

Town of Seymour  
Board of Finance

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DATE: 3/20/14  
TIME: 5:00 PM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes

Budget Deliberation Meeting  
Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 7:00pm  
Flaherty Room, Seymour Town Hall

**Members Present:** David Bitso, Rich Grudzias, Beverly Kennedy, Heather McDaniel, Bill Sawicki, John Stelma, Ed Wasikowski; Jim Cretella (alternate)

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Trisha Danka, Kristen Harmeling, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, and 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**

None

**Item #4 – Public Comment**

Chairman Bill Sawicki asked to restore the \$70,000 recommended cut from yesterday to the BOE budget

Trisha Danka – 203 Pearl Street – the fact that the level services request has not been met is concerning; urge the BOF to consider at least restoring the level services request and some of the new items so that the BOE can expand and improve the school system.

Kristen Harmeling – 27 Patrick Drive – the BOF function is not to recommend cuts for departmental budgets but to prepare, monitor and manage the Town Budget. Presented four reasons to leave the BOE budget as requested:

- The BOE has tried to control costs through collective bargaining and prepared the lowest cost budget ahead of time.
- Public Education is a key role/function in the Town. It is the educators who are saying what is needed to educate the students.
- It doesn't work to try to guess what mill rate will be accepted by the voters
- This year the plan to market the budget is better than ever; don't derail this plan; please allow the budget to go to referendum as is.

Yashu Putorti – 9 Greenwood Circle – grateful to get the \$70,000 back but we still need at least level services.

**Item #5 – Transfer Request – Squantuck Road Property**

Not ready. Only one signed agreement.

Items from last night's meeting:

- Senior Credit applies to 300 people – amounts to about \$167 per person

- Senior Center – 115 residents, 32 non-residents – about \$800; this means a cost of about \$1,067/member cost
- \$57,000 recycling savings – will need larger bins – need prices on these; checking on current contract dates
- List of current grants distributed

All members of the Board of Finance agreed to restore the Board of Education Budget Request to the level services requested amount.

This means:

Town Budget = 3.43% or 0.52 mill rate increase

BOE Budget = 2.89% or 0.63 mill rate increase

**Item #6 – Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Submitted by:

***Monica Dimon***

***Recording Secretary***