

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 12, 2012
6:00pm
Selectmen's Conference Room**

Call to Order: First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Members Present: First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini and Selectmen Kathy Devlin and Bud Knorr. Also in attendance were Kim Marcotte CFO and Somers Residents Paul Salva, MD and Dan Thayer, Emergency Management Director.

Pledge of Allegiance: All members participated in the pledge of Allegiance.

Opportunity to add agenda items:

The Board of Selectmen would like to add the following agenda items:

Mill Pond Eagle Scout Project

CIP Requests

Boards and Commissions Appointment

Correspondence:

Mrs. Pellegrini received a letter from Deputy Chief Frank Falcone recommending the hiring of Mr. George R. Stovall, Jr. to fill a firefighter position made available when Firefighter Jason Carlton resigned. The letter stated he and Chief Gary Schissel recommend the hire as Mr. Stovall meets and exceeds all of the requirements for the position.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the recommendation to hire George R. Stovall Jr. as a full-time union Firefighter, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Mrs. Pellegrini received a letter from the Northern Connecticut Land Trust dated 6/30/12 requesting tax abatement for the former Stevenson Property located on Mountain Road. At this time the Board of Selectmen asked Donna Doyker, Town Tax Collector to join the meeting. Mrs. Doyker updated the Board of Selectmen that the Northern Connecticut Land Trust had been previously advised that in order to avoid the real estate tax liability land purchases need to be closed prior to the October 1st assessment date. The tax bill on the property in question had been levied October 1, 2011. Since the closing took place May 2012 the taxes are due.

Devlin made a motion to decline the request made by the Northern Connecticut Land Trust to abate real estate taxes due July 2012 and January 2013 on the former Stevenson Property , seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Animal Control Officer:

Mrs. Pellegrini shared with the Selectmen a communication from Mr. Eric Boucher, Animal Control Officer. ACO Boucher requested that the Selectmen hire Ms. Amy Collins to fill in as a substitute ACO in his absence. Ms. Collins is currently employed by the Town of Enfield as an Animal Control Officer and has the necessary skills/qualifications needed.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the recommendation to hire Ms. Amy Collins as a substitute Animal Control Officer, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Selectmen's Update:

FEMA Training:

Mrs. Pellegrini updated the Board of Selectmen on the FEMA training she attended in June at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama from 6/24 to 6/28/12. The Class was called Incident Command-Capabilities, Planning and Response Actions for All Hazards. Mrs. Pellegrini stated that it was an extremely informative and centered on using a system of unified command during emergency incidents.

Certificate of Appreciation:

Mrs. Pellegrini presented Emergency Management Director Dan Thayer with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. She had previously nominated Mr. Thayer for the 2012 Northeast States Emergency Consortium Emergency Manager of the Year due to his outstanding performance.

Statewide Exercise:

Mrs. Pellegrini announced that the Town of Somers will be participating in a Statewide Emergency Exercise on July 30th and 31st. In preparation of the Statewide Exercise on July 30 and 31 there will be an informational staff meeting on Monday July 23rd with staff members. Mrs. Pellegrini also mentioned that Amy Saada, Human Services Director is designated as Shelter Manager.

Grants:

Federal Earmark Money -Mrs. Pellegrini shared with the Selectmen news regarding \$1.98 Million in Federal Transportation Earmark monies. In 2006 the Town received \$2 million in the form of a Federal Transportation Earmark Grant from Senator Joe Lieberman for the Mill (Maple Street) Bridge. At the time, the Town never followed up with the feds to obtain the money and since the grant was never formerly administered the Town never received any of the money. After the Mill fire Mrs. Pellegrini started to hear rumblings about "Lieberman Money" in the amounts ranging from \$1 to \$2 million dollars and called Senator Lieberman's office. She was told that the earmarks were no longer available and had since been erased. Mrs. Pellegrini asked if they could provide written confirmation of that, as well as confirm the total amount that was designated for the Mill (Maple Street) Bridge. A few weeks went by and she received word this morning that the money is now still available. A one percent rescission was done across the board for earmark money, however it was confirmed that \$1.98 million is still available. Mrs. Pellegrini will now be working with the grant administrators to obtain the money.

2006 STEAP Grant -Mrs. Pellegrini also shared with the Selectmen news regarding a 2006 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant for \$500,000. The Grant was originally administered by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to rebuild the mill bridge. Only \$91,000 was used for an engineering study, the last invoice was paid in 2008. The engineering study did indicate that the bridge needed some repairs, of which this grant would have paid for the items. However it appears that no action was ever taken and an old email states that grant money was being held until cooperative agreements could be made with a mill owner. The grant then sat stagnate and forgotten and has since expired. As the Town

and the WPCA now have bills for filling in bridge sluiceway tunnels and for a new sewer main. Mrs. Pellegrini is hoping to work with DEEP and OPM to resurrect the grant to pay for these items as well as other repairs. Mrs. Pellegrini stated that she was not aware of the two grants (2006 Federal Earmark and 2006 STEAP Grant) and thus was not able to act until now.

Open Space Grant Application:

Mrs. Pellegrini confirmed with the Board that all information regarding the Open Space Grant has been sent and feedback had been extremely favorable. Mrs. Pellegrini wanted to again give special thanks to Karl Walton, Brad Pellesier, Jeff Bord and Kim LaFleur for their assistance with the Open Space Grant application and meeting the deadline.

Local Traffic Authority:

Charlie's Ride:

Mrs. Pellegrini received an email from Sergeant Claudio requesting approval from the Local Traffic Authority for the 3rd Annual Charity Motorcycle Ride, "Charlie's Ride", on Sunday August 12 beginning at noon. Sgt. Claudio had initial concerns due to another separate large motorcycle event in Enfield on the same day; however he has been assured that this group will have a law enforcement escort and they are taking a route that diverts them away from the Somersville area. Due to this fact, Sgt. Claudio does recommend Local Traffic Authority Approval for this event.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the 3rd Annual Charlie's Ride Charity Motorcycle Ride on Saturday August 12 provided that the group has a law enforcement escort as required by Sgt. Claudio, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Somers Great Escape:

Mrs. Pellegrini received an email requesting Local Traffic Authority Approval for the Road Closings on Saturday, September 15 2012 for the 13th Annual Somers "Great Escape" Road Race. Field Road will be closed from 7:50am until 8:40am and Ninth District Road will be closed from 8:00am until 8:45am. Sgt. Claudio sees no issues with the plan and recommends approval.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the recommendations for the road closures for Great Escape Road Race on Saturday September 15, 2012, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

STEAP Grant Resolution:

Mrs. Pellegrini requested an approval for a resolution to approve the STEAP Grant Project in the amount of \$85,000 for the repaving of the Somers Town Hall Parking Lot.

Mr. Knorr made a motion to approve the resolution for the approval of the STEAP Grant in the amount of \$85,000 for the Somers Town Hall Parking Lot Repaving Project, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.

Pension Management Discussion:

Mrs. Devlin suggested that all human resource pension management issues for the Town Hall Pension Plan fall under the Operations Manager responsibilities. The Board of Selectmen agreed with Mrs. Devlin.

STEAP Grant FY 2013:

Mrs. Pellegrini requested authorization to apply for the STEAP Grant FY 2013, stating that the Town should focus on applying for funds for the Mountain Road reconstruction and drainage project as well as other miscellaneous road drainage, parking lot and road construction projects.

Mr. Knorr made a motion to authorize First Selectmen, Lisa Pellegrini to apply for the FY2013 STEAP Grant for Mountain Road reconstruction and drainage project, as well as other miscellaneous road drainage, parking lot and road construction projects as needed, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.

Opportunity to add agenda items:

CIP:

Mrs. Pellegrini updated the Board of Selectmen on CIP requests. The Board also discussed the narrow banded radio CIP project and discussed the location of repeaters in Town.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the following CIP Project Requests; \$60,000 to replace firefighter bunker gear, and \$9,000 for SCBA air tanks, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Mill Pond Dock:

The Board of Selectmen briefly discussed the Mill Pond Eagle Scout Dock Project. Mr. Knorr shared with the Selectmen information that he had obtained from DEEP regarding the installation of the dock. The Selectmen discussed liability issues related to the dock. Mr. Knorr hoped that proper signage would be provided.

Mr. Knorr made a motion to approve the Eagle Scout Dock Project at Mill Pond, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. Mrs. Pellegrini abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Boards and Commissions Appointments:

Mrs. Pellegrini recommended to the Board of Selectmen that Mr. Adam Van Wingerden be appointed to a full member of the Planning Commission.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to appoint Mr. Adam Van Wingerden as a full member of the Planning Commission, replacing a seat vacated by Mr. Scott Sutter, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Authorization of Scheduled Payments:

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the Authorization of Scheduled payments for the sum of \$740,792.48, seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. A unanimous vote followed.

Appropriations and Transfers:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

6/29/2012 Special Board of Selectmen Meeting

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the 6/29/2012 Special Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. A unanimous vote followed

6/14/2012 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the 6/14/2012 regular Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. A unanimous vote followed.

Adjournment:

Mr. Knorr made a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:35, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur-Recording

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.