

**Town of Seymour
Board of Finance**

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Minutes

**Budget Deliberation Meeting
Monday, March 17, 2014 at 7:00pm
Flaherty Room, Seymour Town Hall**

Members Present: Beverly Kennedy, Heather McDaniel, Bill Sawicki, John Stelma, and Ed Wasikowski; Jim Cretella (alternate)

Members Absent: David Bitso, Rich Grudzias

Others Present: Rick Belden, Kristopher Boyle, Mary Sue Feige, Sandra Gesek, Bernadette Hamad, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Glenn Lungarini, Jennifer Magri, Leslie Sojka, Fred Stanek, Christine Syriac, Virginia Tagliatela, Doug Thomas

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order

Chairman Bill Sawicki called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3 – Seating of Alternates

Motion to seat Jim Cretella as alternate

Motion: Ed Wasikowski

Second: John Stelma

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item #4 – Deliberation and Discussion of 2014/2015 Budget

The Board of Finance discussed the Town budget and some possible rate reduction.

Discussion of Board of Education Budget:

- \$91,000 for new initiatives; everything else is obligatory expenses
- Need to get as many YES votes in referendum the first time as possible. Anyone who owns at least \$1,000 personal property can vote; do not need to be registered to vote.
- There have been presentations at the Middle School (10 people attended) and Chatfield/LoPresti School (30 people attended) of the BOE Budget
- The BOE Budget Presentation will be available as a webinar with the help of the Valley Indy
- Trying to get the Board of Education budget to be considered together with the rest of the Town budget instead of separately
- Beverly Kennedy asked if the budget fails, where would the BOE cut their budget. Yashu Putorti said that they are not sure at this point. It would depend on the amount.
- Bill Sawicki asked what the level services amount might be next year. Rick Belden estimated it at about \$800,000 - \$1,000,000
- Heather McDaniel asked what the mill rate increase is just for the BOE budget (as is). It is 0.83 which means for a house valued at \$200,000 the increase would be \$116/year.

- Jay Hatfield asked what the next step in the process would be. Bill Sawicki said that the Board of Finance would continue deliberations for the next two days (on total budget – Town and BOE). The Town Hearing will be the first week of April.

Public Comment:

- Fred Stanek – we are seeking the addition of a fine arts teacher at the high school; this position is very needed. There is a lot of interest. This past weekend an outstanding job was done on a musical production (the first in 10 years) at the high school.
- Christine Syriac – requested that the Board of Finance move the budget as is to the referendum; considerable work was done in re-negotiating contracts to present the lowest possible number to the Board of Finance. For the past two years (and this year) nothing frivolous has been added to the budget.
- Kristen Harmeling – last year \$250,000 in insurance costs; level services number is at the minimum

On Wednesday, at the beginning of the deliberation meeting the transfer of \$2,500 for the Squantuck Road property will be discussed and voted on.

The Board of Finance will need to cut about another \$200,000 in order to get the mill rate increase of only 1.1.

Tomorrow night the Board of Finance will continue deliberations on the Town and Board of Education Budgets.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.

Submitted by:

Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary