

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMAN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm  
Town Hall 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, Fire Chief John Roache, Land Use and Public Works Director Todd Rolland, Human Services Director Matthew Cox.

**B.) PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Public Comment: No public comment

**C.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN**

- First Selectman Keeney asked for all in attendance to bow their heads in a moment of silence for the four Children who passed away in the fire at Quality Ave.
- Selectman Keeney commended Chief Roach for his leadership and all the first responders for their courageous efforts in responding to the 44 Quality Ave Fire. This was an unprecedented event for the community, and it will be a long-term recovery for the families and first responders. Selectman Meier echoed Keeney's comments, Mr. Meier stated, this is a close nit community, there has been a great outpouring of support from the residents.  
Mr. Keeney announced the Town has created an Angel Fund for the families, checks can be made out to The Town of Somers Angel Fund and mailed to 619 Main Street in Somers, CT 06071. Donations can also be made online at [Program: Angel Fund \(recdesk.com\)](#) .The preferred method of donations is cash or check.
- Thursday, January 11, 2024, The Connecticut Siting Council will hold a Public Hearing concerning the Santa Fuel Petition to build a 30+ acre Solar Field on South Road Bordeaux Farm. The purpose of the hearing is to receive evidence on the petitioner's assertions that the construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility will not have a substantial adverse environmental effect. The 2:00 p.m. evidentiary session will provide the petitioner, parties, and intervenors an opportunity to cross-examine positions. **No public comments will be received during the 2:00 p.m. evidentiary session.** The 6:30 p.m. public comment session will be reserved for the public to make brief statements into the record. Public statements are limited to 3 minutes and must be scheduled in advance. During the 6:30 p.m. public comment session, the petitioner will present an overview of the proposed facility. To participate in the **6:30 p.m. public comment session by computer, smartphone or tablet**, please send an email to [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov) with your name, email address and mailing address by **January 10, 2024**. To participate in the **6:30 p.m. public comment session by telephone**, please leave a voicemail message at 860-827-2935 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address by **January 10, 2024**. Public comments may also be submitted to the Council by electronic mail or by regular mail.

**D.) CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Boards and Commissions: Appointments/Resignations:

- a. Accept the resignation of Joseph Marinaccio from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective end the calendar year 2023.

***Mr. Schmidt made a motion to accept the resignation of Joseph Marinaccio from the Zoning Board of Appeals with effective end of the 2023 calendar year, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.***

- b. Accept the resignation of Anne Levesque from the Cemetery Committee with an effective 12/31/23.

***Mr. Meier made a motion to accept the resignation of Ann Levesque from the Cemetery Committee effective immediately, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.***

- c. Accept the resignation of Lianette Sheehan from the Cultural Commission effective 12.29.23.

***Mr. Schmidt made a motion to accept the resignation of Lianette Sheehan from the Cultural Commission effective 12.29.23, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.***

- d. Appointment of Daniel Blinn to the Ethics Committee with a term expiring on 12.22.25.

***Mr. Meier made a motion to appoint Daniel Blinn to the Ethics Committee with a term expiring 12.22.25, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.***

**E.) OPPORTUNITY TO ADD URGENT AGENDA ITEMS – None**

**F.) FINANCE**

- a) Transfers and Appropriations

***Mr Schmidt made a motion to approve the Transfer in the amount of \$9,034.00, from Land Use Regular Salaries to Fire Department Regular Salaries, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.***

- b) CFO Finance Report/Updates:

Mr. Wissinger announced the Assessor completed the Grand List. There was .175% growth over last year. A discussion followed.

- c) Presentation of Scheduled Payments

***Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the scheduled payments in the amount of \$69,173.01, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.***

**G.) UPDATES FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS- None**

**H.) PENDING BUSINESS**

1. CIP Requests Fire Department – **John Roache**

- a. Replace Service 246 – Ford Expedition Proposed Acquisition Cost: \$85,000

***Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Project - replacement of Service 246 with the Ford Expedition in the amount of \$85,000.00, seconded by Mr. Keeney. Mr. Meier abstained due to lack of information. The motion passed.***

- b. Mini-split HVAC unit Proposed Acquisition Cost: \$10,000 – ***This item was tabled.***

c. Radio infrastructure upgrades Proposed Acquisition Cost: \$65,000

***Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Project request for Radio infrastructure upgrades in the amount of \$35,000. And to rework the description that will be used for the potential acquisition of additional power sites in conjunction with Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.***

d. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) – Qty 7 Proposed Acquisition Cost: \$82,000

***Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Project for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Qty 7 in the amount of \$82,000., seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.***

**I.) NEW BUSINESS**

1. Human Services Department Budget Presentation – **Matthew Cox**  
Matthew Cox, Human Services Director presented the Human Services Department Budget. A discussion followed.
2. Public Works Department Budget Presentation - **Todd Rolland**  
Todd Rolland, Land Use and Public Works Director presented the Public Works Department Budget. A discussion followed.

**J.) Approval of Minutes of December 21, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.**

The Board of Selectmen waives the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting from December 21, 2023, and that minutes of said meeting be approved.

***Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the December 21, 2023, as presented, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.***

**K.) ADJOURNMENT-**

***Mr. Schmidt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur-Recording

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