

TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 13, 2025, 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, Selectmen Bill Meier and Bob Schmidt, CFO Brian Wissinger, Assistant Finance Director Michael Marinaccio, Library Director Joanne Nichting, Registrar of Voters/Director of Veterans Affairs David McCaffrey, Land Use and Public Works Director Todd Rolland and several members of the Library Board.

B.) PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Public Comment:

C.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN

First Selectman Tim Keeney provided updates on the following matters:

- Charter Revision Commission will hold their first Public Hearing on February 18, 2025, at 6:00pm in the Town Hall Auditorium, immediately following the Commission will conduct their regular meeting.
- Mr. Keeney provided an update on the Council of Small Towns (COST) Budget meeting he attended via Zoom.

D.) CONSENT AGENDA

1. Board and Commissions: Appointments/Resignations

E.) OPPORTUNITY TO ADD URGENT AGENDA ITEMS

F.) FINANCE

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

Mr. Wissinger provided updates on the following matters:

- Presented a handout containing the monthly budget report through January 31, 2025.
- Mr. Keeney and Mr. Wissinger drafted a letter addressed to the Connecticut House of Representatives, requesting a formal review and amendment of the Public Act 22-118. This legislation has altered the assessment methodology for motor vehicles in Connecticut, leading to a decrease in the grand list for all municipalities. In the case of Somers, this decline amounts to 15.5%, resulting in a revenue shortfall of \$600,000. –
- The Town submitted an opposition testimony regarding a proposed house bill that pertains to Veterans exemptions. This bill relates to vehicles and stipulates that if the exemption on a vehicle does not reach the full amount of \$20,000, the Town would be required to provide cash payments to Veterans for the portion of the exemption that remains unused.
- The recent Real Estate Tax Exemption for 100% for permanently disabled Veterans for their homes forced the Town to address another unfunded mandate.. The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) opposed this bill during a public hearing held today.

c) Presentation of Scheduled Payments

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the scheduled payments in the amount of \$439,106.88, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.

G.) **UPDATES FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSION:** None

H.) **PENDING BUSINESS** - None

I.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Request to apply for the Small-Town Economic Assistance Grant (STEAP) grant in the amount of \$191,224.00 to help fund the replacement of the pour-in-place playground resurfacing at Connor's Place, Field Road Park. **Todd Rolland**

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the request to apply for the Small-Town Economic Assistance Grant (STEAP) Grant in the amount of \$191,224.00, to help fund the replacement of the pour-in-place playground resurfacing at Connor's Place located at Field Road Park, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.

2. Authorize the First Selectman to sign the Municipal Service Agreement and Continuing Disclosure Agreement with Munistat. **Brian Wissinger**

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Municipal Service Agreement and Continuing Disclosure Agreement with Munistat, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.

3. Library Budget Presentation. **Joanne Nichting**

Ms. Nichting presented the Library Budget for consideration. A discussion followed.

4. Registrar of Voters Budget Presentation. **David McCaffrey**

Mr. McCaffrey presented the Registrar of Voters Budget for consideration. Reductions discussed from the Registrar of Voters budget included Municipal Primary in the amount of \$11,500 and an increased Stipend .

5. Veterans Affairs Budget Presentation. **David McCaffrey**

Mr. McCaffrey presented the Veteran Affairs budget for consideration. A discussion followed.

J.) Approval of Minutes of February 6, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

The Board of Selectmen waives the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting from February 6, 2025, and that minutes of said meeting be approved.

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2025 with one amendment under new business item No. 1 "Mr. Meier made the motion and Mr. Schmidt seconded the motion." Seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.

K.) **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Meier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. the motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur-Recording

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.