

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 8, 2015
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 present was Michael Marinaccio-CFO and Brian Wissinger-Accountant.

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

Discussion and Adoption of the Somers Fire Commission Ordinance:

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to adopt the Somers Fire Commission Ordinance with a set effective date 15 days from the date of publication and to also authorize the publication of the adopted ordinance in summary form, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Budget Update – Notification of Mid-Year State Aid Reductions:

Ms. Pellegrini gave an update on the Mid-Year State Aid Reductions of \$15 million announced by the Office of Policy and Management on September 18, 2015. The impact to Somers is a loss of \$48,250 in PILOT funds which represents a 3.5% reduction to our FY16 State Property PILOT amount. The cuts were based on the previously approved \$20 million reduction in municipal aid that was incorporated into the recently adopted CT State Budget PA 15-244, for each of the next two years. Ms. Pellegrini shared with the Selectmen a letter she wrote to Senator Kissel and Representative Vail requesting a delegation meeting to discuss the impact of such mid-year cuts and ways to restore the funds. Lengthy discussion followed.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to authorize First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini to organize a delegation meeting with Senator John Kissel and State Representative Kurt Vail with Board of Selectmen members, inviting members from the Board of Finance and Board of Education to join in the discussion as well, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Grant Updates:

2015 STEAP Grant: Ms. Pellegrini announced the Town has received a STEAP Grant in the amount of \$165,000 for repaving and entrance improvements to the police station parking lot. Ms. Pellegrini extended special thanks and appreciation to Town Engineer Jeff Bord and Account Brian Wissinger for their help in submitting the grant. Both individuals stayed with her several hours after work during a snowstorm to fix technical difficulties in scanning the documents to ensure that the necessary maps and financials for the application were received by OPM.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to confirm and accept the 2015 STEAP Grant for \$165,000 for repaving and entrance improvements to the police station parking lot and to also authorize First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini to sign all documents associated with this grant, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Youth Service Bureau Grant: Ms. Pellegrini shared with the Board that she received communications from a school official that the Town had received a Youth Service Bureau Matching Grant in the amount of \$14,000, as well as a Youth Services Bureau's Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$4890. As the Town had never received any formal notification from the State regarding the receipt of grant funds or the award of any of the above grants she called the grant administrator and was notified that a "place holder" was being arranged for the grant pending the confirmation of certain criteria that needed to be

verified before funds were released. After further discussion it was determined that the State will not be releasing the funds as Town does not meet the necessary criteria. It is possible the school may be able to apply for the grant. The Selectmen would support the school in applying for the grant if their current resources allowed for it.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to have First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini sign any documentation needed to close out and withdrawal the grant application, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Adjournment:

Mr. Knorr made a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 6:50pm, 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.