MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2016 – 7:00 PM
Norma Drummer Room – Town Hall

Members Present: W. Kurt Miller, Nicole Klarides-Ditria (arrived 7:25 PM), Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, Len Greene Jr. and Stephan Behuniak
Members Absent: Karen Stanek
Others Present: Town Counsel Rich Buturla, Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee Trish Danka, Jen Magri, Kathie Vrlik, Don Smith, Jeff Dussetschleger, Walter Birdsell, Chairperson of the Communications Commission Thomas Eighmie and Sean Walsh

Item #1: Call meeting to order
The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance
All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3: Public comment
Walter Birdsell – 42 Jupiter Drive: The resident expressed concern about a blight issue occurring near his home and gave pictures to the Selectmen to look at. He specifically took issue with the state of the fence and ice skating rink on the property.

Joseph Luciano – 3 DeForest Street: A letter from Joseph Luciano regarding concerns about the 38 Columbus Street project.

Item #4: Approve minutes from March 1, 2016 regular meeting
A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2016 regular meeting.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.  
Second: Annmarie Drugonis  
Vote: 5-0

Item #5: First Selectman’s Report
Lockton, the Town’s insurance brokers, came in today. Because during the last round of union negotiations, all employees were put on one of two plans, the Town was able for the first time in a long time to put its health insurance out to bid. Bids were received from a variety of companies including CIGNA, Anthem, Aetna and others. Anthem, the Town’s current provider, came in with no increase and at the moment the Town is leaning towards staying with them. We also want to investigate CIGNA’s MMP plan, which is kind of halfway between self-insurance and a PPO. It could potential save as much as $587,000 in year one, but it all depends on whether there are a lot of claims in a given year.

Item #6: Presentation and discussion with Strategic Planning Committee
Trish Danka gave a brief overview of the Strategic Planning Committee's progress:
The Committee gave their end-of-year update in December so they are just presenting newest version. They have completed departmental interviews and will be 75% through boards and committees by end of March. This version includes all departmental recommendations but none from the boards and committees. They restructured the plan but the table of contents may still change. There is a lot of new material in this version given the amount of information they reviewed. They recommend changing the reporting requirements for the First Selectman to semiannually because quarterly proved to be too frequent. They tried to make recommendations specific enough to bring about change without micromanaging the process. Individual departmental templates, in same form as the plan, will be appended to final document for reference. The next steps will be finishing and incorporating boards & commissions but several have declined to take part. Then the Committee will conduct public outreach, probably consisting of internet surveys and interactive public meetings.

Len: Is there any way that the Selectmen can help get all the boards and committees involved?  
Trish: I’ll leave it to your discretion but we think it would be valuable to have their input.  
Kurt: As the progress progresses we may come to a point where we will compel involvement.

Kathie Vrlik, chairperson of the Communication Subcommittee for the Strategic Planning Committee introduced a video series. The Subcommittee worked with Wildcat Productions, Mike Catanese’s High School marketing class, to create a video series tying student activities to the strategic plan. Then, with the help of Melissa Leonard and Ken Fay at Comcast’s public access studios, recorded videos with the First Selectman. They did great work and learned how to use the equipment in a matter of hours. They also showcased some of the great programs at the high school that most people don’t know about. We will be working with them to make this a standing program and hopefully eventually transition into a regular feature. The videos will air on public access intermittently and will be posted to social media as well.

A motion was made to add to the agenda: Discussion and take possible action regarding transition to VOIP system

**Motion:** Len Greene Jr.  
**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria  
**Vote:** 6-0

**Discussion and take possible action regarding transition to VOIP system**

Board of Selectmen:

As you may recall, we came to you in 2014 to request permission to migrate all municipal internet services to the State of Connecticut’s Nutmeg Network, a fiber network. Because we have had success with this transition, we have been investigating changing our phone systems to a VOIP (voice over internet phone) system through the fiber.

The Board of Education is in the process of making this transition and we would like to follow suit. The cost of this system would be approximately $300 less per month less than we are currently paying. Therefore, we would like to authorize Digital Backoffice to go ahead with this transition.
Thank you, Tony Caserta, Director of Operations

A motion was made to grant authority to the First Selectman or Director of Operations to enter into an agreement with Digital Backoffice to transition the Town's phone systems to VOIP:

**Motion:** Len Greene Jr.  
**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Discussion:**
- Len: Just noting that the “P” in VOIP stands for “Protocol.” Also, will this impact emergency services?
- Kurt: No, it shouldn’t. This is different from the radio communication.
- Stephan: If the system goes down during a storm, will it affect our ability to communicate with residents?
- Kurt: No, I can always use my cell phone to utilize Code Red in case of emergency.
- Al: What about future maintenance costs?
- Kurt: Nothing extraordinary because it’s the same fiber we use for internet.

**Vote:** 6-0

**Item #7: Discussion and take possible action on Covanta Amendment**

Rich: We received an amendment from Covanta’s attorney. I couldn’t reach him because he’s on vacation. I spoke to Mark Bobman from Covanta but he wasn’t able to answer all my questions. I recommend that you table this item until I can speak to their attorney.

A motion was made to table the item.

**Motion:** Stephan Behuniak  
**Second:** Len Greene Jr.

**Vote:** 6-0

**Item #8: Discussion and take possible action on memoranda of understanding (MOA)**

**a. MOA with City of Ansonia regarding Nolan Field**

RESOLUTION REGARDING MOA WITH THE CITY OF ANSONIA

WHEREAS, the City of Ansonia has offered to assist the Town of Seymour by providing access to Nolan Field, Ansonia, Connecticut for the purpose of sharing certain public safety communication gateways, antennas and Public Safety Data Network;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that W. Kurt Miller, First Selectman, on behalf of the Town of Seymour is hereby authorized to enter into that certain Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Ansonia, for the purpose of sharing certain public communication gateways, antennas and Public Safety Data located at municipal sites.

A motion was made to accept the resolution as read:

**Motion:** Al Bruno  
**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Discussion:** Tom Eighmie: This is a resolution to place equipment in Ansonia to move forward with our emergency communications system and improve coverage.

**Vote:** 6-0

**b. MOA with Regional Water Authority regarding 151 Roosevelt Drive**
RESOLUTION REGARDING REVOCABLE LICENSE AND AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Town of Seymour ("Town") and the South Central Regional Water Authority (the "RWA") intend to enter into a certain Revocable License and Agreement pursuant to which agreement the RWA will permit the Town to install remote transmitters, receivers, and required simulcast equipment in a building on the Authority's property at 151 Roosevelt Dr., Seymour, CT (Referred to as Land Unit SE 1 in the Authority's Land Use Plan).

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that W. Kurt Miller, First Selectman, on behalf of the Town is hereby authorized to enter into that certain Revocable License and Agreement with the RWA.

A motion was made to approve the resolution as presented:

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis     Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Discussion: Annmarie: Will this improve coverage on Route 34?
Tom: Yes, we had a gentlemen's agreement with the RWA's predecessor. This is just formalizing that.

Vote: 6-0

RESOLUTION REGARDING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION CENTER, INC.

WHEREAS, the Town of Seymour ("Town") and Northwest Connecticut Public Safety Communication Center, Inc. ("Northwest") intend to enter into a certain Memorandum of Agreement whereby the parties agree to collaborate to enable the connection of the Northwest Radio Console to the State of Connecticut's statewide communication system through the usage of console gateways and the Public Safety Data Network located at the Seymour municipal site.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that W. Kurt Miller, First Selectman, on behalf of the Town is hereby authorized to enter into that certain Memorandum of Agreement with Northwest.

A motion was made to approve the resolution as read:

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria     Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

Item #9: Discussion and take possible action regarding resolution endorsing 2016 Flood Resilient and Fish-Friendly Road/Stream Crossings in Oxford and Seymour grant application

RESOLUTION
PARTNERSHIP WITH HOUSATONIC VALLEY ASSOCIATION: PLANNING FOR FLOOD RESILIENT AND FISH-FRIENDLY ROAD/STREAM CROSSINGS IN SEYMOUR

WHEREAS, the frequency and magnitude of severe storms and flood events are expected to increase in the coming years due to climate change, and previous severe weather events like Tropical Storm Irene (2011) and Superstorm Sandy (2012) have illustrated the need for pro-active management of town infrastructure;
WHEREAS, road/stream crossings (i.e. culverts) built using traditional methods may not be adequately designed to support predicted increases in precipitation and severe storm events—making them more vulnerable to flooding—and in many cases present barriers to fish and wildlife passage;

WHEREAS, water resources were identified as the top conservation priority in Seymour’s 2002 Plan of Conservation and Development;

WHEREAS, the Town does not currently have a road/stream crossing management plan to help inform future decision making;

WHEREAS, the road/stream crossing management plan that this partnership would produce could be a valuable tool for securing future funding for culvert replacement projects that will improve fish passage and decrease flood risks;

NOW, therefore be it resolved that the Town of Seymour supports partnering with the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) to assess road/stream crossings and commits to meaningful participation including provision of in-kind services and joint grant-seeking efforts. This project will lead to the production of a road/stream crossing inventory and management document that can be adopted into the town’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

A motion was made to approve the resolution as presented:

**Motion:** Annmarie Drugonis  **Second:** Al Bruno

**Discussion:**

Tom Eighmie: The Housatonic Valley Authority mapped all stream crossings in Seymour and we told them which were vulnerable to flooding based on the flooding we had in 2009 and 2011. This application would cover design and construction of the most vulnerable to act as a sort of pilot program.

Len: Will this impede future roadwork?

Tom: No, if anything it gives us valuable information for future projects.

Len: Will it better position us for grants?

Tom: I believe so.

**Vote:** 6-0

**Item #10: Discussion regarding potential changes to ordinances**

a. **Blight**

The only change being proposed is regarding definition for ordinary public view. The current language is, “shall mean the view from public property or the public right of way from average grade surrounding the property.” The proposed change is, “shall mean the view from the average grade surrounding the subject property from public property, a public right-of-way or private property in reasonably close proximity to the subject property.”

b. **Adult Businesses**

The Selectmen will be putting forward Milford’s ordinance as a basis for Seymour’s.

Stephan: Will people still be able to apply for the ability to open adult businesses and we will have the discretion?

Kurt: It depends on the type of business, but yes.
Item #11: Set public hearing for Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 6:15 PM in the Norma Drummer Room regarding potential changes to ordinances
   a. Blight
   b. Adult Businesses
      A motion was made to set a public hearing to gather public comment on the proposed changes to the blight and adult businesses ordinances.
      
      Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria  Second: Annmarie Drugonis
      Vote: 6-0

Item #12: Executive session (union negotiations – 5-day work week)
A motion was made to enter executive session at 7:56 PM.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria  Second: Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to exit executive session at 8:11 PM noting that no action was taken.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.  Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Vote: 6-0

Item #13: Appointments
Al Yagovane  Friends of the Broad Street Park  Expires: 3/18/18

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria  Second: Len Greene Jr.
Vote: 6-0

William Wilkins Jr.  Friends of the Broad Street Park  Expires: 3/18/18

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria  Second: Len Greene Jr.
Vote: 6-0

Sandy Cass  Friends of the Broad Street Park  Expires: 3/18/18

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria  Second: Len Greene Jr.
Vote: 6-0

Tom Lavranchuk  Friends of the Broad Street Park  Expires: 3/18/18

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria  Second: Len Greene Jr.
Discussion: Stephan: Lavranchuk is spelled with a “u,” not an “a.”
Vote: 6-0

Beverley Kennedy  Friends of the Broad Street Park  Expires: 3/18/18

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria  Second: Len Greene Jr.
Vote: 6-0

Mike Horbal  Friends of the Broad Street Park  Expires: 3/18/18

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria  Second: Len Greene Jr.
Item #14: Tax Refunds/Abatements
A motion was made to approve the tax refunds and abatements in the amount of $15,62 as presented:

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 6-0

Item #15: Transfers
A motion was made to approve Control #5 in the amount of $10,000 for repairs and maintenance to Public Works vehicles.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak
Vote: 6-0

Item #16: Correspondence
Check Registers
Letter from Joseph Luciano regarding 38 Columbus Street Project
Letter from ConnDOT regarding a crosswalk for the Broad Street Park
A letter from Town Clerk Susan DeBarber asking the Board of Selectmen to review the ordinance limiting the maximum Justices of the Peace

Item #17: Public Comment
There was no public comment.

Item #18: Selectmen's Public Comments
Stephan: I just want to reiterate my comments from last meeting about the streetlights on Ansmour Road. I spoke to Rory and I know it would be expensive but the residents think it’s a big issue.
Kurt: I spoke to the Chief of Police about increasing their presence for the time being. It doesn’t make financial sense for us to put up a light only to convert it when we do the LED project so it may be a few months.

Nicole: I attended the stand-up comedy fundraiser for the Seymour Middle School mentoring program set up by assistant principal Ernie DeStasi and Board of Education member Ed Strumello. I enjoy being a mentor and I recommend everyone do it if they can. It’s only 30-45 minutes once a week on the students’ lunch break. The event next year is March 16th for those who want to attend.

Kurt: I recently had a conversation with Mr. DeStasi and he’s looking to expand the program.

AI: There’s graffiti at the fish bypass on the underpass. Also there has been damage done at Gary Park from an ATV. It was also great to see the videos from the High School students. They did a great job.

Kurt: We’ve reported the graffiti to ConnDOT.

Annamarie: Congratulations to the Seymour cheerleaders for their great job this past weekend. Also, congratulations to the High School students who worked on the videos, they were great.

Len: I encourage Public Works to look at catch basins, especially on Buckingham Road where they’re so full you almost can’t see them.

Kurt: May 21st is the spring Emergency Management drill for anyone who wants to come watch. We are also wrapping up our document management program and it should be fully in-place in the next month or so. We also now have wireless internet in all public buildings.

**Item #19: Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

*Motion:* Annmarie Drugonis

*Second:* Nicole Klarides-Ditria

*Vote:* 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Submitted by,

Rory Burke

Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,

W. Kurt Miller

First Selectman
Friday, March 04, 2016

To: Rory Burke, Adm. Asst., Town of Seymour; First Selectman Kurt Miller
   RBurke@SeymourCT.org, kmiller@seymourct.org

Cc: ADA coordinator Deidre Caruso dcaruso@seymourct.org
   (these are ADA/disability rights matters)

From: Joseph A. Luciano Disability Rights Action Group of Connecticut
   DRAGconnecticut@yahoo.com  33 DeForest street, Seymour CT 06483  203/463-8323

SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT for entry into Minutes of (1) the next meeting of the Seymour
   BOARD OF SELECTMAN and (2) the next meeting of the Seymour PLANNING & ZONING
   Commission:

▶ FIRST:

IMMEDIATELY ..... Construction activity at 38 Columbus Street Senior Housing Project must cease
   immediately. This project is in direct violation of Seymour Town Zoning Ordinance 14.7 CBD-1
   Exemption, which states:

   • The Planning and Zoning Commission may reduce the parking requirements for apartments for
     the elderly either owned or managed by the Seymour Housing Authority in the CBD-1 District
     to one space per apartment unit.
   • "Existing or new buildings within 300 ft. of a municipal lot may include available space in such
     lots in meeting parking requirements with the approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

This project is not owned or managed by Seymour Housing Authority, as mandated by
   Section 14.7 CBD-1 Exemption.

Therefore: the parking regulations must be increased to 76 spaces (2 spaces per unit)—immediately.

Also, this project is not within 300 ft. of a municipal lot. Therefore: parking in The Strand Theater Lot
   may not be used to meet this project's parking requirements. Even though over $15,000 was used out of
   our town's grant budget to create 5 additional spaces in the Strand Lot to meet the 38 Columbus Street
   requirements (15 on-site, 23 available/rented by the town in municipal Strand Lot within 300 ft. away),
   this municipal lot may not be used to meet those requirements. (In a 2014 BOS meeting FS Kurt Miller
   suggested that at a cost of $10,000-15,000 the Strand lot could be expanded by 15 spaces.)

   • There is no ADA-required access route to the Strand lot. Therefore it cannot be deemed
     within 300 feet. Even if a sidewalk was created to reach the end of Columbus Street (which Joe
     Migani told his tenants that he has to now pay for out of his own pocket), there is no sidewalk
     adjoining Highway 67 and Tony's Diner for access to the strand lot. The senior/disabled would
     be in harm's way by traveling in the gutter of Highway 67 or by traveling between Tony's
     customer vehicles and highway 67 moving traffic.
   • By verbal (not written) notice, Seymour PD has “ordered” tenants not to walk in the gutter
     adjoining Tony's Diner. As a consequence, a hardship has been imposed on our Columbus Street
     elderly disabled neighbors; they are forced to walk along Columbus, then along Bank Street, and
     then Main Street to reach the Strand lot.
The distance to The Strand Lot is more than 300 ft. other parking lot options (train station, Trestle Tavern, Fishway) are up to or over 1,000 feet away.

76 spaces are not within 300 ft. of the current 12 handicapped senior tenants as well as the future 26 handicapped senior tenants of 38 Bank Street.

This illegal project must be terminated immediately. If it is not, legal action against the town and all parties responsible for this project may occur in full force. Furthermore, if any town or grant money is used to add additional parking downtown on First Street, Columbus Street, or any other area that would be considered 300 feet of this project, legal action may be taken to unmask the true reason of adding parking downtown. And that is to benefit one individual, and to cover-up the noncompliance to 14.7 CBD-1 Exemption, not under the charade that more business parking needs to be added. Also, the knocking down of any building to create more parking within 300 ft. will be viewed as a direct result of benefitting this project and legal action may be taken.

BACKGROUND:

- In 2009, Planning & Zoning amended Section 14.7 CBD-1 and created an Exemption. (This was created specifically for 38 Columbus Street).
- It stated that "The Planning and Zoning Commission may reduce the parking requirements for apartments for the elderly either owned or managed by the Seymour Housing Authority in the CBD-1 District to one space per apartment unit". There are usually 2 spaces per unit.
- It also states that "Existing or new buildings within 300 ft. of a municipal lot may include available space in such lots in meeting parking requirements with the approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission. (Specifically in this case The Strand Theater Lot).

On the matter of the town’s opinion that requiring handicapped seniors to walk 300 feet is "reasonable":

The BOS should be aware that requiring disabled seniors to walk 300 feet is not acceptable by ADA standards. Connecticut law uses the federal criteria for defining limitation in ability to walk (23 CFR § 1235.2). It is important to note that these criteria can involve physician-certified limitations that are not outwardly visible. Specifically, under these criteria, someone qualifies if a physician determines that he:

1. cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;
2. cannot walk without the use of, or assistance from, a cane, brace, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device;
3. is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that his forced respiratory volume or arterial oxygen tension is below certain limits;
4. uses portable oxygen;
5. has a cardiac condition that creates functional limitations falling within the American Heart Association’s Class III or IV criteria; or
6. is "severely limited" in walking ability due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition.
Here is the Notice for publication in newspapers in 2009:

**SEYMOUR PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

PLEASE PUBLISH THE FOLLOWING LEGAL NOTICE TWO TIMES. PUBLISH ON SEPTEMBER 23 AND ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

The Seymour Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on October 8, 2009 starting at 7:15 PM in the Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall. This hearing will be on proposed changes to Sections 6.0 and 14.7, Seymour Zoning Regulations. The proposed changes to Section 6.0 pertain to the CBD-1 district. These changes would eliminate the current 10 ft. front setback requirement, eliminate the current 50% lot coverage requirement and increase the permitted building height from the current 50 ft. to 65 ft. The proposed change to Section 14.7 would permit a reduction in required parking for elderly housing in the CBD-1 district either owned or managed by the Seymour Housing Authority to one space per unit. A copy of the proposed amendments is on file with the Town Clerk.

Text underlined below represents what was going to be added and amended.

14.7 CBD-1 Exemption The replacement of an existing use in an existing building in the CBD-1 Zoning District with another use having the same or a lesser parking requirement is exempt from providing new parking. Existing or new buildings within 300 ft. of a municipal lot may include available space in such lots in meeting parking requirements with the approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Planning and Zoning Commission may reduce the parking requirements for apartments for the elderly either owned or managed by the Seymour Housing Authority in the CBD-1 District to one space per apartment unit.

Seymour Planning and Zoning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday November 12, 2009, 7:30pm Norma Drummer Room - Town Hall

Zone Text Changes, CBD-1 District.
- Bob Looker states that the changes requested seem to be reflecting what is there already.
- Present requirement front setback is 10 feet, proposal to reduce back to no requirement.
- Present lot coverage requirement is 50%; proposal is to reduce to no requirement.
- Increase the required building height from 50 feet to 65 feet.
- Add sentence to CBD-1 extension which would state the parking requirements for elderly apartments, as required by the Seymour Housing Authority, would be reduced to one space per apartment unit.

**MOTION:** to have Town Planner draft an approval motion with the proposed changes to the District CBD-1 to be acted on at the next regular meeting. Bill Paecht/Dan Della Volpe Vote: Yes-5 No-0 Abstain-0 Absent-0

SEYMOUR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
Public Hearing Minutes December 10, 2009

- Zone Text Change, CBD-1 District. **MOTION:** Paecht/Yagovane - Resolved that the Seymour Planning & Zoning Commission hereby approves the following amendments to the zoning regulations of the Town of Seymour. Section 6.0 Table of Dimensional Requirements
- The present 10 ft. front yard requirement in the CBD-1 District to be changed to NR - No Requirement.
• The present 50% lot coverage requirement in the CBD-I District to be changed to NR - No Requirement.
• The maximum building height in the CBD-I District to be increased from 50 ft. to 65 ft.
• Section 14.7 CBD-I Exemption The following sentence to be added: "The Planning and Zoning Commission may reduce the parking requirements for apartments for the elderly either owned or managed by the Seymour Housing Authority to one space per apartment unit."
• The approved amendments are to become effective January 1, 2010. A copy of Sections 6.0 and 14.7 as revised is on file with the Town Clerk. Motion Carried 4-0. SEYMOUR PLANNING

> SECOND:
A substantial number of citizens and I object to the fact that the stipulation in 14.7, namely, “owned or managed by the Seymour Housing Authority,” is omitted in our state municodes Website. The Town of Seymour, in effect, has provided information to state municodes that is legally not a true copy of its zone changes.

• We want to know why; and
• Who wanted to conceal that information?

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Joseph A. Luciano
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