

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 6:00 pm
Town Hall Auditorium**

A.) CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Tim Keeney called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: All members participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: First Selectman Tim Keeney, Selectman Bill Meier, CFO Brian Wissinger, Assistant Treasurer Michael Marinaccio, Public Works and Land Use Director Todd Rolland, Fire Chief David Lenart, Brad Pellissier, David Pinney John Guskowski of Tyche Planning and Policy Group. Selectman Bob Schmidt was not available to attend.

B.) PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Public Comments:
Mike Cianci, President of the Somers Soccer Association. Expressed concerns about the condition of the Somers Soccer Fields. A discussion followed.

C.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Mr. Keeney presented the following items:

- The Scarecrow Festival is Saturday, October 19th 10am-4pm at the Four town Fairgrounds.
- Early voting starts October 21st – October 31st and then again November 1st-3rd. All early voting dates are posted on the Town's website and on Facebook.
- Mr. Marinaccio explained that Santa Fuels has requested to reopen their petition with the Siting Council due to some changes they are proposing. He attended a Zoom meeting of the Siting Council on October 10th, where Santa Fuels presented modifications to their original plan. During the meeting, the Siting Council expressed the need for a Public Hearing. This hearing will allow the public to better understand the specific changes proposed by Santa Fuels. Although the Committee voted in favor of scheduling a Public Hearing, they have not yet determined a date for it.

D.) CONSENT AGENDA

1. Boards and Commissions: Appointments/Resignations: None

E.) OPPORTUNITY TO ADD URGENT AGENDA ITEMS - None

F.) FINANCE

- a) Transfers and Appropriations – None.
- b) CFO Finance Report/Updates

Mr. Wissinger presented the following items:

- Mahoney and Sabol the Auditors did a site visit last week, there were no issues.
- November 30th is the deadline for Directors to submit their department budgets.
- Reval has started, and after the Grand list is built for this year, Vision Appraisal Services will send out data mailers to all Town residents.
- The Assessor received the Supplemental list from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) on new vehicles purchased after October 1, 2023 for the January tax bills. 610 vehicles will need to be manually priced by the Town Assessor.

- We began the implementation schedule this week for the new time and attendance module for the accounting software. We plan to go live late March early April 2025
- During the CIP meeting last week, the Chief requested support to purchase a demo model Ambulance. CIP agreed. The cost is about \$60,000-\$80,000. less than what we were expecting to pay.
- Mr. Wissinger, The Chief, Mat Atwood and our EMSI billing agency completed the long form rate application for EMS rates. The State was not offering an increase with the short form. The State offered the Town of Somers a 4% increase and we accepted. The 4% increase on the current rates take effect on January 1, 2025.

c) Presentation of Scheduled Payments

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the scheduled payments in the amount of \$224,521.25, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.

G.) UPDATES FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSION: None

H.) PENDING BUSINESS: None

I.) NEW BUSINESS

1. Capital Improvement Project Requests (CIP).

- a. Command Vehicle 2024 Ford Interceptor AWD \$65,500.

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Project for the Command Vehicle 2024 Ford Interceptor AWD in the amount of \$65,500., and forward it to the CIP Committee, seconded by Mr. Keeney the motion unanimously passed.

- b. Light Rescue Vehicle & Technical Rescue Equipment Upgrade \$425,000.

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Project for the light rescue vehicle and technical rescue equipment upgrade in the amount of \$425,000. and forward it to the CIP Committee, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.

- c. Radio System Replacement \$107,143. For year one.

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Project for the Radio System Replacement in the amount of \$107,143 for year one of the ten years and forward it to the CIP Committee, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.

- d. Request for Senior Center Repairs. \$50,000. Todd Rolland

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Project for the Senior Center repairs in the amount of \$50,000. and forward it to the CIP Committee, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.

- e. Request for Mill Pond Fishing Dock Repairs. \$8,500. Todd Rolland

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Project for the Mill Pond fishing dock repairs in the amount of \$8,500. and forward it to the CIP Committee, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.

2. Presentation of the Affordable Housing Plan. **Bradley Pellissier and John Guskowski**
Mr. Guskowski presented the draft Somers Affordable Housing Plan. A discussion followed.
3. Request to Accept the Sidewalk Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report and Disband the Committee. **Todd Rolland**
Mr. Meier made a motion to accept the Sidewalk Ad Hoc Committee's final report and disband the Sidewalk Ad Hoc Committee, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.
4. Request to Create an Assistant Building Official Position and Approve the Job Description. **Todd Rolland**
Mr. Meier made a motion to create an Assistant Building Official Position and approve the Job Description as presented, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.
5. Request for an Appropriation of \$70,939 to fund the Plan and to Hire an Assistant Building Official and add to the November 7, 2024, Town Meeting Agenda. **Todd Rolland**
Mr. Meier made a motion to Hire Michael Anthony as the Assistant Building Official contingent upon the appropriation being approved by the Board of Finance and add it to the November 7, 2024, Town Meeting agenda, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the Appropriation of \$70,939. from the General Fund to the Salary line item for the Assistant Building Official position as presented, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.
6. Approval of Agreement between GEI Consultants and the Town of Somers for the work at the Somersville Mill Site in the Amount of \$60,000 and Authorize the First Selectmen to sign the Agreement.
Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the Agreement between GEI Consultants and the Town of Somers for the work at the Somersville Mill Site in the amount of \$60,000 and authorize the First Selectman to sign the agreement contingent upon Board of Finance approval, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.
7. Discussion and vote to adopt and recommend to the Board of Finance and to the electors and citizens eligible to vote at Town Meetings of the Town the following Resolution:
AMENDMENT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE APPROPRIATION AND THE AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES OF THE TOWN TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION FROM \$10,500,000 TO \$15,000,000 FOR THE HVAC AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AS WELL AS ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A REFERENDUM

Mr. Meier made a motion to adopt the AMENDMENT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE APPROPRIATION AND THE AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES OF THE TOWN TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION FROM \$10,500,000 TO \$15,000,000 FOR THE HVAC AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AS WELL AS ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A REFERENDUM, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.

8. Notice of Special Town Meeting and Referendum

- a. Provisionally call for a Special Town Meeting to be held at Somers Town Hall Auditorium, 600 Main Street, Somers, Connecticut on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm to consider and discuss, but not vote on, the resolution.
- b. Remove the resolution from the agenda of the Town Meeting and approve vote by voting machine and set the date for referendum on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm.

Mr. Meier made a motion to Provisionally call for a Special Town Meeting to be held at Somers Town Hall Auditorium, 600 Main Street, Somers, Connecticut on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 7:00 pm to consider and discuss, but not vote on, the resolution. Remove the resolution from the agenda of the Town Meeting and approve vote by voting machine and set the date for referendum on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.

9. Request to Authorize the First Selectman to execute the Mutual Aid Agreement with Stafford Ambulance Association for Intercept Services for the Town of Stafford. **Brian Wissinger**

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with Stafford Ambulance Association for Intercept Services for the Town of Stafford and authorize the First Selectman to sign the agreement, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.

J.) Approval of Minutes of October 3, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.
The Board of Selectmen waives the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting from October 3, 2024, and that minutes of said meeting be approved.

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular October 2, 2024, meeting, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.

K.) **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Meier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm, seconded by Mr. Keeney. The motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur-Recording

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.