

NOVEMBER 14, 2011 – SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes of a special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Somers held on Monday evening November 14, 2011 at 6:35 PM at the Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, New York.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Mary Beth Murphy
	Councilman	Harold R. Bolton
	Councilman	Richard G. Clinchy
	Councilman	Frederick J. Morrissey
	Councilman	Thomas A. Garrity, Jr.

ABSENT:

Also present was Patricia Kalba, Deputy Town Clerk.

The Supervisor said that it was in order for the Board to enter into an executive session with regard to personnel matters.

Thereupon motion of Supervisor Murphy, seconded by Councilman Morrissey, the meeting was adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters at 6:35 PM to return that evening.

7:30 PM – meeting reconvened

The Supervisor said that at the last meeting the Board discussed some changes to the Tentative Budget. She said that those changes included the reinstatement of two Police Officers, the Maintenance person in the Town House and the Parks position. She said that there was an adjustment to the Health Other line; they added a Fund Balance allocation to cover the cost of the Police Officers. The Supervisor said that she made some additional changes that she had emailed to the Board. She explained that she noticed that the staff in the Building Department had inadvertently not received the 1 ½% increases, she corrected that and took the additional money from the Master Plan Committee. She said that she also added \$1,500.00 to the Historian Line. The Supervisor asked if there were any other changes that the Board would like to make.

Councilman Morrissey asked if with the changes they were still under the 2% tax cap. The Supervisor said that they were by \$438.00.

Councilman Clinchy asked if by taking the money from the Master Plan Committee that would preclude the ability to complete the Master Plan. The Supervisor said that she did not believe that it would. She said that the Town Board had to get involved in that process through the hands of the Planner. She said that she had spoken to Westchester County Planning about soliciting their help to complete the document. Councilman Clinchy said that it may be difficult for the Planner to do with reduced hours. The Supervisor said that they could make it a priority, it could be completed.

Councilman Bolton asked if the Conservation Board was mandated by Law. The Supervisor said that she did not believe that it was, it was created by Town Law. She explained that they would have to make a modification to the Town Law, which they had scheduled a public hearing for in December. Councilman Bolton said that they were going to have to go through the entire volume of the Town Law to make sure the Conservation was removed. He said was that going to cost the Town in legal fees. The Supervisor said that the Town Attorney drafted the Local Law for the Board to adopt; if there were any other places in the Code where the Conservation Board existed she did not think that would cost additional legal fees. Councilman Clinchy said as he mentioned at the last meeting he had a conversation with the Conservation Board with regard to keeping their function and he asked them to look for way to do so. He said that he thought that some of the members may be present that evening but they were not. Councilman Morrissey asked Councilman Clinchy if they had gotten back to him with any ideas. Councilman Clinchy said that it was his understanding that they were still trying to figure out something. He said that he will reach out to them to see if they had

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come up with anything. Councilman Morrissey asked Councilman Clinchy how many members were present at the Conservation Board meeting. Councilman Clinchy said that there were three to four members present.

Councilman Bolton asked why they were putting money back on the Town Historian line. The Supervisor said that at the last meeting the Board had asked her to look into that and that was what she came up with. Councilman Morrissey said that it was still a reduction. Councilman Garrity said it was more of a stipend, similar to what they gave a Chairman of a Board. Councilman Clinchy said that if they eliminate the line they may not come back. Councilman Bolton said that having a Town Historian was mandated by State Law and it was his understanding that all of the Town Historians in the area was more like an honorary position.

Councilman Bolton asked if the change that was being made was going to fully fund the Police Officers. The Supervisor explained how she was going to cover that budget line. She said that it was going to be tight and it was going to have to be monitored.

Councilman Clinchy asked they had discussed the Dog Control line. The Supervisor said that they discussed that line before the Tentative Budget was issued. She said that it was reduced because they were not going with the SPCA. She said that she had found another Kennel that would do it at no cost to the Town. The Supervisor continued that they also removed the new vehicle from their budget request and that was where the reduction was coming from.

The Supervisor asked if the Board was comfortable with the budget as it was. She explained that it was for the Town Board to adopt the Preliminary Budget and if they would like to make more changes to it that was what they needed to do at this time.

Councilman Bolton asked what they were doing with Parks and Recreation, were they still moving the Town House Maintenance person to the Parks. The Supervisor explained that they were not moving that position; it was not cost effective to the Town and explained that to Councilman Bolton.

Councilman Clinchy said that there was a question that they had about the Teen Lounge. He asked the Supervisor if she had a chance to talk to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. The Supervisor said that she did not speak with him although she will and get back to the Board. She said that the change could be made to the Preliminary Budget, especially a reduction. She said that they needed to know if they were going to be able to come within the tax cap because of they were not a public hearing would have to be scheduled. The Supervisor said to leave it there for now and it could be removed later.

The Supervisor said that first item was to set the salaries for the Elected Officials

Thereupon motion of Councilman Garrity, seconded by Councilman Bolton, it was,

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 108 of Town Law, the Town Board does hereby specify the proposed salary for the Supervisor to be included in the Notice of Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for the year 2012.

Supervisor Murphy – Recused.

Supervisor	\$95,392.00
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Councilman Clinchy said if there was some additional money in the budget it was fair that the Supervisor receive an increase to her salary, it had not increased in four years. The Supervisor said that she appreciated the thought although given what the Board was looking at in terms of layoffs and reduced hours she would respectfully decline the idea of an increase.

Thereupon motion of Supervisor Murphy, seconded by Councilman Garrity, it was unanimously,

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RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 108 of Town Law, the Town Board does hereby specify the proposed salaries to be included in the Notice of Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for the year 2012:

Town Board	\$12,182.00
Town Clerk	\$68,253.00
Superintendent of Highways	\$96,624.00

The Supervisor said that the Board had a number of meetings with regard to the issuance of the Tentative Budget and a number of meetings afterwards it was in order to adopt a Preliminary Budget for the year 2012, which included everything that had been discussed to date.

Thereupon motion of Supervisor Murphy, seconded by Councilman Garrity, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Town Board after review of the Tentative Budget, made changes, alterations and revisions as the Board deemed advisable, including modifications to personal services lines, which result in changes to Social Security Tax and Medicare Tax, adopted the Tentative Budget with changes therein to date as the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Somers for the year commencing 2012.

The Supervisor said the next item was to set the date for the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget.

Thereupon motion of Supervisor Murphy, seconded by Councilman Garrity, it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby schedule a public hearing to be held at the Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, New York, on Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 7:30 P.M., to consider the year 2012 Preliminary Budget for the Town of Somers.

Thereupon motion of Councilman Garrity, seconded by Supervisor Murphy, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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Deputy Town Clerk