BOARDS and COMMISSIONS:**

**4.1 Resignations Rec Commission**

Ms. Pellegrini stated she had received letters of resignation from JJ Wassmuth, Alicia Albert, and Anna Gagnon. She added that she had also received a letter of resignation from Kaz Cruzel, who after some discussion with Ms. Pellegrini, wanted to remain on the Commission. Ms. Pellegrini recommended holding this letter.

- *A motion was made by Kathy Devlin to accept the resignations from JJ Wasserman, Alicia Albert, and Anna Gagnon; seconded by Lisa Pellegrini. A unanimous vote followed.*

**4.2 Appointments Rec Commission**

Ms. Pellegrini told members that Jen Charette had submitted the names of the following individuals who were interested in serving on the Recreation Commission. They include Steven Woicik, Lou Stetson, and Scott Novak. Ms. Pellegrini said she knows Mr. Stetson, and felt he would be a good candidate for the commission. Ms. Devlin asked about dates for appointments. Ms. Pellegrini wasn't certain of exact dates.

- *A motion was made by Kathy Devlin to appoint Steven Woicik as replacement for Alicia Albert, Lou Stetson, as replacement for Anna Gagnon, and Scott Novak, as replacement for JJ Wassmuth, with exact terms to be delineated by Ms. Pellegrini; seconded by Joe Tolisano. A unanimous vote followed.*

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**5.1 Solar Energy Grant**

Ms. Pellegrini reminded members that DBS Energy had put in solar panels at the new Firehouse. She said they had done a great job, and with Energy Grant monies available, they decided to look at other roofs in Town as possible projects. She then introduced Erik Bartone and Gary Lane, representing DBS Energy.

Mr. Bartone explained that the CT Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) has approximately \$25-26 million in available Grant monies for clean energy projects (installation of solar panels). He added that a grant would cover 50% of costs. DBS then conducted an energy audit of various Town buildings and schools. They identified 2 sites: the Elementary School and the Public Works garage as good candidates for the CCEF program/grant.

Mr. Bartone prepared a pro-forma on each site for CCEF to determine the amount of Grant funds it might be eligible for. Mr. Bartone explained that solar panels produce the maximum amount of power during peak hours, thus the system reducing the current cost of peak demand hours, which is when energy is at its most expensive. He estimated that the school could reduce by 50% the demand during peak hours, and that the Public Works garage might reduce its entire peak load.

Mr. Bartone stated that DBS would install the system (bearing 50% of the cost), and would offer a 20% discount on energy costs over the life of the contract. The other 50% of the cost would be covered by the grant. He estimated the cost of installing the systems at \$960,000.00. He added they would also maintain the system through the term of the contract, conducting inspections every 3 months and preventive maintenance on the inverter.

He said the system is guaranteed for 25 years, and generally has a service life of 30-35 years.

Mr. Tolisano asked if the Grant was Stimulus funds, and therefore should they move quickly on this program. Mr. Bartone responded yes to Stimulus monies and that monies will be allocated on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Mr. Tolisano repeated the \$960,000 cost, questioning that half would be Grant monies, and the other half to be covered by DBS Energy. He asked how DBS recoups its outlay. Mr. Bartone explained that DBS would earn the monies back by selling the energy to the sites, at a 20% discount.

Ms. Devlin asked the length of the energy contract. Mr. Bartone stated that it could not be more than 20 years. Members seemed enthusiastic regarding the program. Mr. Tolisano asked if there were any issues. Ms. Pellegrini stated that Superintendent Suffredini is also board with this project. She added that Dr. Suffredini did question the possible need to put it out for bid, but that she had discussed it with the Town Attorney, who did not feel it was necessary. Ms. Pellegrini added that the next step is to move forward with the Grant. Mr. Bartone said they have completed much of the Grant application.

- *A motion was made by Joe Tolisano to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a contract with DBS Energy; seconded by Kathy Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.*

Ms. Pellegrini informed members that she would send copies of the DBS Energy Audit to Jeff Bord, Town Engineer and Todd Rowland for their review.

## **5.2 Street lights and Fire Hydrants**

Ms. Pellegrini said that in light of the current budget and economy, they might consider putting a hold on the number of street lights and hydrants for new developments. Ms. Devlin stated they had an old tacit agreement with the Fire Department to add 3 hydrants per year. She spoke of the initial cost (approximately \$150,000), and the annual rising water costs. Mr. Tolisano asked who paid for these. Ms. Devlin responded that the Town pays for the dig and the annual water charge. Mr. Tolisano suggested a Fire District fee, explaining that homeowners receive lower insurance costs by having the hydrants.

Ms. Pellegrini mentioned street lights as another costly item for the Town. Mr. Tolisano felt street lights to be a responsibility of the municipality. Ms. Devlin pointed out they were considering a freeze only on new development. She suggested they take no action at this time. Ms. Pellegrini agreed to discuss with the Fire Chief and the Fire Commission Chairman and report back at the next BOS meeting.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **6.1 Sunshine Farms Update**

After extensive research Ms. Pellegrini said that “No Through Traffic” signs are not an option, as it’s a destination road versus a through road. Cameras are also not permitted as they are illegal. Business owners have been asked not to drive their trucks through Sunshine Farms. Her recommendation is that in the spring

the barriers should be removed. A berm will not be installed by the Town. The road was designed to meet all safety issues. Essentially, it is a public road, and shouldn't be restricted.

Ms. Devlin talked to Todd Rowland and recommended he put together a Communication Plan.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **7.1 Storm Update, Roads and Buildings**

Ms. Pellegrini informed members that in the most recent storms, her concern was to prevent roof collapses and ensure employee safety in Town buildings. Licensed and insured contractors were hired to remove snow from the roofs of: The Senior Center, Kibbe Fuller, the Town Hall, the Fire House, the Library (& overhang), and the Bus Barn, at a cost of \$14,045. She noted that not all bills have been received. Mr. Tolisano asked if any of the cost would be reimbursed by the State, or FEMA. Ms. Marcotte responded no, the period of time for snow removal reimbursement was January 11 through January 13, 2011.

Ms. Pellegrini stated there was some leaking in the Treasurer's office and a broken window due to the snow. Ms. Pellegrini added that she had received both positive and negative feedback from citizens on snow removal throughout the Town, and that Town employees have been responsive to roof collapses. She said that over 10 structures in Town have been impacted.

### **7.2 Budget Update**

Ms. Pellegrini said she is in the process of meeting with the various Town departments to set the 2011/2012 budgets. Mr. Tolisano asked about the Library Reserves. Ms. Devlin seemed to think there was a misconception from the Library Building committee as to its use. She added they need to speak with the Town Attorney regarding the performance bond. Ms. Marcotte stated that funds greater than the construction cost should go back toward debt service. She added she was aware that the Library Building committee had a number of items they felt the contractor still needed to correct or address.

Mr. Tolisano suggested dissolving the Building Committee, and involving Jeff Bord, who could work with the contractor to finalize the project. Ms. Devlin felt more information was needed from both the attorney and Jeff Bord, and suggested calling a Special Meeting rather than taking action tonight. Ms. Pellegrini said it was within her authority to take over the project and that she would talk to the Town Attorney regarding the performance bond.

## **8. AUTHORIZATION OF SCHEDULED PAYMENTS:**

Ms. Pellegrini presented a scheduled payment of \$176,261.56.

- *A motion was made by Kathy Devlin to approve the scheduled payment; seconded by Joe Tolisano, followed by a unanimous vote as approved.*

## **9. APPROPRIATIONS/TRANSFERS:**

Ms. Pellegrini presented the following transfer:

From Misc. Expenses, to Fire Department	\$4,386.00
(Removal of a failed boiler)	

- *A motion was made by Kathy Devlin to approve the transfer; seconded by Joe Tolisano, followed by a unanimous vote as approved.*

## **10. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

None.

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

*A motion was made by Lisa Pellegrini to adjourn the February 9, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 7:14 pm, seconded by Joe Tolisano, followed by a unanimous vote as approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly E. Dombek, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.