

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 28, 2011
6:00PM
Selectmen's Conference Room**

Call to Order: First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

Members Present: First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Selectman Kathy Devlin and Kim Marcotte CFO. Also in attendance Town Counsel, Carl Landolina; and Planning Commission members; Bradley Pellessier, Karl Walton, Scott Sutter, Cliff Bordeaux and Jeff Bord, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer.

Pledge of Allegiance: All members participated in the pledge of Allegiance.

Open Space & Trails with Planning Commission:

Mrs. Pellegrini gave a brief description of the history of the Open Space and trails Committee; Mrs. Pellegrini stated that it was a committee years ago formed years ago without proper authority. The committee was disbanded by the Board of Selectmen last year. She explained that the role of this committee was to advise town boards and commissions (principally the Planning Commission) on matters related to Open Space acquisition and Trails maintenance.

The Planning Commission had approached the Board of Selectmen about reinstating the Open Space and Trails Committee and Planning Chairman Brad Pellissier had sent a draft document for the Open Space and Trails Committee to the Board of Selectmen for review. The document was modified and then forwarded to the Town Attorney for review. Mrs. Pellegrini received a letter from Town Attorney Carl Landolina in June regarding his opinion on the Open Space and Trails Committee issue. This letter identified several issues of concern and the issue was discussed during a recent meeting with the former Planning Commission Chairman, Karl Walton and the Town Attorney.

Mrs. Pellegrini explained that the Board of Selectmen understands the concerns of the Planning Commission and that after some research had found that the Open Space & Trails Committee issues may possibly be covered under **Connecticut General Statutes 7-131a – Conservations Commissions**. Section 7-131a allows the Conservation Commission to make recommendations regarding open space, as well as propose greenways plans, etc.

Discussion followed and it was agreed that this would be the proper pathway. As a member, Mr. Walton explained that the function of the current Conservation /Wetlands Commission. Mr. Pellessier commented that the only concern he had is that, will Conservation be up to taking this on. It was agreed that Mr. Walton bring up the subject at the next Conservation/Wetlands Commission. There were concerns that this will not add to the application process for the building applicant. The Town Attorney and Mr. Walton stated that this would not to the application process and that there would not be any separate reviews required.

The planning members adjourned and the Board of Selectmen continued their meeting.

Correspondence:

Mrs. Pellegrini had previously nominated Emergency Management Director Joseph Tolisano for Connecticut's 2011 Emergency Manager of the Year Award sponsored by the Northeast States Emergency Consortium. The Town was notified that another EMD had won, however Mrs. Pellegrini received a certificate in recognition of his nomination. This will be presented to Mr. Tolisano at the next Civil Prep Meeting.

Selectmen's Update:**E-Waste:**

The Transfer Station currently accepts all forms of electronic waste such as computers, keyboards, monitors, T.V.'s. The Town stopped charging residents for e-waste when the law was passed. It is free to residents to dispose of their electronics; however residents must have a transfer station permit to dispose of the unwanted electronics. As for disposal, we are under contract with We-Recycle. They pick up the e-waste, from the Transfer Station at no charge to the town (under state law).

The Transfer Station does charge to dispose of other items such as:

Mattresses & Box Springs – any size:	\$5.00 each
Auto batteries:	\$2.00 each
Tires: Auto	\$3.00 each
Truck Tires	\$7.00 each
Tractor Tires	\$36.00 each
Rugs: (depends on size) - Recommend that rugs be weighed	\$3.00 each & up
Refrigerators, A.C. units & Freezers – any size	\$20.00 each
Furniture: (depends on weight)	\$85.00 per ton
Bulky Waste: Construction debris, furniture, Pallets, wood fencing...	\$85.00 per ton
Brush & Wood: Trees, shrubs, branches NO STUMPS	\$60.00 per ton

A transfer station permit is also required to dispose of the above listed items.

Solar Panel Projects:

The Roof preparation on the elementary school will be completed week ending 7/30 and the roof installation will begin the following week. The roof will take 2-3 weeks to cure depending on the weather. The Solar Panels will be delivered to the Department of Public Works week of 8/1/11.

LoCIP Application:

Mrs. Pellegrini Applied for the LoCIP funds for the demolition of the Bus Barn.

Mrs. Devlin commented she was at the Fire Department and noticed that the driveway/parking lot had cracks and the curbing was falling apart; this will need some repairs down the road possibly with LoCIP funds. Mrs. Devlin also mentioned there should be a sidewalk by the side entrance for safety issues. Mrs. Pellegrini will check with DPW regarding repairs.

Mrs. Pellegrini and Mrs. Devlin both agreed to help out and improve/clean up the area around the fire station by planting some perennials. The Selectmen also discussed how to improve the lawn in front of the Fire House.

Beautification:

Mrs. Pellegrini has been working with the Beautification Committee to improve some garden areas around Town. New mulch has been applied to the side garden at the Kibbe Fuller Building and weeds have been removed and new mulch spread at the Billings Road island garden. She also stated that the Girl Scouts are interested in doing a garden project at the Senior Center.

9/11 Memorial Ceremony:

Mrs. Devlin gave an update on the 9/11 Memorial scheduled on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 10am at the Fire House. Mrs. Devlin gave a brief description as to what the new memorial was going to look like and that it would be completed over the next couple of weeks. Mrs. Devlin will contact Ann Kirkpatrick to assist on the Field of Flags for the 343 Fire Fighters that perished on September 11, 2001. Three speakers are planned for the event including the First Selectman and the Fire Chief. Mrs. Pellegrini sent a letter to Congressman Courtney per Mrs. Devlin's request inviting him to be the keynote speaker at the ceremony. Father Bruno has been asked to do the invocation.

Community Services and Guidelines:

Mrs. Pellegrini received the updated Community Services Guidelines from Human Services Director Jenifer Charette and shared it with the Board. A letter and the updated Guidelines will go out to all clients.

Operation Fuel Inc.

Mrs. Pellegrini received a Memorandum of Understanding From Operation Fuel, Inc for 2011-2012 and asked the Board for authorization to sign the agreement.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to authorize First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini to sign the Memorandum of Understanding from Operation Fuel, seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

Phone System:

Mrs. Pellegrini had reviewed proposals from three phone vendors and made the recommendation to contract with US Communications for the new phone system based on equipment, customer service and cost.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to contract with US Communications for a new phone system and to authorize First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini to sign the necessary documents, seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

Authorization of Payments:

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to authorize the payments of \$701,231.21, seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes:

July 14, 2011 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting
July 20, 2011 Special Board of Selectmen Meeting

July 25, 2011 Special Board of Selectmen Meeting

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the above listed meeting minutes, seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Pellegrini made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur-Recording

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.