Town of Seymour

Board of Finance

Minutes

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Seymour Middle School Library Media Center

Members present: Matt Thompson, William J. Nett, William Fournier, Pete Peering, Andrew Greene, Kristina Kemelich, Michelle Walsh, and Jay Kishile

Item # 1 - Call Meeting to Order

The Chairman, Matt Thompson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Item # 2 - Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Item # 3 - Setting of Alternate

Michelle Walsh was seated for Nancy Enrique.
Statement #4 - Public Comment

Carol Alston, the head librarian, noted the library sponsored over 100 programs for the public with more than 5,000 people attending. Approximately 70 percent of the Seymour residents are holders of library cards. The library currently has 6 full-time staff and 3 pages. The average staff for a library the size of Seymour is 10.

Marlene Mielko, the superintendent of Seymour public schools, indicated that Richard Kellner had prepared a minimum budget for the Board of Education.

Richard Kellner, the assistant superintendent, submitted a minimum budget, as directed by the Board of Education. Mr. Kellner also explained the "minimum budget requirement" as outlined by the State Education Department. The MBR is $2 below what the state will take away. Two dollars for every dollar not funded by the town. Mr. Kellner fielded several questions from the Board and the public regarding the MBR.
Ingrid Wednesday encouraged the Board to give education a high priority and she wanted more residents to vote during the budget referendum.

Sandy Barclay said the town leaders have always been problem solvers and she encouraged the Board to be creative.

Start #5

Remarks from the Chairman

The second referendum represented approximately $50.3 million on a 2.60% net increase over the 2009-10 budget. Had the proposed budget passed, the mill rate would have increased by 1.75.

Mr. Thompson and other people questioned what would happen should a budget not be adopted by June 15. Mr. Thompson indicated he would work with the First Selectman and town counsel to get an answer to this question.

The First Selectman, Mr.Paul Hey, expressed his opinion the Board of Education should receive a $300,000 increase over the 2009 budgeted amount.
The Board of Finance reiterated its position that it did not want to use any more money from fund balance.

Item # 6 - Take action on 2010/2011 budget
Motion to reduce the鲍 by $698,682 for a zero percent increase over the 2009 budget amount.

Motion: Ken Greene  Second: Bill Scaife
Vote: 6-1 (Mal Thompson, Bill Scaife, Bill Scaife, Michelle Wald, Pete Fitzgerald and Ken Greene)
No: 1 - Kristen Kvenling
Motion: O

A discussion ensued concerning the use of furlough days. The Finance Director estimated the cost savings per day would be savings for town employees only were approximately $26,000.

The Finance Director also explained that a 2 percent reduction in the salary line item for the town employees is approximately $104,000. The Board decided to let the Fire Chief make the decision on how to implement a 2 percent reduction in the salary line item.

The Board discussed reducing the library book account by $2500, the library page account by $4000, the contingency labor account by $5,000, and the police uniform salary account by $71,000.

The Board also discussed increasing the property tax
Amount by $15,000 and the supplemented can the amount by $15,000.

motion to reduce the municipal budget of $258,586 for a 1.5 percent increase over the 2009 budgeted amount.

Motion: Bill Pauett, Secon: Michelle Walsh
VOTE: 5 - Yes (Mark Thomas, Bill Pauett, Bill Swinch, Michelle Walsh, and Peter Gelfgarten)
2 - No (Len Greene and Kristen Framlingham)

The new proposed budget to go to the vote on May 25 totals to $9,371,280 representing 0.63 percent increase over the 2009 budget amount or 1.098 increase in the mill rate.

A question was posed to the Finance Director concerning the impact with the Tri-Town Plaza legal settlement agreement would have on the budget. Mr. Greene responded that a payment of approximately $41,000 would have to made from the 2010 budget, probably from the illegal settlements line item. The question was also raised about the budget on the grand list and Board would like to know the amount.
Item #7 - Adjournment

A motion was seconded to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:30 pm.

Submitted by

Mad Henry
Chairman