

Town of Seymour
Board of Finance

Minutes

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 5/6/14
TIME: 4pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Budget Deliberation Meeting
Monday, May 5, 2014 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: David Bitso, Beverly Kennedy, Heather McDaniel, Bill Sawicki, and Ed Wasikowski; Jim Cretella, alternate.

Members Absent: Rich Grudzias and John Stelma

Others Present: Rick Belden, Walt Birdsell, Jean Falbo-Sosnovich, Mary Sue Feige, Kristen Harmeling, Frank Loda, Jennifer Magri, Michael Metzler, Kurt Miller, Yashu Putorti, Nancy Snopkowski, Jim Smith, Christine Syriac, 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

- Walt Birdsell – 42 Jupiter Drive
Felt that there was a lack of communication - many people did not know that there was a vote; money is very tight for many people, especially senior citizens; should have no more increases in taxes.
- Yashu Putorti – 9 Greenwood Circle
Asked that no more cuts be made to the Board of Education other than the \$108,000 insurance savings; BOE is at the level services amount, cutting anything further will affect necessary programs
- Kristen Harmeling – 27 Patrick Drive
The Board of Finance has an enormous responsibility; request that the Board of Education budget only be cut by the amount of insurance savings; the budget didn't fail by many votes; people just want taxes to not increase by much
- Alex Danka - 203 Pearl Street
Agreed that we should pay less in taxes but in order for our town to grow and attract new business and residents, we need to stop cutting necessary programs and services. If we need to cut, keep it to a minimum.

Item #5 – 2014/2015 Budget Deliberations

First Selectman's Comments and Recommendations:

- Felt that the vote was very well advertised – notices were put in papers, PTA advertised the Board of Education, notices were sent home in the schools, webinars online, advertised on Facebook, Code Red call. May 15th will be the next vote.
- Additional revenue from grants came in: \$136,787.
- Debt Service went from aa- to aa+ rating. This allowed us an additional \$68,904 in savings.

- There was a savings on Town Health Insurance. Town portion was \$92,000.
- Recommended cut to the Police Department Line #110 of \$50,000.
- Board of Education recommended cut of \$108,000
- Recommend that Contingency amount (\$50,000) be taken from Fund Balance
- Recommend restoring the \$20,000 taken out of Economic Development. We received a prestigious award for the Revitalization of downtown Seymour
- Recommend adding \$7,000 to the Library Director's position; current amount is not a competitive salary amount for the position
- Recommended not cutting any money from our town's emergency services, fire department, police department other than those discussed

Comments from Department Heads:

- Jim Smith – Fire Department – requested no additional cuts to Fire Department – any further cuts would impact necessary repairs and training
- Chief Michael Metzler requested no additional cuts to Police Department – otherwise they may need to request more money in the future for training for new officers

The Board of Finance members discussed the above recommendations from the First Selectman and agreed that they were acceptable adjustments to the budget. Bill Sawicki recommended that the cut to Police Department be reduced to \$25,000 to eliminate the need for a shortage in that line item.

Motion to take a five minute recess.

Motion: Heather McDaniel Second: Ed Wasikowski
 Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Rescind above motion.

Motion: Heather McDaniel Second: Ed Wasikowski

\$73,000 Town Health Insurance Savings
 \$68,904 Debt Service Savings
 \$25,000 Police Department Cut
 \$108,000 Board of Education Cut
 \$50,000 Contingency From Fund Balance
 \$136,787 Additional Grants
 <\$27,000> Add back to Economic Development and Library

Results in a net reduction to the budget of \$434,691.

Motion to take a five minute recess.

Motion: Ed Wasikowski Second: Heather McDaniel
 Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to resume meeting.

Motion: Ed Wasikowski Second: Heather McDaniel
 Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Further discussions on the above items. Numbers on budget reports distributed needed adjusting.
Discussion will resume on Wednesday, May 5th at 7:00pm.

Item #6– Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Heather McDaniel

Second: Ed Wasikowski

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm

Submitted by:

Monica Dimon

Recording Secretary