

**TOWN OF SOMERS**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, February 5, 2026, 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, Land Use and Public works Director Todd Rolland, Police Administrator Kim Littig, Chief Dave Lenart, Captain Ray Stovall and members of the Fire Department.

*Mr. Meier made a motion to add agenda item number 2 under new business to the beginning of the meeting, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. the motion unanimously passed.*

**Item 2 New Business**

2. Staffing Request. Request to Hire George "Ray" Stovall as the Fire Chief with annual salary of \$127,000 and authorize the First Selectman to sign the Employment Agreement between the Town of Somers and George "Ray" Stovall, with a start date of 2/7/26.

*MR. Meier made a motion to hire George "Ray" Stovall with an annual salary of \$127,000 and authorize the First Selectman to sign the Employment Agreement between the Town of Somers and George "Ray" Stovall with a start date of 2/7/26, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. the motion unanimously passed.*

*George "Ray" Stovall was sworn in at this time by David Marti, Town Clerk.*

**B.) PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Public Comment:  
Scott Kritzky, Somersville - declined to provide his address. He made a statement regarding the high cost of rental housing.  
Scott Sutter of 210 Parker Road, Somers, CT. Spoke in support of the Recreation and Leisure Budget.

**C.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN**

First Selectman Tim Keeney provided updates on the following items:

- The Connecticut State Police have assigned Trooper Matthew Burzdak as Somers new Resident State Trooper. He is scheduled to begin his duties in two weeks.
- The America250 Committee have a page on the Town website. The Committee will be sending mailers to Somer's homeowners and businesses outlining the plans for the upcoming America250 celebration and inviting the community to support the event through fundraising efforts.

**D.) CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Board and Commissions: Appointments/Resignations - None

**E.) OPPORTUNITY TO ADD URGENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**F.) FINANCE**

- a) Transfers and Appropriations- None
- b) CFO Finance Report/Updates-Mr. Wissinger provided an update on the following items:
  - provided a handout of the Budget through January 31<sup>st</sup>, It's on trend.

- The Grand List of October 1, 2025, has been officially signed. Following revaluation, the Grand List increased by 35.11%.
- Mr. Wissinger projected the adjusted mill rate with no additional spending, which indicates: A decrease of 7.81 mills, A projected new mill rate of 22.4
- Three major factors are expected to impact on these projections:
  1. Municipal Stabilization Grant- The Town will not receive the State of Connecticut Municipal Stabilization Grant in FY26. This results in a revenue loss of \$254,000. No Town in Ct will be receiving this grant.
  2. Interest Rate Decline - Decreasing interest rates are expected to reduce revenue by approximately \$200,000.
  3. Veterans Tax Exemption Impact - The Connecticut Assessors' Association surveyed all 169 towns regarding the fiscal impact of the new Veterans Tax Exemption - Statewide total assessment loss: \$562,462,593. Somers 2024 Grand List impact: 25 applications received, \$3.4 million assessment loss, Estimated \$102,000 loss in revenue.
  4. Based on the departmental budgets submitted by the Directors and the Board of Education budget, the Town is currently facing a projected 2.4 mill increase.

c. Presentation of Scheduled Payments  
*Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the scheduled payments in the amount of \$384,921.08, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.*

d. **UPDATES FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSION: None**

e. **PENDING BUSINESS – None**

f. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Discussion and possible action on amendments to Chapter 63 of the Town Code: Special Project Committee. The Board held a public hearing on January 22, 2026, at 7pm to take public comment on the amendments to Chapter 63 of the Town Code – Special Project Committee.  
*Mr. Meier made a motion to adopt Chapter 63 of the Town Code- Special Project Committee with the following amendments and to be effective 15 days after publication, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. the motion unanimously passed.*  
*62-1. Purpose: Special Building Committee, Strike out section c in its entirety. Section 62-3 amend the language, the committee will consist of eight members, all members will be residents and legal voters of the Town of Somers except the CFO and Public Works Director and add a section H an at large member and to adopt the published changes with these amendments and the final amendment will be 62-4 strike section B in its entirety and the revised ordinance will be effective 15 days after publication, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. the motion unanimously passed.*

g. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Fire Department update – Chief David Lenart  
Chief Lenart provided the Board of Selectmen with his final report. Chief Lenart requested authorization to post a full time Firefighter/EMT position given the

promotion of Ray Stovall.

***Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the posting of a full-time Firefighter/EMT, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. the motion unanimously passed.***

2. Staffing Request. Request to Hire George "Ray" Stovall as the Fire Chief with annual salary of \$127,000 and authorize the First Selectman to sign the Employment Agreement between the Town of Somers and George "Ray" Stovall, with a start date of 2/7/26. ***This item was moved to the beginning of the agenda.***
3. Budget Presentation – Police Budget. Kim Littig  
*Ms. Littig presented the Police Budget for consideration. A discussion followed.*
4. Budget Presentation – Recreation and Leisure Services. Maureen Parsell  
*Ms. Parsell presented the Recreation and Leisure Budget for consideration. A discussion followed*
5. Staffing Request to hire Richard Locatelli for the part time Senior Center Bus Driver position with an hour rate of \$21.36 and a start date of Monday, February 9, 2026. Maureen Parsell  
***Mr. Schmidt made a motion to hire Richard Locatelli for the part-time Senior Bus Driver position with an hourly rate of \$21.36 and a start date of Monday, February 9, 2026, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.***
6. Discussion and Authorization for First Selectman to Sign Phase 3 Agreement with STV Consultants for Somers Elementary School HVAC Project. Brian Wissinger  
***Mr. Meier made a motion to authorize the First Selectmen to sign the Phase 3 Agreement with STV Consultants for Somers Elementary School HVAC project, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. the motion unanimously passed.***

h. Approval of Minutes of January 22, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.  
The Board of Selectmen waives the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting from January 22, 2026, and that minutes of said meeting be approved.  
***Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 22, 2026, as presented, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. the motion unanimously passed.***

i. Approval of Minutes of the Public Hearing held on January 22, 2026, for the proposed changes to Chapter 63 of the Town Code: Special Project Committee.  
The Board of Selectmen waives the reading of the minutes of the Public Hearing from January 22, 2026, and that minutes of said meeting be approved.  
***Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing on January 22, 2026, as presented, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.***

j. **ADJOURNMENT**  
***Mr. Meier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. the motion unanimously passed.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur-Recording

*Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting*