

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

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

Members Present: First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini, Selectmen Kathy Devlin and Bud Knorr, also present was Kim Marcotte, CFO.

Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge:

Mrs. Pellegrini updated the Board on her visit with Diana McCarthy-Bercury and Rebecca Myer of Connecticut Light & Power regarding the Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge. The pledge includes a commitment from the Town to reduce its municipal building energy consumption by 20% by 2018 and to purchase 20% of its municipal building electricity from clean, renewable energy sources by 2018. The Town would use 2008/2009 as the baseline year. By taking the pledge and meeting the Clean Energy Community Program requirements outlined the Town may qualify for the following grants: From CEFIA-For every 100 points the Town may earn a 1 kilowatt (or equivalent) clean energy system. From the Energy Efficiency Fund-For every 100 points the Town may earn a Bright Idea Grant that can be used for energy savings projects. The Town would be eligible for 2 Bright Idea Grants per fiscal year. There is no penalty if the Town fails to meet the reduction amounts.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to authorize First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini to sign the Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Charter Revision:

Mrs. Pellegrini submitted a Resolution as needed for charter revision to the Board of Selectmen for their approval. It states "Be it resolved that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Somers, Connecticut at a regular meeting of the Board on April 10, 2012 established a Charter Revision Commission. The Commission was charged with preparing a draft report of proposed charter changes/recommendations on or before July 1, 2013."

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the above Resolution, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Opportunity to add agenda items: None

Selectmen's Update:

Earmark update: Mrs. Pellegrini spoke with Hugh Hayward from CT DOT regarding the \$1.98 million in earmark money for the Maple Street Bridge. Per a recent decision from President Obama the earmarks must be obligated by December 31, 2012. This extremely short timeframe makes it unlikely that the earmarks will be used for the bridge as no action was ever taken since 2006 to begin to draw on the earmark money. In order for the Town to use the earmark funds the Town would need a complete project designed following Title 23 requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations. Despite the promising meeting Mrs. Pellegrini had with CT DOT and

CCROG officials prior to this decision the short timeframe does not allow enough time complete, let alone start, the project following Title 23 requirements. It is CT DOT's recommendation that the Town not move forward with any attempt to use the earmarks. Mrs. Pellegrini asked Mr. Hayward to put the recommendation in writing so that she may present it at the next BOS meeting.

Signature Authorization:

Mrs. Pellegrini announced that she will be away from September 10th through September 17th and designated Selectman Bud Knorr as having signature authority in her absence.

Demers Orders:

Mrs. Pellegrini updated the Board of Selectmen on the court order for the Demers House; the court issued separate orders to the owner and the tenants of the premises to remediate and correct the infestations within thirty days.

Local Traffic Authority:

Mrs. Pellegrini received a request from Somers resident, Maurice Fitzgerald of 242 Turnpike Road about the possibility of having a solid double line on Turnpike Road between Hickory Hill and Isabella Drive. Mr. Fitzgerald told Mrs. Pellegrini that CT DOT wanted him to go through the Local Traffic Authority and gain their approval before they address this issue even though it is a state road. Mrs. Pellegrini stated that Sergeant Claudio, Resident State Trooper and Todd Rolland, Deputy Director of Public Works were in support of the suggestion.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion authorizing Local Traffic Authority Approval to support a double yellow line on Turnpike Road between Hickory Hill and Isabella Drive, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Mrs. Pellegrini shared with the Board letters from Mr. Robert Keeney and Ms. Fran Bogosiofski regarding the Maple Street Road Construction and asked the Board how they would like her to address the letters. The Board recommended that Mrs. Pellegrini refrain from responding and forward the letters to the Town Attorney.

CIP Forms:

Mrs. Pellegrini presented the following CIP Forms for an Ambulance Replacement in 2015/2016, Replacement Power Stretcher for A-646 in 2013/2014 and for Replacement Bunker Gear in 2017/2018. Mrs. Pellegrini also shared with the Board the CIP Committee discussions regarding the possibility of addressing Bunker Gear through the operating budget rather than having it pass through CIP.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the above CIP forms and to also obtain recommendations from the CIP Committee regarding budgeting options for bunker gear, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Finance/Budget Update:

Kim Marcotte distributed Year to Date Expenditure report to the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Marcotte updated the Board of Selectmen regarding online payments for Recreation Programs. A PayPal account has been set up and is now working, thus RecDesk is able to accept the online payments.

Ms. Marcotte updated the Board of Selectmen on a recent vendor change within the Tax Office. Ms. Marcotte explained that at the end of March the Town became aware of the security breach problems at Global Payments. Although this did not affect the Town a change in the merchant service provider was deemed necessary. Ms. Marcotte and Donna Doyker, Tax Collector, met with the liaison from First Data and Webster Bank to implement the change. The change took effect at the end of June which coincided with the beginning of the July tax collection cycle. A discrepancy between the amounts deposited, received and posted was discovered. Upon analysis it was determined that payments being made online with a credit card were not being correctly bifurcated between the Town's account and the Bank's merchant service account. Webster Bank corrected the problem and sent the Town a letter of apology. The procedure for verifying and posting online tax payments has been changed.

Authorization of Scheduled Payments:

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the Authorization of Scheduled Payments in the sum of \$ 173,390.29, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Appropriations/Transfers: None

Approval of Minutes

August 23, 2012 BOS Meeting Minutes

Mr. Knorr made a motion to approve the August 23, 2012 BOS Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Pellegrini made a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:15pm, seconded by Mr. Knorr. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur-Recording

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.