

**TOWN OF SOMERS
MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, May 16, 2006
7:00 p.m.
Downstairs Conference Room**

1. Call to Order:

First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Location of Emergency Exits: not necessary, less than 100 in attendance

3. Members Present:

Selectmen David Pinney and Kathy Devlin

4. Pledge of Allegiance: Flag was unavailable.

5. Citizen Comments: There were none.

6. Correspondence:

A letter of resignation from the Cable Television Advisory Council was received from Leonard J. Slaga. Kathy Devlin made a motion to accept this resignation, with regret. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

A letter of resignation was received from Candida Daigle who has been the clerk for the Zoning Board of Appeals for the past three years. The selectmen had a brief discussion concerning a replacement for this clerical job.

A letter was received from Lois Lindell of the Cultural Commission concerning refurbishment of Piedmont Hall. The Cultural Commission intends to fund a good portion of the work through donations. However, a short list of repairs was included that the Cultural Commission feels should be a responsibility of the town.

We received a copy of an e-mail from Jenifer Charette, Recreation Coordinator, notifying the Recreation Commission and the Selectmen that the Somers Soccer Association will be sending four or five boxes of soccer balls to Charlie Co., 1st Bn 25th Marines in Iraq.

The troops give these balls to Iraqi children as gifts and also in exchange for information. Kathy Devlin suggested that this donation is published in the Journal Inquirer as a human interest story.

7. Old Business:

7.1 Citizen and Employee Award Presentations

It was the consensus of the selectmen present to designate the next selectmen's meeting on Tuesday, May 30, 2006 to include the award presentations. There will be refreshments and recipients will be asked to invite their families.

The selectmen also discussed meeting with the Meals on Wheels drivers in early June to update their needs. Light refreshments will also be served at this meeting.

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7.2 Town Hall Hours:

Both Kathy Devlin and David Pinney indicated that they were in favor of year-round Town Hall hours of operation for all full-time personnel to be as follows:

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Monday-Wednesday
8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Friday

However, they will not vote on this issue until the third selectman Ernie Allsup joins the meeting.

7.3 Appointments:

Connie Carenzo, Adm. Asst, prepared a list of appointments that need attention - either reappointments or replacements. It was the consensus of the selectmen present that Alan Seagrave should be removed from the Building Code Board of Appeals with a term expiration of 12/30/05 because he no longer lives in the area. The other issues will wait until all three selectmen are present.

8. New Business:

8.1 Review Long-Term Fire Department Needs

This item will be reviewed when all three selectmen are available for the discussion and also should be reviewed with the Fire Commission.

8.2 Review Meals on Wheels Program

David Pinney reported that the Meals on Wheels Program received a donation from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts in the amount of \$2,500 - half the amount usually donated. This year this fund decided to split their donation in half and send the other half to the Town's Emergency Fund.

David Pinney said the Community Renewal Team (CRT) will also deliver meals to the home for those that qualify for this help. Application would be made through the North Central Area Agency on Aging. Recipients need to have physical or mental health issues. CRT would deliver using their own personnel. This option will be discussed with the Meals on

Wheels drivers during our meeting in June.

Kathy Devlin said if we can bring more seniors to the Senior Center for a meal. CRT would deliver a lunch but requires a minimum of 25 meals for the group service. We need the cooperation of the Senior Club. CRT does not set up for the meals or clean up afterward, they just deliver. This is also an option that will be investigated.

8.3 Review Abandoned Roads

There was a brief discussion concerning abandoning roads - specifically Old Hampden Road. Further review will wait until all three selectmen are available for

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the discussion. Kathy Devlin said that further discussion of road abandonment should include input from the Planning Commission, Public Works and the Town Attorney.

9. Plan of Conservation and Development

This item will be postponed until the next meeting when all three selectmen are present.

10. Authorization of Scheduled Payments

Kathy Devlin made a motion to authorize payments totaling \$227,840.01 generated on April 25, May, 3, 9, 12 and 15, 2006. This motion was seconded by David Pinney and unanimously approved.

11. Appropriations/Transfers

David Pinney reviewed the proposed transfers and appropriations with Kathy Devlin. Kathy Devlin made a motion to approve the following transfers/appropriations; seconded by David Pinney and unanimously approved:

Assessor:

transfer \$120 from Acct. #10-15-545.1 Mapping to Acct. #10-15-534.1 Dues & Seminars

Capital Equipment:

reimbursement additional appropriation of \$106,300 to Acct. #68-10-385.1 Fema Grant - Fire Department

Fire Department:

reimbursement appropriation of \$930.95 to Acct. #20-16-531.5 Vehicle Maintenance

Somers Library:

transfer \$545 from Acct. #50-21-609.1 Auto Services to Acct. #50-21-559.1 Heat

Public Works:

transfer \$3,875 from Acct. #30-18-553.1 Road Maintenance to Acct. #30-18-560.1 electricity
transfer \$2,500 from Acct. #30-18-553.1 Road Maintenance to Acct. #30-18-559.1 Heat

Selectmen:

reimbursement appropriation of \$480.45 to Acct. #10-10-531.1 Capital Building Mgmt.
reimbursement additional appropriation of \$10,246 to Acct. #67-10-353.0 Road Repairs
transfer \$1,200 from Acct. #10-10-536.1 Fire Protection to Acct. #10-10-512.2 Pension Actuary
transfer \$400 from 10-10-536.1 Fire Protection to Acct. #10-10-513.2 Unemployment
transfer \$2,400 from Acct. #10-10-525.1 Town Hall Maint. to Acct. #10-10-527.1 Mileage
transfer \$14 from Acct. #10-10-520.1 Office Supply to Acct. #10-10-547.1 Rental
transfer \$2,700 from Acct. #10-10-511.1 Insurance to Acct. #10-10-559.1 Heat
transfer \$2,003 from Acct. #10-10-511.1 Insurance to Acct. #10-10-559.2 Kibbe Fuller Heat
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transfer \$4,500 from Acct. #10-10-511.1 Insurance to Acct. #10-10-560.1 Electricity

Transfer Station:

transfer \$450 from Acct. #30-34-559.1 Heat to Acct. #30-34-560.1 Electricity
transfer \$1,000 from Acct. #30-34-588.1 Recycling to Acct. #30-34-589.1 Operating

11.1 **Tax Refunds:**

Kathy Devlin made a motion to authorize tax refunds in the amount of \$3,018.73 and \$1,442.87; seconded by David Pinney and unanimously approved.

12. **Board of Selectmen Remarks:**12.1 **Update from First Selectman**12.1.1 **Need for Special Town Meeting**

The Board of Finance will meet on May 22, 2006 and the Board of Selectmen need to warn a special town meeting sometime early in June to establish an effective date for the last two ordinances that were approved. The changes in the Elderly Tax Relief Ordinance should be effective before the next tax year beginning July 1, 2006.

A date of June 12, 2006 was tentatively set, pending approval from all three selectmen.

Road abandonment ordinance needs an effective date. Also, \$200,000 has to be approved for the town's share of the sewer plant expansion. The Fire Department has a grant from FEMA for \$100,000 and needs about 5% of this amount from the town.

12.2 **Comments from other two selectmen**

Kathy Devlin has received several complaints that the regular course of the brook is being diverted on the corner of Stebbins Road and Pine Knob Road. We will ask David

Askew, Wetlands Agent, to check this out.

Kathy Devlin asked if we were having a Memorial Day service in town. David told her that it will be on Saturday, May 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the High School. The same group of high school students will be running it. Penny Bacchiochi will be there to speak to the people. Several veterans have been asked to attend. The "field of flags" is coming back in the center of Somersville. Kathy Devlin and David Pinney agreed that it is important to publicize this event so that the public will attend.

13. Citizen Comments

Tony Pellegrino remarked that he felt this selectmen meeting was very productive. He also commented that he would like to see the town budget separated from the Board of Education budget.

A recess was called at 8:05 p.m. to check the results of the referendum. The meeting resumed at 8:30 p.m.

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Ernie Allsup joined the other two selectmen at 8:30 p.m. and several of the agenda items were reviewed again.

7.2 Town Hall Hours

Kathy Devlin made a motion to make standard year-round hours for all full-time Town Hall personnel as follows:

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Monday through Wednesday
8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Friday

This change will be effective the week of May 21, 2006. Any deviation from this schedule needs to be cleared through the First Selectman. There has to be a business reason for starting work early and working through lunch and leaving early. The Land Use Staff under their contract can flex up to one hour per day for a business-related issue.

David Pinney seconded the motion.

Ernie Allsup does not see a benefit to the public with this working schedule change.

David Pinney feels it is too erratic switching back and forth. Land Use needs support staff on

Thursday nights and he feels keeping the same hours year-round will provide better and more consistent service to the public.

The vote was: (2) in favor; (1) opposed (Allsup); 0 abstentions. The motion passed.

9. Plan of Conservation and Development:

Kathy Devlin has made up a series of comments because she attended most of the POCD meetings but does not have them with her tonight. This subject will be an agenda issue at another BOS meeting.

12. Board of Selectmen Remarks:

Both Ernie Allsup and Kathy Devlin asked about receiving status reports from the Land Use Staff members.

There was a brief discussion about having Lisa Lockyer, part-time clerical in Land Use, taking over the responsibility of Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk. The First Selectman will discuss this with Land Use Staff and Lisa.

Ernie Allsup has put in a section for the Charter Revision Commission on the town website. We also need something for the website announcing the Memorial Day service at the High School.

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After being told about the complaints concerning diversion of the brook at the corner of Stebbins Road and Pine Knob Road, Ernie Allsup said he does not feel that the owner, Mr. DelGreco has done that but that he would be willing to discuss this issue with him.

13. Citizen Comments: There were none.

14. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned by mutual consent at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Pinney, First Selectman

Connie Careno, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.