

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 20, 2024
6pm
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, Director of Business Services Stephanie Levin, Superintendent Sam Galloway, Department of Corrections Representatives Matthew Keen and David McCluskey, Chief Keith Allard, President of the Somers Fire Association Keith Burger and representatives of the Gilbane Building Company.

B.) PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Public Comment: None

C.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN:

First Selectman Tim Keeney presented the following Items:

- The Ad Hoc Affordable Housing Committee will be meeting on June 24 at 6:00 p.m. for their first meeting. The TYCHE agreement for the Affordable Housing Consultant was reviewed and amended by the Town Attorney.
- The Governor put out an advisory for the extreme heat for the next few days. Anyone in need of a cooling center can dial 211 to get information about where they can find the nearest cooling center. Somers policy for opening cooling centers at Town Hall and the Senior Center is only applicable when 10% of residents lose power.
- The Summer Concert Series begins this evening, the concert this evening is being moved to the Congregational Church from 6pm-8pm due to the extreme heat.

D.) CONSENT AGENDA

1. Boards and Commissions: Appointments/Resignations:

- Appointment of Jeremy Bourque to the Water Pollution Control (WPCA) as an alternate member with term expiring 12.22.24.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to appoint Jeremy Bourque to the Water Pollution Control (WPCA) as an alternate member with a term expiring 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: Transfer Request:

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the Transfer of \$15,000. from Contingency to Land Building Services to engage Tyche Planning and Policy Group for development of an Affordable Housing Plan, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.

b) CFO Finance Report/Updates:

Mr. Wissinger updated the Board of Selectmen on the following items:

- Mr. Wissinger and Todd Rolland, Director of Land Use and Public Works will be presenting a Roads Plan including sidewalks for bonding at a future Board of Selectmen meeting.
- Tax Bills will be mailed out next Thursday June 27th.

c) Presentation of Scheduled Payments

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the payments in the amount of \$399,110.59, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.

G.) UPDATES FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSION – None

H.) PENDING BUSINESS - None

I.) NEW BUSINESS

1. Accept the Cost Proposal from Gilbane Building Company for the HVAC Upgrades at the Somers Elementary School. Stephanie Levin and Sam Galloway
Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the cost proposal from Gilbane Building company for the HVAC upgrades at the Somers Elementary School and authorize the First Selectman to execute any documents related to the contract, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.
2. Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP) Presentation. Matthew Keen and David McCluskey of the Department of Correction
Mr. Keen presented the Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP) and asked the Board of Selectmen for a letter of support.

Mr. Meier made a motion to support the Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP) and approve the First Selectman to sign a letter of support.
3. Fire Department Staffing Request. Request to hire Matthew Worden as a part-time Firefighter/Paramedic with a starting rate of \$27.06 of a Firefighter/EMT until such time he can obtain local medical control. The offer is conditional on an acceptable physical, drug screen and a background check. Chief Keith Allard
Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the Fire Department staffing request to hire Matthew Worden as a part time Firefighter/Paramedic with a starting rate of \$27.06 of a Firefighter/EMT until such time he can obtain local medical control. The offer is conditional on an acceptable physical, drug screen and background check, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.
4. Discussion on Digital Sign located at the Fire Department. Keith Burger
Mr. Burger apologized for not bringing the plans for the digital sign in front of the Board of Selectmen prior to the proposed installation. Mr. Meier requested having the Zoning Enforcement Officer draft some rules that the Board of Selectmen can adopt for digital sign usage. A discussion followed.

5. Staffing Request. Request to hire David Lenart as the Fire Chief with annual salary of \$120,000. And a start date of 7/8/24 pending an acceptable background check.
Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the staffing request to hire David Lenart as the Fire Chief with an annual salary of \$120,000 with a start date of July 8, 2024, pending an acceptable background check, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.
Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the employment agreement as amended, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.

- J.) Approval of Minutes of June 6, 2024, Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.
The Board of Selectmen waives the reading of the minutes of the Special Meeting from June 6, 2024, and that minutes of said meeting be approved.
Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the minutes of Special June 6, 2024, Board of Selectmen meeting, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion unanimously passed.
- K.) **ADJOURNMENT**
Mr. Schmidt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur-Recording

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.