

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 20, 2021
6:00pm**

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

Members Present: First Selectman Knorr, Selectman Tim Potrikus, CFO Mike Marinaccio, Chief John Roach, DPW Director Todd Rolland Assistant Finance Director. Selectman Tim Keeney was not available.

Pledge of Allegiance: All members participated.

Local Traffic Authority –

Trooper Mike Hevey made a recommendation to approve the request made by Senior Tribute Committee for the 2021 Senior Class parade route for Sunday June 13th.

Mr. Potrikus made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Knorr. The motion passed.

Trooper Mike Hevey recommends approve the proposed Road Use Permit - Ride for 155 on July 25th.

Mr. Potrikus made a motion to approve the Ride for 155 on Sunday July 25th as proposed, seconded by Mr. Knorr. The motion passed.

Capitol Clean Cities of Connecticut Application: The Capitol Clean Cities of Connecticut works with vehicle fleets, fuel providers, community leaders, and other stakeholders to save energy and promote the use of domestic fuels and advanced vehicle technologies in transportation.

There is no cost to join or to be a member partner. Member benefits include, timely updates on funding opportunities, free fleet cost/benefit analysis, and technical assistance. Mr. Rolland requests that Somers Joins the Clean Energy Coalition

As clean and renewable energy sources become more widely available, one of our goals is to move the Town's fleet toward cleaner more renewal energy sources.

Mr. Potrikus made a motion to sign the application to join the Clean Energy Coalition, seconded by Mr. Knorr. The Motion passed.

Mr. Potrikus suggested that we share this with the community in the next Somers Connects issue.

Budget Analysis – Finance: Mr. Wissinger provided an update on year end financials.

Boards and Commissions – Recreation Appointments – N/A

Scheduled Payments:

Mr. Potrikus made a motion to approve the payments in the amount of \$500,176.77, seconded by Mr. Knorr. The motion passed.

Minutes for Approval:

Mr. Potrikus made a motion to approve the minutes of May 6, 2021 as presented, seconded by Mr. Knorr. The motion passed.

Opportunity to Add Agenda Items:

Fire Department Staffing: Chief Roache is requesting to re hire John Sarnik as a part time EMT/FF.

Mr. Potrikus made a motion to approve the re-hiring of John Sarnik, seconded by Mr. Knorr. The motion passed.

Mr. Potrikus publicly thanked Ann Marie Logan for her initiative for organizing the Town Wide Tag Sale in Somers in coordination with other Towns!!

Mr. Potrikus suggested having a Public Community Forum for the Residents neighboring the Eastman property who are having issues with their wells. Mr. Potrikus asked if there are any State resources we can rely on. Mr. Potrikus offered to moderate the forum with Mr. Jacobs and Ms. Roy present.

Mr. Potrikus added to the agenda: MOTIONS CONCERNING THE CONTINUITY OF GOVERNANCE IN SOMERS

- Preserves the rights of Somers citizens to vote for leadership of Somers while providing for continuity in governance of the community to the benefit of all residents and visitors.
- Creates an environment for discussions between elected officials and municipal management to address significant concerns while respecting the protocols and expectations of the State of CT Freedom of Information legislation
 - Low voter turnout for the most recent referendum; may result in Charter Revision considerations for adoption of future budgets by means other than referendum.
 - Property development issues ranging from residential and municipal projects to complex development opportunities at the Somersville Mill site.
- Addresses the complexity of managing a municipality incorporating organized labor groups, employees, vendors, state agencies, state/federal funding and grants while bridging elected leadership changes as a result of bi-annual municipal elections
- Create a structure for municipal management that does not exceed the current costs for salaries, benefits, stipends, or other good and valuable compensation that has not been provided for under the municipal budget adopted by referendum on May 11, 2021.

Four motions

Mr. Potrikus made a motion that effective July 1, 2021 that the town eliminate the position of CFO while preserving the Charter requirement of a Treasurer, and that there is the establishment on that date of a Somers Chief Operating Officer (COO) who shall report to the Somers Board of Selectman (BOS); and that the BOS shall establish an advisory committee to create no later than October 1, 2021 job description(s) and compensation structure(s) that achieve three primary objectives:

- Defines the essential, administrative and non-essential duties of the COO without diminishing those duties specifically required of a Chief Executive for the town in the form of a First Selectman and Board of Selectmen as currently provided for by Connecticut State Statute and Somers Town Charter.
- Establishes an employment contract of for the permanent COO effective on the date immediately following the swearing in of those individuals elected by vote on November 3, 2021 as First Selectman and Board of Selectmen (“Start Date”) and running through June 30, 2024; and which shall also establish an annual salary for the COO not to exceed 130% of the salary of the town’s CFO; and which shall allow for an annual review by the BOS of the COO to be conducted not sooner than May 1 of each calendar year nor later than June 1 of each year; and which shall provide for annual extensions of one (1) single

year by majority vote of the BOS following such annual review and prior to July 1 of each calendar year.

- Determine whether or not there is a need to establish a position of Finance Director who shall, effective on the Start Date then serve as Treasurer pursuant to the definitions then in place by State Statute and Town Charter; and which shall then establish a salary not to exceed 120% of the salary for the then current Assistant Finance Director.

Mr. Knorr seconded by the motion. The motion passed.

2. *Mr. Potrikus made a motion to appoint Mr. Michael Marinaccio as the Town of Somers COO effective on the Start Date defined more thoroughly in the previous motion. Mr. Knorr seconded the motion. The motion passed.*
3. *Mr. Potrikus made a motion that effective with the conclusion of the current Term for the First Selectman and the Board of Selectman that the Salary of the First Selectman be reduced to an annual stipend of \$24,000 paid monthly or by other cadence as may be recommended by the Treasurer and suitable to the First Selectman; and that neither the First Selectman nor the Board of Selectman shall be eligible for any increase in an annual salary, cash or non-cash benefit, stipend, or other good and valuable consideration for their services under the Town Charter until after the 2023 municipal election for such offices.*
4. *Recommend to the Board of Selectmen consideration of adoption of an Ordinance pursuant to the process outlined in the Charter that substantially defines by ordinance the aforementioned limitation on compensation increases for those elected as First Selectman or members of the Board of Selectmen in all subsequent municipal election cycles. Mr. Knorr seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

Adjournment:

Mr. Potrikus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43, seconded by Mr. Knorr. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim LaFleur

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING

Video of this meeting can be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWqywN77sMI>