

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 2, 2007
7:00 p.m. (immediately following
the Special Town Meeting)
Town Hall Auditorium**

1. Location of Emergency Exits: not necessary, less than 100 in attendance.
2. Call to Order:
First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., immediately following the closing of the Special Town Meeting.
3. Members Present:
Selectmen David Pinney, Kathy Devlin and Joe Tolisano
4. Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was recited.
5. Correspondence: None was presented.
6. Citizen Comments:
Bob Schmidt of 62 Pond Circle thanked the selectmen for the excellent job they are doing in handling town affairs.
7. Presentation of Fire Prevention Poster Awards:
Deputy Fire Marshal Glen Reynolds announced the winners of the Fire Prevention Poster Awards. Three students from the fourth grade at Somers Elementary received awards – first place to Maria Ceppetelli, second to Samantha Pruden and third to Trey Hafford. Emily Carson from the Grammar School at Somersville was also commended for her poster.

There was a brief recess to enjoy some refreshments.

8. Old Business:
 - 8.1 Meet with Economic Development Commission (EDC) to review recommendations regarding the Somersville Mill Project
EDC member David Reed gave an overview of the history and current condition of the Somersville Mill as well as options that are available for redevelopment of the Mill or demolition of the buildings. The current owner has given a Notice of Abandonment and relinquishes any responsibility for the property. The town building official has required that the buildings be secured but the owners have not complied. The Town has initiated foreclosure proceedings. Questions that arise include whether or not the town wants to take ownership of the property as part of pursuing redevelopment or attempt to facilitate its transfer to a new private owner and also whether or how the building might be modified to reduce the flood plain constraints that impact possible uses of the first floor. FEMA has said that the first floor is subject to flooding during a 100-year storm event and can not be developed for residential use.

Fred Meyer said the town should contact the Army Corps of Engineers to see if they would participate in reevaluating the appropriate elevation for a 100-year flood event. He indicated the Corps would potentially provide this service to a municipality where they would not do it for a private owner.

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David Pinney said the modifications to the buildings are not substantial and would not really be financially infeasible for a new owner to undertake. He indicated that it was his understanding that FEMA will not review the current designation regarding the flood plain without new data being supplied.

David Reed said there is some interest in mixed use with businesses and residential. He favors 100% residential.

Rick Cheney of Highland Park Drive said he is excited about the possible redevelopment of the mill. However, developers are walking away because there are too many unknowns. We need to spend money on a structural and environmental analysis.

David Pinney agreed that the value of the property needs to be validated. CRCOG has a program that may cover an environmental assessment of the property.

The members of the EDC would like to meet with the Board of Selectmen in the near future to discuss all the possibilities that are available for the Somersville Mill. David Pinney will work with David Reed and Lou Bachetti to set up this meeting.

8.2 Review Record Retention Policy: Review postponed until the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

8.3 Review Building Use Policy: Review postponed until the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

8.4 Somersville Street Design:

David Pinney said that he is in the middle of an ongoing discussion of this project with the Somersville Planning Committee. The original project was looking at improvements on Main Street. If we bring School Street and Maple Street improvements into the project, it will become far more expensive. The grant we received was only for Main Street. Expanding the study area would not be funded. It was the consensus of the Board to confine the study area primarily to Main Street and then worry about expanding improvements in the Somersville area and possibly look into other grants that may be available.

8.5 Emergency Preparedness:

David Pinney reported that the bids on the emergency generator for the high school have been opened and we are proceeding with developing an RFP for the generator proposal. David will also check on the reverse 911 proposal.

8.6 Public discussion on FY08 budget proposal:

The Board had a general discussion about having an open forum to see if public interest could be generated in reviewing the FY08 budget. The Board could put a budget package together and place it on the town website. However, it was the general consensus of the Board that widespread public interest in a budget forum would not be

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forthcoming. The Board of Finance is planning on a public hearing to be held on April 30th and the Board of Selectmen will be prepared to give the public a good example of why the budget proposals are in place.

9. New Business:

9.1 Somers Comes Together Town Forum:

Somers Comes Together is a local council for prevention of drug and alcohol use by teenagers. It is primarily school-based but does draw support from the local police department and churches. ERASE services the high school with data on drugs of all kinds. A forum on the negative effects of drugs and alcohol on minors will be held on May 8, 2007 in the Town Hall Auditorium.

9.2 Authorize the First Selectman David Pinney to enter into a contract with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture for a grant to the town and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) under the agriculture viability program

David Pinney explained the concept of supporting agriculture in Somers. It is possible that Somers will be the recipient of a State grant and will then work with CCM on its implementation in the community. Kathy Devlin made a motion to authorize the First Selectman David Pinney to enter into a contract with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture for a grant to the town and the CCM under the agriculture viability program. This motion was seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved.

9.3 Review Demolition Delay Ordinance: This review will be taken up at a future Board of Selectmen meeting.

9.4 Review status of FY07 budget

David Pinney reported that he has been working with Ed Sullivan, Treasurer, to resolve some issues with the current budget. He is not prepared for a more detailed breakdown at tonight's meeting.

9.5 Town-wide comprehensive long range capital plan

The Board of Selectmen will attempt to develop a more comprehensive long range CIP plan than presently exists.

10. Authorization of Scheduled Payments:

Joe Tolisano made a motion to authorize scheduled payments in the amount of \$239,475.30 generated on March 21, 27 and 30 and April 2, 2007. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

11. Appropriations/Transfers:

Kathy Devlin made a motion to approve the following appropriations/transfers. This motion was seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved:

Fire Department:

transfer \$558.60 from acct. #20-16-580.1 tires to acct. #20-16-559.1 heat

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transfer \$565.00 from acct. #20-16-569.1 ladders to acct. #20-16-559.1 heat

transfer \$1750 from acct. #41-24-563.4 pagers to acct. #20-16-531.7 bldg. maintenance

transfer \$750 from acct. #20-16-561.1 telephones to acct. #20-16-583.1 health & safety

transfer \$1,000 from acct. #20-16-568.1 training to acct. #20-16-531.5 vehicle maint.

transfer \$200 from acct. #41-24-605.1 blood borne to acct. #41-24-521.2 equip. maint.

transfer \$1,000 from acct. #41-24-605.1 blood borne to acct. #20-16-559.1 heat

transfer \$1,000 from acct. #41-24-530.5 new equip. to acct. #20-16-559.1 heat

Park Maintenance:

transfer \$1,000 from acct. #30-19-521.5 playground expense to acct. #30-19-521.2 equipment maint.

transfer \$500 from acct. #30-19-552.1 fertilizer to acct. #30-19-521.2 equipment maint.

Selectmen:

transfer \$8,500 from acct. #10-10-513.2 unemployment to acct. #10-10-515.2 bonds & insurance

Tax Office:

transfer \$150 from acct. #10-13-599.1 tax collection/credit bureau to acct. #10-13-534.1 dues and seminars

transfer \$157.64 from acct. #10-13-599.1 tax collection/credit bureau to acct. #10-13-520.1

printing & supplies

WPCA:

reimbursement appropriation of \$4,785 to acct. #40-19-508.2 food inspector

11.1 Tax Refunds:

A motion was made by Kathy Devlin, seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously

approved to authorize tax refunds in the amount of \$512.05 as generated by the Tax Collector.

12. Approval of BOS Minutes:

12.1 Regular meeting of 3/19/07

12.2 Special meeting of 3/26/07

Joe Tolisano made a motion to approve the regular BOS meeting of 3/19/07 and the special meeting of 3/26/07 as written. This motion was seconded by Kathy Devlin and unanimously approved.

13. Board of Selectmen Remarks

13.1 Update from First Selectman

David Pinney asked for approval from the Board to sign an agreement with the prison to have inmates work for the town. Kathy Devlin made a motion to authorize the First Selectman David Pinney to sign an agreement with the prison to allow inmates work for the Town of Somers. This motion was seconded by Joe Tolisano and unanimously approved.

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David Pinney reported to the Board that an employee survey had been taken as to whether or not the employees would like to use December 24, 2007 as their floating holiday. The survey indicated approval by a small margin.

After a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that a floating holiday should be able to be used at the discretion of the employee.

13.1.1 Whitaker Woods – nothing was discussed at this meeting.

13.1.2 Somers Women's Club – the Somers Women's Club would like to fly a 60' banner on the Town Hall in honor of their 85th anniversary.

13.1.3 Tax Sale: - the tax collector has two properties in Somersville up for sale due to non-payment of taxes.

13.1.4 Small Cities Grant Application – nothing was discussed at this meeting.

14. Citizen Comments: There were none.

15. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned by mutual consent at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Careno, Recording Secretary
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.