

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, January 12, 2012  
6:00pm  
Selectmen's conference Room**

**Call to order:** First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Members Present:** First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Selectmen Kathy Devlin and Bud Knorr also in attendance Somers Residents.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** all members participated in the pledge of allegiance.

**Opportunity to add agenda items:**

**Swiss Rental Agreement:** Mrs. Pellegrini requested authorization from the Selectmen to sign the agreement with Swiss Cleaners for the bio handling of the linens from the Fire Department ambulance.

*Mr. Knorr made a motion to authorize Mrs. Pellegrini to sign the agreement with Swiss Cleaners, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.*

**Municipal Quick Spend Energy Efficiency Conservation Program**

*Mr. Knorr made a motion to have Lisa Pellegrini apply for the Municipal Quick Spend Energy Efficiency Grant for two projects, expansion of Solar Panel System at the firehouse and energy efficient lighting at Town Hall and to sign any documents necessary for the grant program, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.*

**Senior Advisory Council.** Mrs. Devlin attended the Senior Advisory Council and presented a list of suggestions brought to the meeting. (*See attached document*).

**Correspondence:**

**CERT:**

Mrs. Pellegrini received the Somers CERT mission Statement. Mrs. Pellegrini proposed to the Board of Selectmen that they endorse the Somers CERT Mission Statement.

*Mrs. Devlin made a motion to endorse the Somers CERT Mission Statement, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.*

**STEAP GRANT:**

Mrs. Pellegrini received notification from the Office of Policy and Management that the applications to construct sidewalks along Route 83 and improve the town hall parking lot have not been selected for grant funding through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) for fiscal year 2011-12.

**Red Cross Heroes:**

Mrs. Pellegrini was proud to announce that Deputy Chief Frank Falcone and Fire Fighter Burger were selected by the American Red Cross as Community Heroes of Connecticut for their courage

and selfless acts to save the life of a kayaker stranded in the Willimantic River. She had nominated them for the Firefighter category.

**Fire Protection:**

Mrs. Pellegrini announced to the Board of Selectmen that Total Protection is installing a new fire alarm system at the Town Hall and that it will be completed shortly.

**USDA Grant:**

Mrs. Pellegrini announced that after speaking with Congressman Courtney's office that the USDA grant that she was researching for a new Fire apparatus is actually a low interest loan, therefore the Town will not apply. However, the loan may be an option at the time a truck is actually purchased.

**Boards and Commissions:**

**Zoning Board of Appeals:**

Mrs. Pellegrini announced to the Board that Mr. John Torres, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals gave his resignation on January 10, 2012.

*Mr. Knorr made a motion to accept Mr. Torres resignation with regrets and thanks for many years of service, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.*

**Civil Prep:**

Mrs. Pellegrini recommended Mr. George Collins to serve as the Deputy Director of Emergency Management for the Civil Preparedness Advisory Council based on the recommendation from Emergency Management Director Dan Thayer and from his past service in CERT and during Storm Alfred.

*Mr. Knorr made a motion to appoint Mr. George Collins to serve as the Deputy Director of Emergency Management for the Civil Preparedness Advisory Council, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.*

**Recreation:**

Mrs. Pellegrini received a letter from Recreation Commission Chairman Jeff Jablonski recommending Ms. Jen Charette and Ms. Stephanie Gershowitz to be appointed to the Recreation Committee. No decision was made by the Board of Selectmen pending interviews.

**Building Use Policy:**

Mrs. Pellegrini presented the Updated Building Use Policy to the Board of Selectmen. The changes made to the policy were recommended by CIRMA and our Risk Management Consultant, RMI. Certificates of insurance will be required to use/rent Town Hall property. This protects the Town from liability. Boards and Commission do not need a certificate of insurance as they fall under the Towns insurance, however any other group/committee will need to have a Certificate of Insurance and will need to add the Town of Somers and BOE as additional insured. If the group/committee does not have Insurance they may purchase it through CIRMA (TULIP) Insurance at reasonable cost or an independent carrier.

*Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the changes to the Building Use Policy, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.*

**Freedom of Information Procedure:**

Mrs. Pellegrini received an email from Town Clerk Ann Logan with a suggested form and procedure for requests for Freedom of Information. (*Form and procedures attached*).

***Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the form and procedures submitted by Ann Logan, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.***

**Director of Human Services:**

***Mr. Knorr made a motion to hire Ms. Amy Saada as the Human Services Director, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.***

**Waste Contract:**

The Board of Selectmen did some research on curbside tipping fees; Mrs. Devlin had conversations with former Board of Selectmen members and they all stated that the Town did pay tipping fees on curbside pickup. Mrs. Pellegrini presented a letter written by Mr. Phil Roland dated 4/5/1994 stating that the Town of Somers will pay all required tipping fees for all Somers MSW & curbside received. Mrs. Pellegrini had a conversation with USA Hauling clarifying the history of the fees and DPW staff clarified the fee structure in Suffield. Mrs. Pellegrini also verified that the Contract they currently have with COVANTA is a month to month contract. The selectmen conducted a final review of the bids and discussed them in depth.

***Mrs. Devlin made a motion to use USA Hauling for the Towns waste management and waste hauling, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.***

Mrs. Devlin needed to leave the meeting due to an emergency phone call.

**Authorization of Scheduled Payments:**

***Mr. Knorr made a motion to approve the Authorization of Scheduled payments for the amount of \$598,131.65, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.***

**Approval of Minutes:**

December 15, 2011 10:15am Special Board of Selectmen Meeting

***Mrs. Pellegrini made a motion to approve the minutes for 10:15am December 15, 2011 with the following correction: In Boards and Commissions – appointments Section; the name Joan Reeves should read John Reeves, seconded by Mr. Knorr. The motion passed.***

December 15, 2011 6:00pm Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting

December 16, 2011 11:00am Special Board of Selectmen Meeting

December 29, 2011 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting

January 5, 2012 11:00am Special Board of Selectmen Meeting

January 6, 2012 11:00am Special Board of Selectmen Meeting

January 6, 2012 2:00pm Special Board of Selectmen Meeting

***Mr. Knorr made a motion to approve the following minutes;***

***December 15, 2011 6:00pm Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting***

***December 16, 2011 11:00am Special Board of Selectmen Meeting***

***December 29, 2011 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting***

***January 5, 2012 11:00am Special Board of Selectmen Meeting***

***January 6, 2012 11:00am Special Board of Selectmen Meeting***

***January 6, 2012 2:00pm Special Board of Selectmen Meeting,***

***seconded by Mrs. Pellegrini. The motion passed.***

**Adjournment:**

*Mrs. Pellegrini made a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:45pm, seconded by Mr. Knorr. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur-Recording

*Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.*