MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, March 4, 2014 – 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall


ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.
Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:02 PM.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.
Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.
Ed Schuk, 7 Country Club Drive, spoke about the proposed AT&T tower and is frustrated. He feels that many of the members of the board have decided in favor of the AT&T tower. He mentions that he has seen hundreds of cell phone towers and not one was in a residential area.

Theresa Conroy, 177 Skokorat Street, thanked the board for putting Livable Communities Advisory Committee on the agenda. Briefly spoke with the 10-Year Strategic Planning Committee to see how the two committees can work together and make Seymour a better community.

Tom Bennet, 4 Fairway Lane, expressed his opposition to the proposed AT&T tower. He stated he has yet to hear how the income will be allocated. He stated that the project offers nothing to people in neighborhoods of this area. He believes that a tower of that nature does not belong in a residential neighborhood. He stated that the studies done with regard to adverse health affects may be misleading.

Bill McKierenan, 2 Country Club Drive, highlighted the letter signed by town executives in support of the proposed tower. He stated that he is a part of the public safety personnel and does not see where the benefit is. He stated that public safety communications are elsewhere in town and Great Hill is their third communication backup. He stated that the new tower will not improve public safety communications. He asked the board to please take that into consideration.

Marsha Schuk, 7 Country Club Drive, asked why the response report from the 25 questions asked at the public hearing was not available yet. The lack of the report leads her to become suspicious. She believes that the public should have an opportunity to look at the response report. She believes that the proposed cell tower is about money. She asked the board to take the concerns into consideration.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from February 4, 2014 special meeting.
Motion to approve minutes from February 4, 2014 special meeting.
Motion: Annmarie Drugonis Second: Len Greene, Jr.
Vote: 7-Yes
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes
0-No
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
0-Abstain
Karen states that Marsha is spelled wrong throughout the February 4, 2014 minutes. Mike Kearny’s remarks were lacking in detail and should state ‘French Memorial Park’ and ‘stones for Korean and Vietnam Wars.’

**ITEM #5: First Selectman’s Report.**

- Kurt attended the National Conference of Regions in early February in Washington DC, representing the town of Seymour and Valley Council of Governments. He found the meetings and events to be very worthwhile and educational. While there, he had a chance to meet with Congresswoman DeLauro and Senators Blumenthal and Murphy. During those meetings he stressed the need for additional rail service through the Waterbury corridor.
- He attended a meeting of all of the communities in the 3rd Congressional District, hosted by Congresswoman DeLauro to discuss what is going on in Washington this spring.
- He attended the 2014 COST Annual Meeting and Expo
- He met with Fred Messore, Mark Nielsen of VCOG and representatives from Milone and MacBroom to continue discussions on the Greenway trail for Seymour. They are working on next steps and a potential timeline for construction.
- He met with representatives from HR Consulting about the potential of a new time clock system for town hall. We are currently in the process of reviewing it capabilities and benefits.
- He took part in a panel discussion for Junior Achievement with Fred Messore and Christine Syriac. The event was held at Basement Systems. While there, they were able to see the new Boom Town office area that was recently installed.
- He met with representatives from Winters Brothers to look at ways to reduce costs with our recycling program. The meeting went very well and he expects to have some savings to report to the Board of Finance in the coming weeks.
- The employee annual review process is finishing up. The last few reviews with department heads will be completed this week. The process went very well and each employee was given 4 target goals to work on during 2014.
- He will be presenting my budget to the Board of Finance tomorrow night. During that review, he will be discussing with them the overall financial position of the town including debt service, fund balance, long range planning and capital planning. Assuming all goes well, he will be presenting the 2014-2015 capital plan to this board at our first meeting in April for approval.
- Union contract negotiations for the Clerks, Administrators and DPW are still going on. We are currently 8 months outside of contract. We will be starting the Police Unions contract in the next few weeks.

**ITEM #6: Discussion and take possible action on 2014 Founder’s Day request.**

Kurt read letter as follows:

February 4, 2014

Dear Mr. Miller,

Seymour will be experiencing its Fifth Founders Day on June 1st, 2014 (rain day June 8, 2014) in celebration of its history and heritage. The event will be held from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and will encompass the entire downtown area, Main Street from the Trestle Tavern to the Strand Theater including Bank, First, Columbus
and part of Deoress Streets, they will be closed to vehicles and open to only pedestrian traffic. The street will be filled with vendors, amusements and other forms of entertainment.

We are anticipating the festival will attract not only local residents by many visitors from other areas. Therefore: it is our hope that you will provide us the use of these parking lots on the above dates. Seymour Community Field, Seymour Community Parking Lot, The Strand Theater, the parking area at 115 and Main Street known as the Metro North Lot, but owned by the town, the Wakely Street lot across from the Citizens Engine Company, and the Town Hall Lot for handicap parking, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

The Seymour Founders Day Association wishes to thank you in advance for the help and support.

Judith Simpson

Kurt expressed concern for the use of the Community Center Field for parking because of the Skate Park. Paul suggested that the Parks Commission put a fence around the Skate Park so the vendors won’t go near it.

Discussion about the parking at the community center followed.

Motion to grant permission to Seymour Founders Day Committee to use the parking lots as requested in their letter dated February 4, 2014.

Motion: Paul Roy
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmariie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes
Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action on the following proposed ordinances.

Town Counsel Richard Buturla explained the mechanics of ordinance. He stated that under section 7.5 in the Charter it states that a public hearing should be held and in this case, two were held. After the Ordinance is passed it should be filed with the Town Clerk. All ordinances, upon passage shall be published within 10 calendar days in a newspaper and every ordinance shall become effective on the date specified or on the 21st calendar day after passage.

   a) Friends of the Broad Street Park Committee.

Motion to add Friends of the Broad Street Park Committee ordinance.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmariie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes
Second: Annmarie Drugonis
0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

   b) 10-Year Strategic Planning Committee.

Motion to add 10-Year Strategic Planning Committee ordinance.

Motion:
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmariie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes
0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
c) **WPCA Depreciation Expense.**
   a. Kurt asked that this ordinance come back before this board in the future because there are still some outstanding questions that need to be answered.

Motion to postpone action on the WPCA Depreciation Expense ordinance.

- Motion: Al Bruno
- Second: Annmarie Drugonis
- Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
  - Kurt Miller – Yes
  - Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
  - Paul Roy – Yes
  - Len Greene Jr. – Yes
  - Al Bruno – Yes
  - Karen Stanek – Yes
  - Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

**ITEM #8: Discussion and take possible action on 2014 Small Cities Resolution.**

Kurt read resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing pursuant to Public Law 93-3 83, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to distribute such Federal monies to local municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the TOWN OF SEYMOUR make application to the State in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF SEYMOUR:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Par VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,
2. That the filing of an application by the TOWN OF SEYMOUR in an amount not to exceed $400,000 is hereby approved, and that First Selectman W. Kurt Miller is hereby authorized and directed to file such application with the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions therefore to act as the authorized representative of the TOWN OF SEYMOUR.

Lisa Low stated that she believes this is a great program and they will be doing housing rehabilitation if the grant is awarded. This will afford the opportunity for 10-12 homes to be improved for low to moderate income Seymour residents.

Deirdre Caruso stated that they are already asking for letters of intent from residents and have been promoting the program.

Lisa stated that a part of the application process is to establish a waiting list so it is important to spread the word around about the program. She continued to explain the details and the lifecycle of the program.

Motion to accept the resolution as read.

- Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
- Second: Al Bruno
- Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
  - Kurt Miller – Yes
  - Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
  - Paul Roy – Yes
  - Len Greene Jr. – Yes
  - Al Bruno – Yes
  - Karen Stanek – Yes
  - Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
ITEM #9: Open proposals for 2014 Small Cities Grant consultant.
Kurt summarized the 2014 Small Cities Grant proposal letter. One bid from Lisa Low & Associates of Oxford, CT was opened.

Motion to turn the proposal over to Town Counsel and Grants Manager Deirdre Caruso for a recommendation back to Board of Selectmen
Motion: Karen Stanek
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes
Second: Len Greene, Jr.
0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

ITEM #10: Discussion and take possible action on 2014 Seymour Fire Department and Seymour Ambulance Association tax abatements.
Motion to accept the recommendation of the Chief of Seymour Fire Department and the Chief Seymour Ambulance Association for the 2014 Seymour Fire Department and Seymour Ambulance Association tax abatement program.
Motion: Len Greene, Jr.
Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Votes were rescinded.

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Chief of Seymour Fire Department and the Chief of Seymour Ambulance Association, with the exception of the abatement request for Krista Goodman, being $1,000.00 as opposed to $1,500,000.
Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Vote: 6-Yes 0-No
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Abstain
Paul Roy – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes
Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
1-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

ITEM #11: Discussion and take possible action on First Selectman’s Livable Community Advisory Committee.
Kurt stated that the Livable Community Advisory Committee’s first meeting is Thursday, March 13th at 7:00 P.M. This committee will make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for any ways that will make downtown more livable for people with disabilities, the elderly, etc. He stated that in the capital plan he will present next month, he will be recommending $28,000.00 for infrastructure repairs to downtown to improve mobility for people with disabilities. A resident, who works for AARP, Representative Theresa Conroy, Economic Development Director, Fred Messoire, and Town Engineer, Jim Galligan, will assist and consult this group.

Motion to appoint Lucy McConologue, Gerry Eckhardt, Saundra Gesek, Betty Musto, Suzanne Reilly, Karen Baker, Joe Luciano, Bonnie Wilkes, and Len Greene, Jr. to the Livable Communities Committee.
Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Vote: 6-Yes 0-No
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Second: Al Bruno
1-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
ITEM #12: Update on employee performance measurement initiative.
Len explained that Dennis has come through with the first round of foundational information. Len explained that the data is quite detailed. He gave the following example: in the past, where Public Works was using estimates, they are now using exact figures. He stated that at the next Board of Public Works meeting, they are going to begin the analysis of all the collected data. Len stated that the 10-Year Strategic Planning Committee is interested in making the initiative program as part of the strategic plan.
Len will give next update at next Board of Selectmen meeting.

ITEM #13: Discussion and take possible action on proposed AT&T tower.
Kurt listed all the correspondence and research collected so far regarding the proposed AT&T tower. Kurt read letter from Mr. and Mrs. Schuck as follows:
February 7, 2014
Dear Mr. Miller and members of the Board of Selectmen,
As we are unable to attend the Selectmen’s’ meeting on Feb. 18, 2014 we are writing to again express our concerns over the proposed AT&T Cell Tower construction at the Great Hill Hose Company at 140 Botsford Road. As we have expressed at the last 3 selectmen’s’ meeting we are very much opposed to this project for a number of reasons. We do not feel a cell tower of any sort should be constructed in the middle of a residential area. Homeowners in this area pay significant taxes to the town and this proposal will decrease the value of our homes. We doubt that our homes will be assessed less but market value may certainly be affected if this cell tower is constructed.
AT&T has proposed to turn this tower over to the town. In a letter from AT&T attorneys, Cuddy & Feder, dated Jan. 17, 2014, and sent to Mr. Miller and member of the Board of Selectmen, several sentences gives us great concern. These are quotes from that letter. “Like the existing tower, the proposed replacement would be owned by the Town of Seymour but would have be capable of hosting AT&T antennas as well as additional antennas of commercial carriers as well as those of those belonging to public agencies” Additional sentences state, “As the tower will still belong to the Town of Seymour, it would remain in the Town’s control and space on the tower would be available to the Town subject to any lease agreements for others on the tower that the Town agrees to. The tower would remain in control of the town long term just as the existing tower would. Any revenue from additional tower tenants would go to the town.” These sentences really worry us. This proposed tower can potentially be filled with equipment from other carriers thus looking like the tower located by Molto Bene restaurant on Wakelee Avenue in Ansonia. It is an eye sore and certainly would have a negative look to the neighbors and neighborhood surrounding the fire house property.
The $18,000.00 annual rent from AT&T is insignificant considering the loss of revenue Seymour could collect if AT&T had to pay property taxes on the tower. We don’t feel this is a very good deal for Seymour but a great deal for AT&T.

AT&T has expressed a need for a new facility to provide reliable wireless services to residents and visitors in that area. I’m sure there are other locations that could fulfill AT&T’s needs. The Fire House property is an easy fix for AT&T but at the expense of the neighbors and neighborhood.
As we have stated at previous meetings, if this tower was proposed in your front or backyard we are pretty confident you would be against it. We respectfully request you vote down his proposed tower and suggest AT&T find another location.
Sincerely, Marsha Schuck & Edward Schuck.

(The February 18th 2014 meeting ended up being cancelled).

Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, stated that the town continues to be in active negotiations with AT&T and they are presently waiting for a response.
Paul Roy asked where the answers to the 25 questions that Mrs. Schuck mentioned. Kurt apologized and will get it taken care of. The Board agreed to not make any decisions on this matter until more information is presented and they are ready to take action.

Motion to strike the AT&T proposal from the agenda.
Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria          Second: Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
Kurt Miller – Yes  Al Bruno – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  Karen Stanek – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes  Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes

ITEM #14: Discussion and take possible action on soliciting quotes pursuant to Section 2-268e-1 of the Seymour Code for a plow truck.
Kurt pointed out the opinion letter requested by Dee Caruso from Richard Buturla with regards to purchasing a plow truck. They thought it would be a good opportunity to use LoCIP funds. Rich stated that Dee advised him that if they went through the competitive process, it wouldn’t be completed in time. Rich stated that the ordinance includes an exception and continued to explain. He stated that this situation seems to fit the exception spelled out in the ordinance.
Sean Walsh spoke about the current truck and the issues Department of Public Works is having with it. He agreed that by purchasing a new truck it would be a good opportunity to take advantage of that LoCIP money.
Discussion on purchasing the plow truck and the timeline of purchasing the plow truck continued.

Motion to direct the Board of Public Works to solicit quotes for the purchase of the 3,500 tradesman regular cab 4x4 Dodge with plow and sander pursuant to section 2-268e Seymour code.
Motion: Karen Stanek          Second: Len Greene, Jr.
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
Kurt Miller – Yes  Al Bruno – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  Karen Stanek – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes  Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes
Vote: 7-yes

ITEM #15: Discussion with Recreation Director.
The Recreation Director could not make the meeting.

ITEM #16: Executive session
None.

ITEM #17: Appointments
Motion to appoint Robert Koskelowski Sr. to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a term of two (2) years, expiring December 1, 2014.
Motion: Len Greene, Jr.          Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
Kurt Miller – Yes  Al Bruno – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  Karen Stanek – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes  Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes

Motion to reappoint Steve Kulas to the Conservation Commission for a term of two (2) years, expiring on March 18, 2016.
Motion: Karen Stanek
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annamarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes
Second: Paul Roy
0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Motion to reappoint Kathleen Conroy Cass to the Economic Development Commission for a term of two (2) years, expiring on March 19, 2016.
Motion: Paul Roy
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annamarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes
Second: Karen Stanek
0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Motion to appoint Josh Watson to the Skate Park Committee for the rest of the Committee’s term.
Motion: Len Greene, Jr.
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annamarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes
Second: Paul Roy
0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

ITEM #18: Tax Refunds/Abatements.
Motion to approve Tax Refunds/Abatements from February 12, 2014 as read.
Motion: Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annamarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes
Second: Len Greene, Jr.
0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Motion to approve Tax Refunds/Abatements from March 4, 2014 as read.
Motion: Al Bruno
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annamarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes
Second: Annmarie Drugonis
0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

ITEM #19: Transfers.
None.

ITEM #20: Correspondence.
- Resignation letter from Paul Thompson resigning from the Planning & Zoning Commission effective immediately.
- Resignation letter from Paul Thompson resigning from the Library Board of Directors effective immediately.
- Resignation letter from John Popkik resigning from the Board of Police Commissioners.
- Letter addressed to Tony Caserta from Carol Ralston announcing her retirement effective June 30, 2014.
- Letter addressed to Kurt from Mary Ann Magda announcing her retirement effective March 28, 2014.
- Letter from Dennis Rozum addressed to Kurt requesting $4,800.00 of LoCIP money to repair potholes.
- Check registers.
- Chart showing that the Discount Prescription Drug Program has saved the residents of Seymour $19,778.94 so far.

**ITEM #21: Public Comment.**
None.

**ITEM #22: Selectmen’s Public Comments.**
Karen Stanek spoke briefly about Paul Pawlak who died February 23rd. She respectfully suggested naming the new Fish Bypass Ladder and park after the honorable Paul Pawlak. Karen also spoke briefly about Howard Simpson who died February 26th.
Kurt stated that the flags are at half-staff for Paul Pawlak.
Karen stated that she spoke with Fred Messore about Seymour Lumber and he said that the developers will be withdrawing their offer.
Kurt stated that he has not received a formal confirmation but that is the way they are leaning. Rory and Kurt, by consultation from Town Counsel Richard Buturla, called a meeting of the Board of Condemnation, which includes Kurt, a representative from the Naugatuck Valley Health District, and an inspector from Planning & Zoning, Town Engineer, and Town Counsel. They will discuss taking proactive steps with Seymour lumber. The meeting will be held next Monday at 3:30 PM.
Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, stated that if that board is formed by an ordinance, anyone can attend.
Karen asked for an update on LoPresti School.
Kurt stated that he will have something to take action on at next meeting. He stated that there are three outstanding issues with the developer.
Karen asked if someone can contact the state to have the work “GAS” put on the blue sign on Rte. 8 where it says EXIT 22: Food, Phone, and Lodging.
Kurt stated he will follow up.

Paul Roy stated that the Skate Park Committee is meeting tomorrow night and will set their grand opening date. They are looking at an opening date of April 19th. They will be getting some entertainment and/or some professionals to come to the Skate Park on that date. He asked if there has been a replacement for Jim Baldwin on Planning & Zoning. Kurt explained that there were enough members. He also asked what happened at the Police Department with the realignment of offices. He stated that he doesn’t know all the facts but people have asked questions about it.
Richard Buturla advised the board to put the discussion about the Police Department recent decisions on the agenda and invite the Police Commissioners to speak about it.
Al Bruno stated that he learned about the passing of Patty Kozey. She has a young son his son's age and is very sad for the family.

Annnmarie Drugonis asked to have the quarterly reports for each department for the April meeting. Kurt stated that he will have them available. Annnmarie asked about the protocol on the tax abatements and what are the qualifying standards? Kurt stated he doesn’t know specifically and he can get the information.

Len Greene, Jr. publically recognized and thanked about a dozen members of EMS, Fire and Police Departments for helping out and raising money for the locally founded Karli Mae Foundation.

**ITEM #23: Adjournment.**
Motion to adjourn at 8:26 PM.
Motion: Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No
Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes
Len Greene Jr. – Yes

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Reviewed by W.Kurt Miller
First Selectman

Submitted by Lianna Staffieri
Recording Secretary