

Town of Somers

**Special Town Meeting
Minutes**

Monday, October 06, 2008

The Town of Somers Special Town Meeting of October 6th was called to order by First Selectman, David Pinney at 7:02 p.m. There were approximately 52 citizens in attendance.

Item 1

A motion was made by P.Carson, seconded by K.Walton and unanimously voted to elect David Pinney as moderator of the Special Town Meeting.

Item 2

A motion was made by K.Walton, seconded by P.Carson and unanimously voted to confirm the appointment of Paige Rasid as an alternate member of the Zoning Commission.

Item 3a

Motion made by K.Walton, seconded by R.Martin and unanimously voted to transfer \$36,065 from multiple accounts for fiscal year 2008 in order to cover deficit in Legal-Unions account.

Item 3b

Motion by K.Walton, seconded by K.Devlin and unanimously voted to appropriate \$23,625 from grant funds, received that this purpose, to the Farmland Preservation manual being developed by the Connecticut Council of Municipalities.

Item 4

State Statute allows a town, through its governing body, to adopt a resolution granting additional tax relief to farmers for machinery and structures. Currently, there is a \$100,000 assessed value exemption for farm machinery. The passage of the resolution will allow for an additional \$100,000 exemption. Structures have an exemption of \$100,000 of assessed value with no additional exemptions allowed.

P.Carson stated the passage of this resolution is in accordance with the Plan of Conservation and Development. Residents commented that they would like to see land within Somers remain as farm and open space rather than being developed.

P. Juda, Town Assessor, anticipates a tax impact of approximately \$15,000 between both structures and machinery. The exemptions must be applied for annually and specific qualification met as defined by State Statue.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to adopt the resolution for farm buildings and machinery exemption.

Item 5

State Statue currently exists that allows Towns to grant and tax exemption of \$1,000 to fire and ambulance volunteers. The Town of Somers fire and ambulance volunteers opted for a \$1,000 stipend. The Statue was amended to include active volunteer canine search and rescue teams. The Ordinance, specific to volunteer canine and rescue teams, authorizes a \$1,000 abatement from taxes. The abatement must be applied for

annually and the 'team' must maintain certain certifications, continued education and serve without compensation.

A motion was made by J.Tolisano, seconded by K.Walton and unanimously voted to approve the passage of the ordinance authorizing a tax abatement for members of volunteer canine search and rescue teams.

Item 6

The Town and the Northern Connecticut Land Trust desire to purchase approximately 138 acres which is a portion of the property owned by the Trappe family. The Town and the NCLT is prepared to execute a purchase and sale agreement. The total purchase price for the property is \$550,000. The parties have jointly applied to the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program and has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$275,000. Each party agrees to contribute 50% of the balance of the purchase price, \$137,500. The Town of Somers portion will come from the Open Space Fund which developers pay a fee in lieu of land donation.

A motion was made by P.Carson, seconded by K.Walton and unanimously voted to authorize the town to enter into agreements with the NCLT to acquire the 138 acre Trappe property for open space preservation.

Item 7

A motion was made by P.Carson, seconded by K.Walton and unanimously voted to grant a drainage easement to the Woodcrest Elderly Housing Development. Previously the Town of Somers owned the property prior to development and the water flowed over Town property. The property was transferred to the Housing Authority, therefore, the water now drains from Town property to Housing property and therefore, requires a drainage easement.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn the Special Somers Town Meeting of October 06, 2008 at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Logan
Town Clerk