

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
April 28, 2009
(Subject to Approval)**

PRESENT: First Selectman H. William Davis, Jr.
Selectman Carol Hubert
Selectman Kenneth Kerin
Selectman Barbara McLaughlin

NOT PRESENT: Selectman John Turk
Selectman Stuart Somers

ALSO PRESENT: Treasurer Bill Sarosky and Assistant to the First Selectman Jennifer Naylor.

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Davis called the Special Meeting of April 28, 2009 to order at 8:35 a.m. in Room 208 of the Town Hall.

TRANSFER AND DATE OF TOWN MEETING

First Selectman Davis read the resolution concerning the transfer of funds for the Pomperaug River Improvement Project at River Trail and the scheduling of the necessary Town Meeting. Treasurer Sarosky noted that the Town will be reimbursed for the \$92,369.86 by grants from the State and Federal Governments. The money is needed now because the project will take two to three weeks and must be completed by June 30th.

Upon a motion Sel. Kerin, seconded by Sel. Hubert, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Southbury Board of Selectmen hereby approves and refers the following Transfer to the Board of Finance:

#09-10 DEPARTMENT: Highway Department

FROM:	Fund Balance	\$92,369.86
TO:	River Trail Project	\$92,369.86

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby schedules a Town Meeting to be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 205 of the Town Hall to act on the above transfer.

STATE POLICE CONTRACT RESOLUTION

First Sel. Davis explained that the State Police want a resolution authorizing him to sign a contract specifically for the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009. He has already signed the contract. Mr. Davis said the State Police took the language about two state troopers out of the contract. Mr. Davis read a letter from Lt. Bednarz saying that Southbury may use independent data collection software in addition to NexGen. Sel. Hubert moved to table the Resolution until the next regular meeting of the Board. The consensus was in agreement.

INDEPENDENT POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED DISCUSSION

Sel. Kerin said the state police would put in a split modem for NexGen. Treasurer Sarosky said NexGen would be put on the new server which was being put in tonight. Mr. Sarosky said Lt. Bednarz said about 60 incidents a month were being reported.

In answer to a question from Sel. McLaughlin, First Sel. Davis reported that the police union had rejected the town's request that the police give up their raise for next year.

Sel. Kerin reported on research he has done. Only two towns have left the state trooper program in the last 26 years, Cromwell in 1983 and Redding in 2002. He said that, in Cromwell, the Board of Selectmen is the Police Commission. Also, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, and Newington do not have a police commission at all. Their police chiefs are merely department heads. The Wethersfield town manager told Sel. Kerin that not having a police commission keeps politics out of the police. First Sel. Davis noted that having a police commission does not have to be a part of forming a police department.

After some discussion it was decided to ask the police chiefs in Middlebury, Naugatuck, and Waterbury to come and visit the Southbury police station and then meet with and advise the Board of Selectmen on what would be needed to form an independent police department with respect to: facilities and equipment (including cars), additional training, a proposed organizational structure, need for a detective, etc.

There was a discussion about a proposed organizational structure of the police department. The consensus settled on having a police chief, a second in command, and three corporals or sergeants. It was suggested that the chiefs might be asked what was needed at first and what might be needed five years out. Sel. McLaughlin said she thinks one of the corporals (or sergeants) should be made a detective sooner rather than later.

There was discussion about just what the state police trooper cost the town. Treasurer Sarosky will check on the state police trooper's overtime for the last three years.

Sel. Hubert said she thought the Board of Selectmen should have a special meeting and invite the Board of Finance to come in order to put the case for an independent police department to the Board of Finance. There was general agreement. Wednesday, May 6th after the budget referendum was suggested as a good time.

Sel. Kerin brought up two items: a timing agenda for the two informational meetings on May 13th and 27th and an informational handout for the meetings. After discussion, the consensus was that Sel. Kerin would draft an informational handout and be the one to make a 15 or 20 minute presentation at the informational meetings. First Sel. Davis will make a 5 minute introduction at the beginning of the meetings and then act as moderator. There will be a question and answer time after Sel. Kerin's presentation. It was suggested that the police come to the meetings in case there were questions they could best answer.

Sel. McLaughlin said she had been asked the reasons for keeping the state police trooper.

Sel. Hubert moved, seconded by Sel. Kerin, to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 a.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Bagger