

TOWN OF SOMERS

BOARD OF FINANCE

SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER - POSTPONED

Present were Vice Chairman Steve Krasinski, George Warner and Tom Mazzoli. Also present: BOE Representative Tim Potrikus and Finance Director Greg Simmons. As a quorum was not met at the scheduled time of the Special Meeting, a decision was made by the members present to hear the BOE Update and the Selectman's Presentation first. The call to order was postponed until later.

II. BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

Tim Potrikus reported that the negotiations with the teacher's union went very well.

Currently the BOE is working on a long-range plan. The last complete rewrite of the long-range plan was in 2005. The current revision was adopted by the BOE at a meeting in early November this year.

The major change from the previous plan is the addition of a technology education update for the tech ed department. Mr. Potrikus will provide copies of the new plan to the BOF before their next meeting. He will be able to answer any questions about it at that meeting.

The BOE's only anticipated large CIP expense for the coming year would be the technology update. There is a roof project at the Elementary School that was bonded two years ago that will begin in the spring.

III. SELECTMAN'S UPDATE

The BOF attended the Selectman's meeting already in progress in the Town Meeting Hall. Mike Parker joined the BOF at that time.

IV. RECONSTRUCTION INTERSECTION MAIN ST. & NINTH DISTRICT RD

Tom Maziarz of Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) discussed the project and displayed a large aerial map of the intersection.

The project was precipitated by a CRCOG study in the mid 90's that foresaw the need for improved access to the educational facilities and library. The need for the Firehouse to have control of the intersection lights in emergencies was also a concern.

The plan would reconfigure the intersection to have exclusive left turn lanes and combination through or right turn lanes from all approaches. The current culvert would be replaced because it does not meet 25-year flood requirements. Since the school complex is designated as the Town's emergency shelter, access here is critical.

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The project was approved in 2001 but no action has been taken on it since that time. The original cost of the project was estimated at \$2,100,000 and has escalated to \$2,700,000 over the interceding years.

Mr. Maziarz passed out a synopsis of the project that describes the project, funding, cost estimates and proposed work schedule.

Sergeant Jose Claudio, Somers Resident State Trooper stated that from a public safety standpoint, left turn lanes at the intersection would be beneficial. There were about 20 accidents at the intersection in 2006 and 14 in 2007. Most involved rear-end collisions to cars making left turns at the light.

Mr. Maziarz explained how the costs of the project would be divided between the Town, the State and Federal governments as itemized in the handout presented to the BOF. Because the cost has increased so much, the Town must decide on whether to scale down the project or resubmit the project to the CRCOG cost review committee. The cost review process would only take a couple of months. After reviewing, CRCOG may decide to exempt the Town from all or part of the cost increase.

David Pinney explained that at this time an appropriation is needed from the BOF to pay the \$420,000 design cost. He recommends that there be a Town Meeting to consider the proposal to appropriate up to \$430,000 to pay for the services of the design firm and to cover the Town's right of way expenses for the project. Steve Krasinski suggested that the BOS submit a written request for the appropriation to the BOF.

According to Mr. Maziarz it will take at least 2 to 3 years to design the project, including the formal public involvement process. Construction could begin no sooner than 2010/early 2011.

This portion of the Selectman's Meeting concluded and the BOF reconvened in the Lower Conference Room.

V. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Vice Chairman Steve Krasinski. Members present were Steve Krasinski, George Warner, Tom Mazzoli and Michael Parker. Also attending: Finance Director Greg Simmons.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL

Because this was a special meeting the minutes could not be approved.

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VIII. BILLS, TRANSFERS, AND APPROPRIATIONS

A motion was made by George Warner, seconded by Mike Parker and unanimously voted to approve the following reimbursement appropriation:

By the Selectmen a reimbursement appropriation of \$150.00 to Kibbe Fuller Maintenance

(10-10-531.2).

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. was made by Tom Mazzoli and seconded by George Warner; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Reed, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT
MEETING