

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday February 24, 2011
Selectmen's Conference Room**

Call to Order – First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

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

Correspondence – None

Opportunity for Selectmen to add items – Mrs. Pellegrini added two items;

Tax exempt status for ambulance lease purchase

Contract with New England Concrete

Selectmen's Update – Mrs. Pellegrini announced that she has been appointed to CIRMA Operations and Underwriting Committee. She became interested in doing this after her experience with MIRMA and its attendant difficulties. Mrs. Devlin congratulated her on her appointment.

Mrs. Pellegrini reported on the bus barn which was inspected by Building Official John Collins and Town Engineer Jeff Bord after concern expressed by Mr. Jim Patsun who was clearing the roof of snow. There are three parts to the barn and no structural problems were reported with the middle, the smaller garage had a Do Not Enter sign posted and the roof was sagging, leaks were noted and bird infestation was evident. The assembly room and office on the other side also had evidence of leaking and mold was noticed. Because of the condition of the building, Mrs. Pellegrini recommends closing the building, ending the lease and demolishing the building. Mr. Bord is looking into zoning regulations regarding placing a prefabricated building on the site to serve as a substitute for bus dispatching. Mrs. Pellegrini will send a letter informing the Board of Education, the bus company and Town Attorney Carl Landolina of her decision.

Boards & Commissions – Mr. Caz Kruzel resigned from the Recreation Commission citing lack of time to devote to the Committee. The Board accepted his resignation and it has been filed in the Town Clerk's office. Mr. Jeff Jablonski has expressed interest in serving on the Recreation Commission and Mr. Minich will send him a letter asking him to meet with the Board of Selectmen. Mrs. Devlin suggested that Mr. Bill McCloskey may be interested in serving on the Commission and Mr. Minich will explore that possibility.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to appoint Mr. Jeff Jablonsky to Mr. Kruzel's unfinished term which expires 12/22/2012. Mrs. Pellegrini seconded the motion and it passed with two votes in favor.

Old Business –

The Library Building Committee was discussed and a letter will be sent by Attorney Landolina to the construction company addressing final issues and to call the construction bond. Heating balance is an issue in the building and will be addressed along with other items on the

punch list. ***Mrs. Devlin made a motion to disband the Library Building Committee which was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini and the motion passed with two votes in favor.***

Letters of thanks will be sent to each member of the committee and a formal letter will be sent to Mr. Tim Welch disbanding the committee and a copy will be sent to Library Director Francine Aloisa. Mrs. Marcotte noted that any remaining funds and any open PO's must be addressed.

Small Cities Grant 2010 was discussed and Mrs. Pellegrini noted that the total amount available to communities in Connecticut is 5 million dollars and the state is focusing on using this for housing. Mrs. Pellegrini met with Mr. Larry Wagner and Mr. Peter Sanborn who both stressed that the most eligible project in Somers would be Woodcrest. Harvey Edelstein and Peter Sanborn have started preliminary conversations regarding Phase II of Woodcrest. The Board of Selectmen will schedule a meeting with Attorney Landolina and the Housing Authority to discuss further plans.

The Registrar of Voters stipend was discussed and it was set at \$5,200 per registrar per year to be paid in June and December. The Registrar's would not be paid an hourly wage. ***Mrs. Devlin made the motion to pay the Registrar's as stipulated and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The motion was approved with two votes in favor.***

Solar Grant update – Mrs. Pellegrini signed the necessary paperwork with DBS Energy and they will hand deliver the grant application on Friday February, 25, 2011. Mrs. Pellegrini noted that the project can be increased at the Somers Elementary School which will provide a yield of 39% instead of 22%, an annual savings of \$19,000 instead of \$7,000. The Board of Selectmen will meet with the Board of Education and DBS Energy on March 14, 2011 to answer any questions regarding the project.

2009 STEAP Grant – There is a \$39,000 unspent balance in the 2009 STEAP Grant and Mrs. Pellegrini has received permission from the administrator to spend the funds on fencing and bathroom renovation at the Field Rd recreation facility.

New Business –

2011-2012 Budget – After much discussion about the formulation of the budget, all participants felt it was a good, well thought out budget. Mrs. Devlin complimented CFO Kim Marcotte on her strong efforts and hard work in assembling a good budget. Starting at a zero based budget was instructive and informative and the Board of Selectmen will present the budget to the Board of Finance on Monday, February 28, 2011. Mrs. Devlin pointed out that over \$280,000 of the budget was for previously unfunded or underfunded items such as pension, unemployment costs, revaluation, employee separation liability funds, fire protection, streetlights, and insurance assessment. ***Mrs. Devlin made a motion to present the Town budget of \$28,254,522 to the Board of Finance and it was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini and approved with a vote of two votes in favor.***

Snow removal update – Mrs. Pellegrini reported that the cost of removing snow and ice from town owned buildings was \$31,750 and was done with local contractors at a cost far less than that incurred by other surrounding communities. She also noted that the town suffered no major structural damage and involved no injuries to personnel.

Highway Department update – Mrs. Pellegrini stated that the winter storms took a toll on highway department equipment. Due to the age of the fleet the vehicles suffered a 40% breakdown rate, the mechanic was out on sick leave and heavy equipment suffered breakdown as well. The DPW crew was commended for a job well done under trying circumstances including plowing state routes when necessary. In storm related concerns, Mrs. Pellegrini reported that the

Town of Somers has applied for \$58,000 in relief from FEMA, but no word has been received as to the status of that application.

LOCIP Funding – Mr. Bord submitted to Mrs. Pellegrini a report showing that Somers has \$350,806 available on LOCIP funds and a priority list will be developed for the application of the funds.

Capital Equipment Replacement – a five year plan will be developed in conjunction with the Board of Education and Fire Department, to replace capital equipment needed. It was noted that the town needs a new police car, and update to the Ford Explorer and related radio equipment, a new phone system for town offices this year and the DPW has a plan to get the fleet back on a ten year rotation. The immediate needs will be presented to the Board of Finance on Monday February 28, 2011 and will include \$60,000 for a town phone system and \$39,942 for a new police cruiser and \$2,914.00 for upgrade to the Explorer and related equipment.

QDS agreement – Mrs. Pellegrini presented an agreement from Quality Data Services in the amount of \$1,350.00 to expand the capabilities of the tax Collectors' office and allow taxpayers easier access to their records. ***Mrs. Devlin made a motion to authorize Mrs. Pellegrini to sign the agreement and it was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini and passed with two votes.***

Tax Exempt lease for new ambulance – ***Mrs. Devlin made a motion to authorize Mrs. Pellegrini to sign a tax exempt lease with Suntrust for the new ambulance if the documents meets with the approval of Attorney Landolina.***

New England Concrete – Mrs. Pellegrini announced that New England Concrete was the winning bidder for the Somersville Streetscape Project with a bid of \$282,965.00. ***Mrs. Devlin made a motion to authorize Mrs. Pellegrini to sign the contract with New England Concrete and it was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini and the motion passed with two votes in favor.***

Authorization of Scheduled Payments – Mrs. Devlin made a motion to authorize the payment of \$136,068.69 which was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini and the motion passed with two votes in favor.

Appropriations & Transfers

Department: Selectmen

Transfer To:

Salary Accounts	Attached	\$60,396.00
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Transfer From:

Proposed Salary Increase	100-0010-010-0110-5-08	\$57,876.00
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Treasurer	100-0010-010-0110-5-00	\$ 2,520.00
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Appropriation

Revenue-PILOT	100-0010-003-0866-4-01	\$31,750.00
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Town Hall Maintenance	100-0010-010-0614-5-00	\$31,750.00
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TransferTo:

Telephone System	320-0010-010-0734-5-01	\$60,000.00
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Transfer From:

Misc. Expenditures	320-0010-010-0890-5-01	\$60,000.00
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Department: Highway-3018/Transfer-3034

Transfer To:		
Garage & Equipment	100-3018-030-0739-5-00	\$10,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance	100-3018-030-0433-5-00	\$ 5,000.00
Transfer From:		
Recycling	100-3034-040-0421-5-00	\$15,000.00
Transfer To:		
Part-Time salaries	100-3018-030-0130-5-00	\$13,000.00
Highway Maintenance	100-3018-030-0140-5-00	\$11,500.00
Transfer From:		
Revenue- PILOT	100-0010-003-0866-4-01	\$24,500.00
Department: Police		
Transfer To:		
Explorer Upgrade	320-2017-020-0730-5-01	\$ 2,914.00
Transfer From:		
Misc. Expenditures	320-0000-000-0890-5-00	\$ 2,914.00
Transfer To:		
Police cruiser	320-2017-020-0730-5-00	\$39,942.00
Transfer From:		
Misc. Expenditures	320-0000-000-0890-5-00	\$39,942.00

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the Appropriations and Transfers which was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The motion was approved with two votes in favor.

Minutes –

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/27/2011 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes, 2/9/2011 BOS Special Meeting Minutes, and 2/23/2011 BOS Special Budget Meeting Minutes which was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The motion was approved with two votes.

Citizen Comments – Mr. Harvey Edelstein spoke in favor of obtaining a Small Cities Grant to be used for an expansion of Woodcrest, and in order to save money offered to write the grant and if successful hire Mr. Peter Sanborn of Community Opportunities Group to administer the project. ***Mrs. Devlin made a motion to have the Somers Housing Authority apply for a Small Cities Grant on behalf of the Town of Somers for the development of Phase II of Woodcrest and to authorize Mrs. Pellegrini to sign the application. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini and was passed with two votes in favor.***

Mr. David Pinney asked the Board to select a replacement for a vacancy on the Housing Authority and suggested that Jan Warnock is interested. The Board will also ask Judy Reeves if she is interested. Mr. Minich will contact each person and ask them to meet with Mrs. Pellegrini to discuss the opening. Mr. Pinney also suggested that the Board of Selectmen and the Housing Authority meet for a Special joint meeting and the date of March 16th 2011 was suggested. Mr. Minich will contact Mr. Tolisano and see if he can make that meeting.

Adjournment: ***Mrs. Devlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini and the motion passed with two votes in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas H. Minich – Recording

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.