

7/28/23

Somers voters to decide on community center, HVAC

By Susan Danseyar
STAFF WRITER

SOMERS — All required town boards have approved bonding resolutions for a new community/senior center and a heating, ventilation and air-conditioning upgrade project at Somers Elementary School that will appear on two separate ballot questions that officials say could turn out to be the most difficult decisions voters will make on Nov. 7.

The new center would replace the 32-year-old senior center, which officials have said has outgrown its use, with a modern, expanded facility that would serve the needs of all residents, not just those ages 55 and older. Seniors would be the priority during the day while other age groups could use it in the evening as well as various times during the day.

The HVAC and electrical im-

provement project for the elementary school would improve air quality and provide air-conditioning. The building, which was formerly the town's high school, currently only has air-conditioning in the main office, preschool, and library.

The resolutions — unanimously approved by the Capital Improvement Projects Committee on July 18, the Board of Selectmen on July 20, and the Board of Finance on Tuesday — authorize an appropriation of \$3.2 million for the community/senior center and \$10.5 million for the HVAC project, with both authorizing financing by issuing general obligation bonds and notes not to exceed the appropriated amounts.

Officials will hold a special town meeting on Oct. 26 at Town Hall where officials will present an overview of both proposed projects to explain why they think the town needs them, their

anticipated costs, and answer questions. The special town meeting will not have a vote but will move the agenda to the election on Nov. 7.

Selectman William Meier III said last week that the decision should definitely go to voters because there will be significant costs. In particular, he said, the community/senior center will essentially be an empty building but will need staffing and fixtures that he estimates will cost at least \$800,000.

"This is a significant capital improvement that has the potential to raise the tax rate by .75 mills," Meier said. "Voters need to know that."

Director of Finance Brian Wissinger said GWWO Architects, which the town hired to for a design study, added a 3.5 percent escalation cost to build the center at today's prices. He also added a 3.5 percent escalation cost to the HVAC project,

which Consulting Engineering Services, which the Board of Education hired for the project, estimated to cost \$9.4 million.

Stephanie Levin, director of business services for the district, told the Board of Finance that the schools will apply for a state grant when the HVAC Indoor Air Quality Grants Program for Public Schools, a program established by Gov. Ned Lamont's administration through the state Department of Administrative Services, opens its second round of applications this summer.

The town spent a lot of time on plans for the proposed community/senior center and found residents to be engaged in the project.

There were 723 responses to an October survey that asked what activities residents would like to see at the center and how the space should be used. Officials said the number of re-

sponses provided an excellent representation of the town.

Over 50 percent of respondents said they would like a fitness center, a group fitness studio for yoga, aerobics, or stretching, and an indoor walking track. Other popular choices include a gymnasium, rental space for meetings, parties, or events, game room, and a lounge area.

Last August, the Board of Selectmen held a special town meeting on funding studies for the new center and an HVAC study for the town's three schools. Since that time, the Board of Education decided to concentrate its efforts on just the elementary school.

A few residents who have children at the elementary school said that they've been inside the building and found it heat so oppressive in April and May that they worry the students can't learn in such conditions.

**Town of Somers
Legal Notice**

A certified list of Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Somers for election as First Selectman, Selectmen, Board of Finance Full Term, Board of Finance Four Year Term, Board of Finance Two Year Term, Board of Education Full Term, Board of Education Two Year Term, Library Board Full Term and Library Board Two Year Term is on file in my office at 600 Main Street, Somers, CT 06071, and copies thereof are available for public distribution.

The certified list as received includes fewer names of party-endorsed candidates than the party is entitled to nominate for the following offices:

Office	Number of Names Certified	Number Entitled to be Nominated
First Selectmen	0	1
Selectmen	1	2
Board of Finance- Full Term	1	2
Board of Finance- 4 Year Term	0	1
Board of Finance- 2 Year Term	0	1
Board of Education- Full Term	1	3
Board of Education- 2 Year Term	0	1
Library Board- Full Term	1	3
Library Board- 2 Year Term	0	1

A Primary will be held September 12, 2023, if, for a particular office, the number of party-endorsed candidates plus the number of candidates filing petitions pursuant to Section 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes exceeds the maximum number which the party is entitled to nominate for that office. Petitions must be filed not later than 4:00 pm on August 9, 2023. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules may be obtained from:

Gloriajean Scheiber, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 600 Main Street, Somers, CT 06071
David Marti
Town Clerk - Town of Somers
Publication: 07.28.2023

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**LEGAL NOTICE
SOMERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of Somers, CT will hold a public hearing and regular meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Auditorium, 600 Main Street, Somers, CT to consider the following:

ZBA23-005 - 120 Watchaug Road LLC, 120 Watchaug Road, Somers - Appeal of Zoning Enforcement Officer's denial of application to construct a 76' x 120' approx.. 9000 square foot utility building replacing an approx.. 3500 square foot demolished utility building.

Interested persons may appear and be heard and/or written communications received. A copy of the application is available for review in the Land Use Office, Somers Town Hall.

Dated at Somers, CT this 20th day of July 2023
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Dean Hills, Chairman

7/28/23

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tributes

Craig Joseph Ferro

Craig Joseph Ferro, passed away from a 3 1/2 year courageous battle with Esophageal cancer, at the age of 43, on Monday, July 24, 2023 with his family by his side.



He was the beloved husband of 18 years to Stacy (Barnes) Ferro and the loving father of his four beautiful children Cole, Rylee, Shane and Greyson. Craig was born on June 10, 1980 in New Milford, CT to Bernard Ferro III and Janet (Ingegneri) Ferro. Craig had a career spanning over 20 years with Cooker Construction, most recently as the company manager foreman. Outside of work, he excelled at every activity that grabbed his interest, whether it was playing and teaching his children how to play hockey, or fixing things around his home. Craig enjoyed spending time with his family at their vacation home in New Hampshire, where they enjoyed snowmobiling and skating in the winter and boating and various water activities in the summer. He will be remembered for his strong work ethic, his zest for life, his determination, his physical and mental strength and most importantly his love for his family, friends and animals, who will miss him dearly. He truly was his family's Super Hero and always will be! Craig can always be seen through Cole's ability to be so focused on a career in helping others, Rylee's loving and helping nature of all she comes in contact with, Shane's strong

will and determination and Greyson's compassionate and funny ways. He managed to be fierce, but fair and completely genuine in all he did.

In addition to his wife and children, Craig is survived by his sister, Ashley Farr and husband Tim of FL, his brother, Douglas Ferro and his wife Jenna of Somers and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and close friends. His family will receive relatives and friends from 4-7 p.m. on July 30, 2023 at the Somers Funeral Home, 354 main Street, Somers. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on July 31, 2023 at St. Michael Church, 128 Maple Street, East Longmeadow, MA. Burial will be private, at the convenience of the family. Memorial donations can be made in Craig's memory to the "Ferro Family Support Fund", C/O Webster Bank, 637 Main St., Somers, CT 06071. For online condolences, please visit <http://www.somersfuneralhome.com>

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Place a memorial to remember a loved one

Call 203-330-6306
or email obituaries@hearstmediact.com