

**3wsTOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMAN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
April 7, 2022  
6:00pm  
Town Hall Lower Level Auditorium**

- A.) CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Tim Keeney called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.**
1. Pledge of Allegiance – All members participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.
  2. Roll Call – First Selectman Tim Keeney, Selectmen Bill Meier and Bob Schmidt, CFO Michael Marinaccio, Assistant Finance Director Brian Wissinger.

- B.) PUBLIC COMMENT:**
1. Public Comment: None

- C.) EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE**

**D.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN:**

First Selectman Keeney stated March 29<sup>th</sup> Veterans Affairs Department hosted a Commemoration of 50 Years of the Vietnam war. The event was initiated by a Proclamation signed by President Trump to designate March 29<sup>th</sup> a commemorative day for the Vietnam War. 50 pre-selected Vietnam veterans were honored and given a certificates. This is one of 6 events between now and 2025.

First Selectmen Keeney participated in a “Fire Ops Day” on April 4<sup>th</sup> hosted in Hartford, CT for public officials, elected officials and news personnel. The intention of this program was to introduce elected officials to the everyday operations of the fire service and to give them hands-on feel for how emergencies are mitigated across towns in CT. Mr. Keeney participated in multiple evolutions including: Fire Attack, search and rescue and Extrication from an automobile. Mr. Keeney was joined by Somers Firefighters Ray Stovall, Scott Minguy and Jeremy Simmons.

**E.) CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Boards and Commissions: Appointments/Resignations

**Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board Appointments:**

***Mr. Schmidt made a motion to appoint the following members to the Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board with a term expiring on 12/22/2023, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.***

Name	Organizational Affiliation
Brian Langan	Fire Department
Cadence Bidwell	Youth
Colleen Meier	Somers Public Schools
Ed DePeau	Educator/Resident
Renata Bowers	resident/business owner
Craig Jones	Somers Police/School Resource Officer
Joe Radziewicz	Resident/Youth Sports Associations
Paula LaJoi	Community/Business owner
Allison Maynard	Chair

**Zoning Commission Appointment:**

***Mr. Schmidt made a motion to appoint Doug Ferro as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Commission with a term expiring on 12/22/23, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.***

**F.) OPPORTUNITY TO ADD URGENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Mr. Meier made a motion to add the following three agenda items:**

- 1. Discussion of Municipal budget**
- 2. Cancel the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting on 4/21/2022 and schedule a special meeting on 4/28/2022**
- 3. Appoint Sydney Flowers to the Conservation Commission.**

**Seconded by Mr. Schmidt, the motion unanimously passed.**

**Discussion of Municipal Budget:** Mr. Meier explained he watched the Board of Finance meeting on 4/5 and was taken back by the tone of the meeting and comments made that were said to represent the Board of Selectmen, which were not his opinion. A lengthy discussion followed.

**Regular Board of Selectmen meeting on 4/21/2022 – Cancel the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting on 4/21/2022 at 6pm and schedule a special meeting on 4/28/2022 at 6pm to accommodate the schedule of Selectman Meier.**

**Appointment of Sydney Flowers to the Conservation Commission.**

**Mr. Meier made a motion to appoint Sydney Flowers to the Conservation Commission with a term expiring on 12/22/2025, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.**

**G.) FINANCE REPORT**

1. Transfers/Amendments – None

2. CFO Finance Report/Updates:

Mr. Marinaccio provided an update on the ARPA Small Business/Non-Profit Grant Funding Program including Items approved by the Board of Finance and then items that need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen, and finally presented the FY 22/23 budget flyer that will go to every household.

3. Presentation and approval of scheduled payments

**Mr. Schmidt made a Motion to approve the authorization of Scheduled payments in the amount of \$332,762.77, a discussion followed, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.**

**H.) UPDATES FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - none**

**I.) PENDING BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and Possible Action on Police Body Camera Vendor contract – Kim Littig, Police Administrator  
Ms. Littig presented the material and contract for the Police and Car Cameras. A lengthy discussion followed.

**Mr. Meier Made a motion to recommend to the CIP committee an appropriation not to exceed 110,000 for the police body camera as presented and to authorize the First Selectman to execute the vendor contract upon receiving the appropriation by the Board of Finance, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.**

**J.) NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and Possible Action on an Ordinance “To Ban the sale and cultivation of recreational cannabis”.

**Mr. Meier made a motion to set a Public Hearing date for April 28, 2022 at 7:00pm for the proposed Ordinance to Ban the sale cultivation of recreational cannabis, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.**

2. Town Wide Tag Sale Request – Dave Marti, Town Clerk

Mr. Marti made a request to have an annual Town wide tag sale to be the First Saturday of May and the first Saturday in October to commence in 2022, his second request that the \$5 fee be waived on these two days annually.

**Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the Annual Town wide tag sale to be the first Saturday of May and first Saturday in October and that the \$5 fee be waived on these 2 days going forward, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.**

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Use Permitting Software – Jen Roy, Zoning Enforcement Officer  
Ms. Roy presented the proposed Land Use Permitting Software be approved as presented. A lengthy discussion followed.

**Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the new Land Use Permitting Software with Permitlink and authorize the First Selectman to sign the agreement, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.**

4. Public Works Department Requests: Todd Rolland, Director of Public Works

4a. Discussion and possible Action on the Crown Castle Request

**Mr. Rolland presented the proposed Crown Castle requests. A lengthy discussion followed.**

4b. Discussion and Possible Action on the Emergency Management Department Request to call a Directors meeting to discuss and Emergency response assignments for the Directors/staff and propose multiple warming/cooling centers be open that affects 10% or more of the Town.

**Mr. Rolland and Emergency Management Director Glen Reynolds presented the above changes to the Board of Selectmen. A lengthy discussion followed.**

4c. Discussion and Possible Action on the Installation of a street sign on the fire training area access road behind the Fire Department

**Mr. Meier made a motion name the access Road off Ninth District to the fire training center in honor of fallen fire fighter Craig Arnone be named Arnone Way and the Public Works Director designate said driveway with the appropriate signage, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously Followed.**

4d. Accept Resignation of John Thompson, Maintainer for Public Works

**Mr. Schmidt made a motion to accept the resignation of John Thompson, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.**

5. Finance Department- Brian Wissinger, Assistant Finance Director

5a. Discussion and Possible Action on Employee Handbook Request- Mr. Wissinger presented the changes with regards to clarifying Vacation Time in the Employee Handbook.

Mr. Wissinger presented the proposed changes with regards to the vacation time in the employee handbook. A lengthy discussion followed. Brian to follow up with Labor Attorney Pat McHale for additional language. Other items such as accrual of sick time will be addressed at a future meeting. The Board of Selectmen want to look at a comprehensive benefit package as a whole. No motion was made at this time.

5b. CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) Request Information Technology

MR. Wissinger presented the IT CIP request for consideration. A lengthy discussion followed.

**Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the CIP request as presented, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.**

5c. CIP Request for the Somers Historical Museum

Mr. Wissinger presented the CIP Historical Museum request for consideration. A lengthy discussion followed.

**Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the CIP request contingent upon review by the Director of Public Works, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.**

6. Recreation and Leisure Services Presentation on Salary Increases for Dial-A-Ride Drivers and Senior Center Supervisor, Discussion and Possible Action. Maureen Parsell, Director of Recreation & Leisure

Ms. Parsell made a request to increase the hourly salary of the Dial –A Ride Drivers hourly wage from \$14.75 to \$18.00 and to also increase the Senior Center Supervisors Position annual salary to \$50-\$55. A lengthy discussion followed.

***Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the appropriation of \$4,100 to pay for the Dial-A-Ride driver’s salary for FY 2022/23, this is contingent upon the approval by the Board of Finance, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.***

**K.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

The Board of Selectmen waives the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting from March 17, 2022 and that minutes of said meeting be approved.

***Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the minutes of March 17, 2022 as presented, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.***

**L.) ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Schmidt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.**

Respectfully Submitted, Kim

LaFleur-Recording

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