

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Auditorium**

1. Location of emergency exits
2. Call to order – First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
3. Members present – Kathleen Devlin, David Pinney and Joseph Tolisano. Also present were Bob Cafarelli, Director of Public Works; Marcia Mitchell, Exec. Asst./Ops. Mgr. as recording secretary; Mike Provencher, Parks Maintenance Coordinator, and a number of interested citizens.
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Correspondence
 - A notice from the CFO that the BOF has approved a transfer in an amount requiring approval at a Town meeting, and requesting that the transfer be placed on the next Town Meeting agenda. Mr. Pinney explained to the Selectmen that this transfer represents a series of transfers required to balance expense accounts at the end of FY 08. No action was taken at this time.
 - A letter from Chet Ladd requesting the Selectmen to install a streetlight at the intersection of Somers Crossing and Rt. 83. After brief discussion, ***Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano, that the Selectmen install a streetlight at the intersection of Somers Crossing and Rt. 83. Motion unanimously carried.***
 - A memo from the Registrars regarding the purchase of stanchion equipment to support the direction of foot traffic at the polling locations during the upcoming Presidential election. After brief discussion, ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin, that the Selectmen approve the Registrar's purchase of stanchion equipment, not to exceed \$2,000. Motion unanimously carried.***
6. Citizen Comments – Mr. Pinney noted that the Recreation Commission was to join the meeting for item 7.1. The Recreation Committee subsequently joined the meeting.
7. Old Business
 - 7.1 Field conditions – Comments from Bob Cafarelli – Mr. Cafarelli presented the information regarding field conditions, and the actions and costs necessary to (1) invest to bring all the fields up to excellent condition; and (2) expend maintaining the fields in excellent condition. Representatives from the athletic associations that use the fields – Baseball, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball & Flag Football – were present and made several comments. The Selectmen requested that the athletic associations convene with the Recreation Commission to prioritize the work to be done on the fields. The Selectmen also noted that the Town would not fiscally be able to complete all the work noted, and that the athletic associations would need to step up with manpower and money to make some of the improvements a reality. Ms. Wassmuth, chair of the Recreation Commission raised the issue of creating a third soccer field at the Field Road site, and wanted to know what the next steps were. Mr. Pinney said that the Town needed to take the next steps to investigate the feasibility of the creation of this new field and to verify that indeed the construction would be cost neutral. The Selectmen also cautioned that if the construction would create some income stream, that the Board of Finance must be engaged in the process. No other action was taken.

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7.2 Physical plant inventory – update by Bob Cafarelli – Postponed until a subsequent meeting.

7.3 Emergency Preparedness Activities – the Selectmen recapped the impacts of tropical storm Hanna. Multiple street locations experienced water over the road. A significant washout of the road occurred at the intersection of Stebbins & Florida Roads, as well as at the intersection of Rt. 190 and Bailey Road. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was opened for several hours late Saturday evening into Sunday morning to map trouble spots and coordinate necessary activities. Mr. Tolisano will file a report with the CT Dept. of Emergency Mgt. & Homeland Security (DEMHS) regarding the storm's impact. No other action was taken

Two Somers property owners, Mr. Morey & Mr. Johnston, both residing on Northwest Drive, were present to discuss how this storm, and others since the 2005 autumn flood event, impacted, and continue to impact, their property. Mr. Morey demanded that immediate action be taken by the town to stop the water backing up on these two properties. Mr. Pinney said that the town would take action, once the situation had been fully evaluated and the appropriate actions were determined. In the meantime, the Selectmen agreed that the dam gate at Mill Pond would be fully opened prior to heavy rain predictions, and left open until waters began to subside after any significant rain event. The Wetlands Agent, David Askew, will be consulted on this issue. No other action was taken.

7.4 Energy Policy discussion – after some discussion, the Selectmen decided to draft an energy policy position for the future repair or replacement of any heating system within a town building.

7.5 Plan meeting with EDC/Land Use Commissions – the Selectmen scheduled October 6, 2008 as the date for this meeting. Mr. Pinney will notify the involved parties.

7.6 BOF collaboration – ongoing at the individual level.

7.7 Board/Commission vacancies – the Selectmen noted several openings for consideration. Dan Thayer, a citizen who has been regularly attending the Civil Prep Advisory meetings, approached Mr. Pinney and volunteered for the committee. ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin, to appoint Dan Thayer to the Civil Preparedness Advisory Council for a term expiring 12/22/08 (the balance of Frank Dever's term), and also to serve as Deputy Emergency Management Director. Motion unanimously carried.***

7.8 Mill update – none to report

7.9 Somersville planning project – Mr. Pinney reported that he would be meeting with the CRCOG Sr. Consultant, Tom Maziarz, and DOT staff regarding feasibility of steps being considered.

7.10 Performance management process update – Ms. Mitchell reported that most of the full-time job description drafts would be distributed to the Directors this week for review with their employees and final input. The Selectmen are targeting a roll-out of the performance management process in late October.

8. New Business

8.1 Open space acquisition – A purchase & sale agreement for the Trappe property has been signed, Mr. Pinney is awaiting the details. In the meantime, the Land Trust needs time to raise their portion of the purchase price, and DEP needs time to draft the conservation easement. No action was taken.

8.2 Hartford Foundation grant - Human Services Director – the position has been defined and posted on the website. Grant in the amount of \$105,000 over the next three years has been approved. No action was taken.

8.3 Other – none

9. Authorization of Scheduled Payments & Tax Refunds – ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin, to approve scheduled payments in the amount of \$227,601.14, including 14 tax refunds. Motion unanimously carried.***

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- 10.** Appropriations/Transfers – Mr. Pinney reviewed two transfers and one appropriation with the Selectmen. ***Motion by Mr. Tolisano, seconded by Ms. Devlin, to approve transfers in the amounts of \$8,500, and \$300, and one appropriation in the amount of \$23,625. Motion unanimously carried.***
- 11.** Approval of Minutes – 8/25/08 – ***Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano, that the minutes of the 8/25/08 meeting of the Board of Selectmen be approved as written. Motion unanimously carried.***
- 12.** Board of Selectmen Remarks - None
- 13.** Citizen Comments – Mr. Provencher asked to acknowledge Mr. Brian Wilcox of CT Valley Fence for his contribution and installation of a gate and fence work in support of Tom Cowles' Eagle Scout Project. The project was to construct a pedestrian bridge connecting the Somersville School playground area and the Mill Pond area.
- 14.** Adjournment – ***Motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Tolisano, that the Selectmen adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.***

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Mitchell
Exec. Asst./Ops. Mgr.
Recording Secretary

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