

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMAN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 21, 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, CFO Brian Wissinger, Assistant Treasurer Michael Marinaccio, Land Use and Public Works Director Todd Rolland, Emergency Management Director Anne Cournoyer, Police Administrator Kim Littig, Trooper Justin Preuss, Superintendent Sam Galloway, Town Assessor Karen Neal, Chairman of the Housing Authority David Pinney, Marylou Hastings member of the Housing Authority and two residents of the Woodcrest Elderly Housing on Battle Street

B.) PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Public Comment: None

C.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN:

The First Selectman Tim Keeney presented the following items:

- The Connecticut Siting Council ruled that the Petition No. 1592 Santa Fuel, Inc. that the 3.85 Megawatt AC solar electric generating facility located at 159 South Road, Somers, Ct and associated electrical generating facility would have a substantial adverse environmental effect, would not meet all applicable United States Environmental Protection Agency and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection air and water quality standards, and therefore denied the petition for a declaratory ruling for the proposed solar photovoltaic electric generating facility. For the record the Town provided a letter supporting the project but expressing several concerns.
- Mr. Keeney asked Registrar of Voters, David McCaffrey to speak about early voting and the cost associated with early voting.

Mr. McCaffrey presented the following:

- April 2, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary is 4 days of early voting. The early voting personnel cost is \$4,000.
- August 13, 2024, State Primary is 7 days of early voting. Early voting personnel cost is \$8,000.00.
- November 5, 2024, Presidential Election is 14 days of early voting. 12,000. Early voting personnel cost is \$12,000.00.
- The Registrar of Voters office received a State Grant to offset some of the early voting for the Presidential Preference Primary in the amount of \$10,500.00.

D.) CONSENT AGENDA

1. Boards and Commissions: Appointments/Resignations:

- a. Appointment of John Kelleher to the Cultural Commission with a term expiring on 12.22.2024.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to appoint John Kelleher to the Cultural Commission with a term expiring on 12.22.24, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.

E.) OPPORTUNITY TO ADD URGENT AGENDA ITEMS: None

F.) FINANCE

a) Transfers and Appropriations – None

b) CFO Finance Report/Updates:

Mr. Wissinger provided an update on the following items:

- The Board of Assessment Appeals: The Board of Assessment Appeals met on Wednesday March 13, 2024. 7 Appeal applications were submitted, three were heard, three were no-shows and one of the applications was denied because the appeal was not submitted by the deadline. The Board of Assessment Appeals reduced the grand list by \$841,880. at the current mil rate results in a tax decrease of \$23,834.00.
- Merchant Service Accounts: Mr. Wissinger is researching Merchant Accounts because of the rising fees. Finance is running a test machine from a new merchant in the tax department and will eventually transfer the remainder of the machines to this merchant. The anticipated savings will be \$600. to \$1,000. annually
- Salary Pool: Mr. Wissinger asked if Elected Officials will be part of the salary pool. This is a Board of Selectmen decision.
- Cemetery Committee- Mr. Meier would like to see the structure and charges of the Cemetery Committee and the role of the Chief Financial Officer and Board of Selectmen. Mr. Wissinger commented that the trust documents are in their second draft, and Morgan Stanely is reviewing them as well. That will solidify the authority of the funds; this is for the investment side. For the locally operated funds, the Town may need to draft an ordinance to outline what the cemetery funds can be used for.

c) Presentation of Scheduled Payments

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the Scheduled Payments in the amount of \$433,960.55, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.

G.) UPDATES FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSION:

1. Housing Authority Update – David Pinney Chairman

Mr. Pinney provided an update on the Housing Authority and some of the challenges they are facing.

- Mr. Marinaccio commented that the Town abated the taxes on phase one and phase two. There is an agreement between the Town of Somers and Somers Housing Authority. In the agreement, it states that the funds you would have paid in taxes will benefit the facility. Mr. Marinaccio would like to see a statement annually from the Housing Authority identifying how the funds that they would have paid in taxes benefit the facility.

H.) PENDING BUSINESS – None

I.) NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to approve the Authorizing Resolution and to direct the First Selectman to execute and deliver any and all documents for the FY23 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Application. Todd Rolland

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the Resolution and authorize the First Selectman to execute any and all documents for the FY23 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Application, seconded by Mr. Schmidt the motion unanimously passed.

2. Local Traffic Authority Request: Shenipsit Striders Trail Running Club on Sunday, May 19, 2024, between the hours of 9am-2pm. Kim Littig and Trooper Justin Preuss
Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the Local Traffic Authority Request as

presented for the Shenipsit Strider Trail Running Club on Sunday, May 19, 2024, between the hours of 9am-2pm. Seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.

3. Amended Traffic Control Requirements Approval Request: This rule requires the use of uniformed Police Officers for traffic control on Roads in the Town of Somers. Kim Littig and Trooper Justin Preuss
Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the Amended Traffic Control Requirements Request, subject to review every three years in 2027, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.

 4. Request to formally separate FF Jeff Greene from Town employment per the terms of the Somers Fire Fighters Union Contract, Local 4284, IAFF.
Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the request to formally separate Firefighter Jeff Green from Town employment per the terms of the Somers Fire Fighters Union Contract, Local 4284, IAFF. Seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.

 5. Request Approval of Colliers as the HVAC Project Manager. Dr. Sam Galloway
Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the request to approve Colliers as the HVAC Project Manager, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.

 6. Request and Approval of bid waiver for Vision Government Solutions to perform Revaluation Services. Brian Wissinger and Karen Neal
Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the bid waiver for Vision Government Solution to perform Revaluation Services, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.

 7. Authorize the First Selectman to execute any and all documents related to Revaluation.
Mr. Schmidt made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign any and all documents related to Revaluation, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.
- J.) Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.
The Board of Selectmen waives the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting from March 7, 2024, and that minutes of said meeting be approved.
Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes of March 7, 2024, as presented, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.
- K.) **ADJOURNMENT**
Mr. Meier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:21pm, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur-Recording

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.