

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, November 4, 2010
Downstairs Meeting Room**

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Lisa Pellegrini

Members Present – First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Selectmen Kathy Devlin and Joe Tolisano, and Operations Manager Doug Minich. Mr. Tolisano excused himself to meet with Whalley Computer Associates representatives Bill Oleksak and Dean Leclerc to discuss implementation of the new computer system.

Pledge of Allegiance – All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence – None

Citizen Comments – Greetings from Somers High School students in attendance for class lessons.

Opportunity for Selectmen to add Agenda Items – Mrs. Pellegrini added the following items:

1. Holiday schedule for 2010
2. Legal Holiday Schedule for 2011
3. Veterans Day Holiday update
4. Resolution for State Matching Transportation Grant

Mrs. Devlin added the following items.

5. Streetscape update
6. Identify charitable/service organizations that may qualify for reduced Fire Inspection fees.

Selectmen's Update

Boards & Commissions

The resignation of Tom Clark from Planning Commission was discussed. Mr. Clark is resigning because his work schedule does not allow him enough time to participate in all of the Planning Meetings. He is interested in serving the town on another Board, preferably Public Safety.

Mrs. Devlin made the motion to accept Mr. Clark's resignation with regrets which was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The vote was two votes in favor to approve Mr. Clark's resignation. Mrs. Devlin made a another motion to move Mr. Scott Sutter from Planning Commission alternate to member of the Planning Commission with an effective date ending December 22, 2014, which was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The vote to approve Mr. Sutter's appointment to the Planning Commission was two votes in favor and the motion was approved.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the reappointments to the Advisory Commission to the Elderly and decided to table the reappointments until all members had responded and until they have their next meeting which is scheduled for next week.

Mr. Ed Sullivan has expressed his desire to continue to serve on the Cemetery Commission with a term ending on December 22, 2016 and Mr. Francis Devlin has stated he wishes to continue to serve on the Board of Assessment Appeals with a term ending on December 22, 2013. ***A motion to approve both reappointments was made by Mrs. Pellegrini and seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The motion was approved by two aye votes.***

Several citizens have volunteered to serve on Boards and Commissions and they will be invited to a future Selectmen's meeting to meet with the Board of Selectmen as is their custom. Other reappointments were discussed and letters will be sent to members with expiring terms.

Old Business

Whalley Computer installation update –

1. The Town Engineer's computer has been installed and his email is working properly.
2. The Building Official's and Operations Manager's computer installation, originally scheduled for November 5, 2010, have been delayed by a week to 10 days. The computers originally scheduled to be installed will be transferred to the Resident Troopers Office, and thin client devices will be installed in their places.
3. The Standard Terms and Conditions and quote for services for hosting email by Whalley Computer associates will be reviewed by Mr. Tolisano and referred back to the First Selectman with recommendations.
4. The list of stations to be replaced is being prepared by Whalley and any spares will be retained by the Town.
5. All Town workstations will be upgraded to Windows 7 and Office 2007.
6. Emergency contacts for Whalley Computer Associates will be distributed on an as needed basis.

New Business –

e-Waste Contract – WeRecycle has approached the town and proposed a three year contract to dispose of electronic waste at no cost to the Town. All e-waste will be recycled in an ecologically friendly manner and any data will be erased and hard drives destroyed per Department of Defense standards. ***A motion to approve the signing of the contract with WeRecycle by Mrs. Pellegrini was made by Mrs. Devlin and seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The vote to approve the motion was two votes in favor and the motion was approved.***

Northern Connecticut Land Trust – Stevenson Ravine purchase.

The NCLT has an opportunity to purchase Stevenson Ravine from the owners for \$156,000 and NCLT have been awarded a grant from the State of Connecticut of \$76,000 for that purpose. The NCLT would like the Town to share in that purchase and is asking for \$25,000 and to be a partner in the purchase. The Board of Selectmen will refer this matter to Planning for their consideration. ***A motion to refer this to the Planning Commission for approval was made by Mrs. Devlin and seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The vote to approve the motion was two aye votes and the motion was approved.***

2011 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule – *A motion to approve the 2011 Meeting Schedule as written was made by Mrs. Devlin and seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The vote to approve the motion was two aye votes.*

Items added by Selectmen –

1. The 2010 Holiday schedule memo from Town Clerk Ann Logan was approved. Notice of adjusted hours will be posted on the Town web site and in Town Hall.
2. The 2011 Holiday schedule was discussed. *A motion to approve the schedule as written was made by Mrs. Devlin and seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. A vote to approve the motion was two ayes and the motion was approved.*
3. Resolution for State Matching Grant for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transport in Fiscal Year 2011 in the amount of \$20,446 for the purchase of a new senior bus. *Mrs. Devlin made the motion to approve the signing of the resolution by First Selectman Pellegrini and Mrs. Pellegrini seconded. The vote to approve the motion was two aye votes.*

Authorization of Payments – Mrs. Devlin expressed concern about the amount of the electricity bill and the water bill. *Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the payments in the amount of \$378,816.96 which was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. There were two aye votes to approve the motion to authorize payments.* Discussion continued regarding use of electricity in Town buildings and the Fire Department will be contacted regarding holiday lights and the timing of their use. The Town Hall will be checked for hours of light operation as well.

Mrs. Devlin asked when the roof on the Resident Troopers office building would be repaired and was advised by Mrs. Pellegrini that work would begin Friday, November 5, 2010. Mrs. Devlin also commended the letter sent by Fire Chief Gary Schiessel to the volunteers regarding the possible inclusion of the Resident Troopers office in the Fire complex.

Approval of Minutes – *Mrs. Devlin made the motion to approve the minutes of October 21, 2010 which was seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The vote to approve the motion of accepting the minutes was two aye votes and the motion was approved.*

Mr. Tolisano rejoined the meeting at 6:50 PM

4. Woodcrest Tax Abatement Agreement – Mrs. Pellegrini reported that, although the minutes authorizing Mr. David Pinney former First Selectman, to sign the contract to authorize the tax abatement for Woodcrest were on file, the signed contract could not be found in Town Hall. The terms of the contract were for Woodcrest to go on the Grand List and then receive tax abatement for 19 years, but annual audits were required. To date the Town has never received the financial audits. Mr. Pinney, in a discussion with Mrs. Pellegrini, produced two signature pages dated on different days, one signed by Mr. Pinney and another signed by Mr. Brian DuTerre. Town Attorney Carl Landolina is reviewing the terms of the contract for legality. Mrs. Devlin remembers that the tax abatement Woodcrest should be around \$11,000 as does Mr. Tolisano, a total tax abatement was not agreed to by Mrs. Devlin or Mr. Tolisano. CFO Kim Marcotte pointed out that the property must go on the Grand List

and then the decision to abate or not to abate should be made. Mrs. Doyker made the point that this contract grants total tax abatement and relieves Woodcrest of the PILOT payment. Mrs. Doyker recalls asking Mr. Pinney if the Town was abating \$120,000 and did not get a satisfactory reply and recalls that Woodcrest was never put on the Grand List. Mrs. Pellegrini will discuss this matter further with Attorney Landolina on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

Adjournment – Mrs. Pellegrini made the motion to adjourn at 7:19 PM which was seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas H. Minich – Recording Secretary

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting