

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMAN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2021
6:00pm
Town Hall Lower Level Auditorium**

A.) CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Tim Keeney made a motion to call the meeting to order at 6:02pm

- a. Pledge of Allegiance: All members participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- b. Roll Call: First Selectman Tim Keeney, Selectmen Bill Meier and Robert Schmidt, Assistant Finance Director Brian Wissinger, CFO Michael Marinaccio, Director of Public Works Todd Rolland, Recreation & Leisure Director Maureen Parsell, Library Director Joanne Nitching and Emergency Management Director Glen Reynolds.

B.) PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment: None

C.) EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Keeney stated there was a special Board of Selectmen meeting held in Executive Session at 4pm today 12/2/21. The meeting was for Town Counsel to update the Board of Selectmen on Pending Claims and Litigation Legal Strategy.

D.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN

- a. **Introduction of New Library Director Joanne Nitching:** Mr. Keeney introduced Joanne Nitching and welcomed her to Somers. Ms. Nitching provided an overview of her background.
- b. Ms. Parsell informed the Board of Selectmen of all planned activities for the Holiday Festival Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 3, 2021.

E.) CONSENT AGENDA

- a. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATION

F.) OPPORTUNITY TO ADD URGENT AGENDA ITEMS

G.) FINANCE REPORT

- a. **Report and Update from the Chief Financial Officer:** Mr. Marinaccio provided an update on the following: Bond Counsel, Mahoney & Sabol Draft Audit Report, Upcoming meeting with a Consultant to look at the use of ARPA funds for COVID Small Business Assistance Initiative. Finance conducted interviews for the Accounting Associate position and explained the upcoming Board of Finance process for appointing a new Board of Finance member.

- b. **CIP Committee Update / Discussion- None**

- c. **Transfers/Amendments – None**

- d. **Presentation and approval of scheduled payments:**

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the authorization of Scheduled Payments in the amount of \$306,553.58, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. Discussion. The motion passed.

- e. Discussion and possible action on creation of a budget calendar and budget guidance or Town Departments for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget. Mr. Wissinger presented the department budget Schedule for January and February.

Mr. Meier made a motion to amend the Budget Schedule by moving the Veterans Affairs from January 27th to February 3rd and adding Revenues to February 10th, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion passed.

H.) UPDATES FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS N/A

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

- a. **Approval of IT Governance Committee Recommendations:** Mr. Wissinger provided an update on contract changes, he will bring those items in front of the Board when changes have been made.

- b. Discussion and possible action on approving recommended Vendor for Police Body Cameras and other equipment. N/A

- c. Presentation and approval of appropriations:

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the appropriation for separation payments to the following individuals: Steven Jacobs, Ann Marie Logan, Jessica Miller and Marie Caron in the amount of \$108,696.57, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. Discussion. The motion passed.

This item will then be presented to the Board of Finance and then back to the Board of Selectmen to schedule a Town Meeting.

- d. Discussion and possible action on personnel handbook revisions/Discussion and possible action on revising Elected Officials Separation Payouts with regards to Sick and Vacation time.

Mr. Meier made a motion to amend the personnel handbook, any newly elected official taking office on or after 11/16/21 will not be entitled to payments for any unused time off including but not limited to sick and vacation time, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. Discussion followed. The motion passed.

- e. Discussion and possible action on Town staffing and reorganization i.e. Sanitarian, Town Engineer/Land Use Department. The newly appointed Ad HOC Committee will meet on December 6, 2021 at 5:30pm.

J.) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Local Traffic Authority Approval for Holiday Festival & Tree Lighting on Battle St. scheduled for December 3, 2021. Mr. Rolland presented the Traffic Route, closures and parking for the Holiday Festival as recommended by the Resident Trooper Robert O'Connor.

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the recommendations as presented, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion passed.

- b. Review Recommendations from Pension Committee for Volunteer Fire Fighter Pension Plan Changes: **No Action was taken**

c. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BUSINESS

1. Presentation of Everbridge Notifications and Responses:
Emergency Management Director Glen Reynolds presented his report on the usage of the Everbridge system and asked that the Board of Selectmen approve the Annual Subscription.
2. Everbridge Discussion possible vote on Annual Subscription – this item was tabled. Mr. Reynolds will follow up with Everbridge personnel to find out what the subscription details are and bring back to the Board of Selectmen for approval.
3. Approval of the Resolution and Authorize the First Selectman to Sign the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the Resolution and authorize the First Selectmen to sign the EMPG Grant, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. Discussion followed including the need for a grant budget and an understanding why the Town has not received the grant funds for three years. The motion passed.

d. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1. Recommendation to Hire John Thompson as a Full Time Maintainer:
Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the hire of John Thompson as recommended by Mr. Rolland, seconded by Mr. Meier. Discussion. The motion passed.
2. Recommendation to Approve Eagle Scout Project/Two Benches at Camp Aya-po;
Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the Eagle Scout Project as presented, seconded by Mr. Meier. Discussion. The motion passed. The Board requested for any future Eagle Scout projects, they would like the Scouts to come and present in person at the Board of Selectmen meeting.
3. Open Space and Trails Committee Reappointments. All members would Like to be re-appointed with the exception of Dick Hutton.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to reappoint Ann Moses to the Open Space and Trails Committee with a term expiring on 12/31/22, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion passed.

Mr. Meier made a motion to reappoint Barbara Anderson to the Open Space and Trails Committee with a term expiring on 12/31/22, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion passed.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to reappoint Richard Bailey to the Open Space and Trails Committee with a term expiring on 12/31/22, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion passed.

Mr. Meier made a motion to reappoint Patrice Carson to the Open Space and Trails Committee with a term expiring on 12/31/22, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion passed.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to reappoint Dominic Wilson to the Open Space and Trails Committee with a term expiring on 12/31/22, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion passed.

Mr. Meier made a motion to reappoint Chuck Carson to the Open Space and Trails Committee with a term expiring on 12/31/22, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion passed.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to reappoint Joan Sears to the Open Space and Trails Committee with a term expiring on 12/31/22, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion passed.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to reappoint Eileen Blouin to the Open Space and Trails Committee with a term expiring on 12/31/22, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion passed.

Mr. Meier made a motion to reappoint Michael Blouin to the Open Space and Trails Committee with a term expiring on 12/31/22, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion passed.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to reappoint Todd Rolland to the Open Space and Trails Committee with a term expiring on 12/31/22, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion passed.

Mr. Meier made a motion to reappoint Maureen Parsell to the Open Space and Trails Committee with a term expiring on 12/31/22, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion passed.

4. Authorize the First Selectman to sign the Resolution to operate the Control Gates in the Mill Pond Dam for the 2022 Spring Splash.

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the resolution and authorize the First Selectman to sign the document, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion passed.

e. SENIOR CENTER STAFFING

1. Request to hire Linda Worthington as a per diem Dial-a-Ride Driver for the Senior Center.

Mr. Meier made a motion to hire Linda Worthington as recommended, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. Discussion. The motion passed.

K.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of minutes of November 18, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Selectman.
 - a. The Board of Selectman waives the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting from November 18, 2021 and that minutes of said meeting be approved. **This item was tabled**

L.) ATTACHMENTS

- a. Monthly Department Reports to Board of Selectman **N/A**

M.) ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Meier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24pm, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. 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>