Members Present: Trisha Danka, Robert Findley, Annmarie Drugonis, Kurt Miller, Al Bruno, Rob VanEgghen, Stephan Behuniak

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Rory Burke, Richard Buturla, Tim Connors, Dave Bitso, Antvan Huribal, John DiCarlo, Mario Francucci, Rick Dunne

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order
First Selectman Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance
Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3 – Public Comment
None

Item #4 – Approve Minutes from May 7, 2019 Ordinance Committee Meeting
Motion to approve Minutes from May 7, 2019 Regular Meeting
Motion: Al Bruno Second: Bob Findley
Vote: 5 – Yes 0 – No 2 – Abstain
Trisha Danka – Abstain Robert Findley – Yes Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Kurt Miller – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes Robert VanEgghen – Abstain

Item #5 – Approve Minutes from May 7, 2019 Regular Meeting
Motion to approve Minutes from May 7, 2019 Regular Meeting
Motion: Bob Findley Second: Stephan Behuniak
Vote: 5 – Yes 0 – No 2 – Abstain
Trisha Danka – Abstain Robert Findley – Yes Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Kurt Miller – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes Robert VanEgghen – Abstain

Item #6 – First Selectman’s Report
First Selectman’s Report

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

1. I’d like to thank all of the residents that came out to vote on the annual town budget. While I am very happy that both the town and BoE budgets passed overwhelmingly, I am very disappointed in the overall turnout. We will continue to try to find ways to improve voter turnout and are open to any and all suggestions that people may have.
2. Met with a representative from the US Census Bureau to discuss the upcoming Census and what the towns can do to help the process. The town will be doing as much as it can to help with the process and providing as much information and resources as possible.

3. Negotiations with the Seymour Police Union are continuing. Things are moving along nicely, and I expect to have something for this board in the next month or so.

4. Communications Committee has met several times regarding changes and updates to our emergency services communication system. I expect to have information for our last meeting in June for the board to review.

5. Discussion regarding a potential new Community Center are ongoing. We are still very early in the planning but will provide updates as we move along.

6. We will be planning a Fall referendum to vote on 3 specific issues to prepare for potential bonding in the near future...... one question on a new community center, one question on a $5 million road package and one on new emergency services communication system.

7. The end of the fiscal year is quickly approaching, and department heads are working to close out their budgets. Finance is projecting a small surplus this year of about $125,000. I’ll continue to provide updates in the coming weeks leading up to the final close out.

8. We had a Mass Casualty Incident Drill on Sunday, May 19th. It went very well, and everyone learned a lot. Many thanks to the members of the Fire Departments, Police Department, and Ambulance Corps for the time and effort they put in. They were there for about 7 hours. We will have another one in the fall.

Motion to add to the agenda: Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Assessor’s Request for the Town Homeowner’s Program

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis  
Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abstain
Trisha Danka - Yes Robert Findley - Yes Annmarie Drugonis - Yes Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno - Yes Robert VanEgghen - Yes Stephan Behuniak - No

First Selectman Kurt Miller read the following notice from the Assessor’s Office:

This is to inform you that we have 245 applicants eligible for the Town Homeowners Program. The Town has approved a line item of $50,000 for the program. The recommendation of this office is that that applicants be granted a benefit of $200.00 for those that have 100% ownership or have life use of the property. Those having ownership of less than 100% will have the benefit prorated by their percentage of ownership.

Please advise this office of the decision of the Board of Selectmen regarding the granting of this benefit.

Thank you, J. Kusiak, Assessor, D. Thomas, Finance Director and D. Flach, Tax Collector

Motion to approve the above Town Homeowner’s Program benefit per applicant for $200 per the request of the Assessor, Finance Director and Tax Collector

Note: this is called the “Senior Citizens Tax Freeze” on the Budget
Item #7 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding NVCOG Regional Wastewater Treatment Consolidation Study
Presentation by: John DiCarlo (Project Manager), Mario Francucci and Rick Dunne

- Rick Dunne – this study is funded by the State Office of Policy Management. It is voluntary. The five communities are Naugatuck, Beacon Falls, Seymour, Ansonia, Derby. At any point during this study we can opt out of it.
- Phase 1 (base case) cost of operating on a “go-it-alone” basis through 2040. Around $300 million in improvements at a state level. This study looks at, from a state-wide perspective, how can we lower costs for taxpayers, users, and taxpayers at the state level, because they are in for some of these costs (the Cleanwater program, subsidizing improvements, debt service, and about 25% of the cost). There is usually about a 10-year wait before you can get funded. We are hoping that by regionalizing we can move up the list.
- Phase 2 (governments model – regional) – How does the investment we have made individually compare to other towns in the area? How do we equalize those costs?
- This information can be found on our website @ www.nvcogct.gov under Plans & Studies
- Mario Francucci – we are trying to figure out if it would be better financially for Seymour and the other towns to continue on their own or to merge with other towns to save money. At the end of Phase 2 (about a 1-year process) we will come back with some answers.
- The three components under consideration are: WPCA, Collection, Large Pumping Station
- Phase 1 – have looked at 1000 ft. levels; looked at what is Seymour doing now at the plant, what are the challenges at the plant, what is the plan for the future at the plant. Also, the same for the pipe system and collection. We have visited Seymour’s facilities. Looked at the screening, grit removal, pumping, phosphorous control, etc. We have interviewed staff, WPCA and plant managers.
- OPM (administrative body that this report goes to) requires us to look at a 20-year plan. Did some population projections. Currently our facilities are working fine. But they will need a significant upgrade soon. This includes the electrical and subsystems. These systems are old, and their reliability gets less. We have assigned a cost to upgrade the treatment plant to what we need to have. This cost all-inclusive is $40 million. These numbers are at a conceptual level for now. Next, we will compare these to regionalization alternative numbers.
- Collection system costs $8.5 million – Pump Stations (2) costs $2 million
- As part of Phase 1 we have identified a list of alternatives (12) – many are paired.
- We will screen this down – do a detailed review engineering – select the best group.
- Further assessments of the plant, reviewing costs, reviewing schedule and come forward with the best alternatives.

Questions/Discussion:
- **Annmarie Drugonis**: thank you for the presentation; the state did pay for the study, but once we decide to go forward with this, where will the money come from? We do a joint application with other towns under the Cleanwater Program. Then we would anticipate that DEEP, OPM and the Administration would move this application to the top of the list. If we have somewhere in the neighborhood of $300 million worth of cost between the 5 plants, it would be financed at some point by the state.
taxpayers under the Clean Water Program. If we could find a way to eliminate $50 million or more of
this eventual debt, this would be a good candidate for a high position on the list for the Cleanwater
Program.

Do not stop anything Seymour is doing at the Town level now.
The state will not come in and say we need to regionalize. If towns continue to “go it alone” the state
may just not offer reimburse you for upgrading your plants in the future. Those who regionalize will get
assistance from the state, those who don’t will not.

- **Robert Findley**: are there any other towns that have regionalized? Mattabassett has 4 towns. But this
study is designed to be a “model” for regionalization. There will definitely be some bargaining unit
issues to overcome and issues with municipal departments to overcome. Every town does not have a
separate WPCA board or department. Some have separate bargaining unit. We will look at this
somewhat in Phase 2.

- **Rob VanEgghen**: why are others such as Oxford, Shelton, Waterbury not included in this study? They
did not choose to opt in.

- **Stephan Behuniak**: the estimated numbers presented – will they be refined? We will continue to look at
the conditions of the facilities and what needs to be done, we will then become more confident with the
number we have. In order to get another level of detail, we would need to develop facility plans.
Stephan said his concern is that the numbers, when compared with the regionalization numbers, are
comparing the same levels. All the numbers will be compared at the same level. We will look at Capital
Costs and Lifestyle.

- **Al Bruno**: if we decide to regionalize, how long will it take to complete the project? Maybe 10 years,
maybe less. Many years at least. It depends on how motivated the entities are. Will the project keep up
with the technology? Yes, we will keep up with the technologies. Will the costs increase? If necessary, if
the cost would be beneficial. There will be a governing body that will oversee the buildings and running
of the plants.

- **Trisha Danko**: are there any benefits to the communities that are not opting in to the regionalization?
Some just want to control their own. The benefit of this study is that it gives you options to reduce cost
through regionalization. We have no obligation to go forward with regionalization at the end of the
study.

- **Kurt Miller**: is the decision to go forward with regionalization the Board of Selectmen or the WPCA? Rick
said probably both.

**Item #8 – Discussion with Facilities Manager**

Town Facilities Director Tim Connors gave the Board of Selectmen an update:

- We are nearing completion of the projects began last November at the Town Hall, Library and the Police
Department. We are just finishing up some punchlist items now.

- In the future would like to have people on the boards who have professional experience – know what
they are looking at.

- New projects: Johnson Controls Energy Savings Program throughout the Town and Schools –
weatherization, changing boilers, lighting, solar energy savings

- Schools: dealing with a lot of old buildings & old issues; changing boilers at High School; solar, roofs,
weatherproofing.

- Rob VanEgghen asked if Tim is the one who does what ever anyone needs? Tim handles things that are
brought to his attention and brings to the board if needed. Works a lot with Alex Danka and Jim
Baldwin. Kurt Miller said that Tim is also responsible for the overall maintenance of the buildings. Next year Tim will be more active in creating the budget.

- Trisha Danka asked which boards needed more experience? The Building Committee is one that needs more practical experience. Kurt Miller said there are “too many cooks.”

**Item #9 – Discuss & Take Possible Action Regarding Town Planner**

Final terms are not firm. Kevin Condon, Oxford Attorney was not prepared to make a decision. The candidate has been identified. Once signed, the executed agreement will be e-mailed to Board members. Money has been allocated already in the budget.

Motion to give First Selectman Kurt Miller permission to sign the contract pending approval of Town Counsel

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis  Second: Rob VanEgghen

Vote: 7 – Yes  0 – No  0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes  Robert Findley – Yes  Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes  Robert VanEgghen – Yes  Stephan Behuniak – Yes

**Item #10 – Discuss & Take Possible Action Regarding NEMBA Trail Application**

Motion to table discussion and/or action on this until our June 4th Meeting.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis  Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 7 – Yes  0 – No  0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes  Robert Findley – Yes  Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes  Robert VanEgghen – Yes  Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Motion to add to the agenda

Executive Session @ 8:06pm to discuss pending claim related to blight lien at 95 Haddad Road with a possible public session. Invite Town Counsel Richard Buturla into executive session.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis  Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7 – Yes  0 – No  0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes  Robert Findley – Yes  Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes  Robert VanEgghen – Yes  Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Exit Executive Session @ 8:20pm stating that no motions or actions were taken.

Motion to add to the agenda

Discuss & Take Possible Action Regarding: pending claim related to blight lien at 95 Haddad Road

Motion: Robert Findley  Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 7 – Yes  0 – No  0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes  Robert Findley – Yes  Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes  Robert VanEgghen – Yes  Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Motion to temporarily freeze blight fines on 95 Haddad Road for nine (9) months and allow building permits to be pulled. Should work not be completed during that time frame, blight liens would revert back to today’s date and fine amount brought forward. If work is completed as stated, the town will waive all current blight liens currently pending of $26,500.
Motion: Robert Findley  
Second: Al Bruno
Discussion: Richard Buturla said that we would put together a document for the property owner to sign regarding this matter.

Vote: 7 – Yes  0 – No  0 – Abstain
Trisha Danka – Yes  Robert Findley – Yes  Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno – Yes  Robert VanEgghen – Yes  Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Item #11 – Set Public Hearing for Ordinances for June 4, 2019 @ 6:45pm in the Norma Drummer Room @ Town Hall: a) Surplus Equipment and b) Strategic Planning Committee
Motion that the Board of Selectmen set the Public Hearing for the following Ordinances for June 4, 2019 @ 6:45pm in the Norma Drummer Room @ Town Hall: a) Surplus Equipment and b) Strategic Planning Committee

Motion: Stephan Behuniak  
Second: Al Bruno
Vote: 7 – Yes  0 – No  0 – Abstain
Trisha Danka – Yes  Robert Findley – Yes  Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno – Yes  Robert VanEgghen – Yes  Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Item #12 - Appointments

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<th>Expiration Date</th>
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<td>Culture &amp; Arts Commission</td>
<td>Reappointment</td>
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<td>5/31/2022</td>
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<td>Sonnie Wilkes</td>
<td>Municipal Agent</td>
<td>Reappointment</td>
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<td>Alex Danka</td>
<td>Permanent Building Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Marcinek</td>
<td>Permanent Building Committee</td>
<td>Reappointment</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6/2/2021</td>
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Motion to approve the above appointments for 5/21/19 as recommended by the First Selectman

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis  
Second: Stephan Behuniak
Vote: 7 – Yes  0 – No  0 – Abstain
Trisha Danka – Yes  Robert Findley – Yes  Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno – Yes  Robert VanEgghen – Yes  Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Item #13 – Tax Refunds/Abatements
Motion to approve attached Tax Refunds Report dated 5/17/19 from Tax Collector as presented by Sue Boland

Motion: Bob Findley  
Second: Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 7 – Yes  0 – No  0 – Abstain
Trisha Danka – Yes  Robert Findley – Yes  Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  Kurt Miller - Yes
Item #14 – Transfers
None

Item #15 – Correspondence
- Letter from State Department of Transportation regarding installations of Horizontal Alignment Treatments on State Roads in District 4. The letter reads, in part:

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) is planning to install horizontal alignment warning signs and pavement markings at curves on all State owned and maintained roads in District 4. The new warning signs will have yellow retro-reflective sheeting and yellow delineators will be installed on the sign posts. These upgrades will be in compliance with national standards and will improve motorists’ awareness of a change in the roadway alignment. The project is being designed and is tentatively scheduled to be constructed during the 2020 construction season.

It is the Department’s policy to inform elected officials and the public when such projects are undertaken. It is important that the community share its concerns with the Department to assist in the project’s development. Accordingly, the attached news release providing information on this project is scheduled to be issued prior to the beginning of construction. It is not anticipated that an informational meeting or formal public hearing will be necessary for these projects due to the limited nature of the proposed work.

- Letter from Town Counsel regarding a U.S. Department of Justice Investigation that has now been closed.

As you may recall, in response to a complaint, the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Connecticut opened an investigation in 2016 to determine whether violations of federal civil rights laws, including Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, had occurred in Seymour. The complaint alleged, in general, that various towns and cities throughout Connecticut failed to provide accessible ballots to voters with disabilities at elections. We communicated with the Assistant U.S. Attorney handling this matter, and have monitored the case.

- Letter from Joseph Szarmach at McCallum Enterprises LP regarding Derby Dam Hydroelectric Project:

Due to unusually high rainfall, we were unable to complete the drawdown of Lake Housatonic during the earlier scheduled dates. As a result, we are trying again to reschedule the drawdown during the week of May 20-24, 2019.

The purpose of the drawdown is to facilitate some flashboard repairs and perform routine maintenance of the Derby Dam.

Lowering the water level of Lake Housatonic is contingent upon river flow conditions as well as the weather forecast. We will be coordinating this drawdown closely with FirstLight Power Resources and their operations at their Stevenson Dam and other upstream plants. Shoreline residents will be informed through public notices placed in the newspaper, as well as through the Lake Housatonic Authority, to enable them to maintain their docks during this period.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 203-386-1745.

Item #16 – Public Comment
None
Item #17—Selectmen’s Public Comment

- Stephan Behuniak –
  - 1. Regarding the referendum totals – suggest we get additional signage for days leading up to referendum days. Other towns have very visible reminders for their referendums.
  - 2. We should start videotaping all town meetings and upload to YouTube. Kurt Miller said that he just purchased a GoPro 7 Black which has the ability to go directly from the camera to the internet. We are working on this now. Hopefully will be able to get this up and running in a few months.
  - 3. Could Kurt or Rory – whomever schedules the department presentation to the Board of Selectmen request the presenting department forward a written report with the packet? This way we can formulate any questions ahead of time.

- Al Bruno – congratulations to Stephan on his nuptials
- Rob VanEgghen – looking forward to attending the Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, and the High School graduation on June 7th. Also, congratulations to the Seymour Track Team today at NVL’s.
- Kurt Miller – please let Rory know if you are attending the Parade and Graduation so they can have a seat for you.
- Annmarie Drugonis – also looking forward to the Memorial Day Parade & High School Graduation; congratulations to the Track Team as well as to Stephan.
- Bob Findley – congratulations to the Seymour High School Softball Team as they won tonight.
- Trisha Danka – will try to make the Parade and Graduation
- Kurt Miller – Our upcoming meetings are: June 4th, June 25th, and July 16th. Please mark your calendars accordingly.
- Rory Burke – none
- Rich Buturia – none

Item #18—Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:31pm

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis
Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abstain
Trisha Danka – Yes Robert Findley – Yes Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno – Yes Robert VanEgghen – Yes Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Submitted by:
Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:

W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman