

Town of Seymour  
Board of Finance

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 5/14/13  
TIME: 4:30 pm  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes

Special Budget Deliberations Meeting  
Monday, May 13, 2013 at 7:00pm  
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

**Members Present:** David Bitso, Trisha Danka, Rich Grudzias, and Ed Wasikowski

**Members Absent:** Heather McDaniel, Michele Pavlik, Bill Sawicki, and John Stelma

**Others Present:** Please see attached attendance list

**Item #1 – Call Meeting to order**

Chairman, Trisha Danka 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**

Rich Grudzias was seated as an alternate via attached e-mail from Bill Sawicki

**Item #4 – Public Comment**

Richard Rossik – 34 Roberts Street – expressed disappointment with the Board of Education budget

Kristen Harmeling – 27 Patrick Drive – requested that the cuts to the Board of Education budget be kept to a minimum.

**Item #5 – Discussion of 2013/2014 Budget**

**Fire Department** – Chief Jim Smith said that his department would be comfortable with a cut between \$5,000 to \$7,000. The Board of Finance members recommended cuts to the Fire Department as follows:

- Trisha Danka - \$6,000 from Repairs & Maintenance
- Rich Grudzias – \$5,000 from Gas
- Dave Bitso – \$2,500 from Gas and \$2,500 from Building Repairs
- Ed Wasikowski – \$3,000 from Gas

Board of Finance decision to cut \$6,000 from Fire Department – Gasoline was approved by all.

**Police Department** – Chief Michael Metzler asked for the Board of Finance recommended cuts to the Police Department. The recommendations are as follows:

- Trisha Danka - \$80,000 – eliminate Prospective Captains Salary/Lieutenant Line Item
- Ed Wasikowski - \$29,000 – eliminate one car
- Dave Bitso – Cut \$15,000 from Education & Training and \$5,000 from Equipment & Machinery
- Rich Grudzias – Eliminate one car (\$29,000) and cut \$20,000 from Overtime

Chief Michael Metzler said that they need at least ½ year of the Prospective Captain's Salary and is ok with the elimination of one car.

Board of Finance decision to cut \$69,000 (\$40,000 from Prospective Captain's Salary and \$29,000 for one car) was approved by all.

**Finance Department** – Doug Thomas recommended cutting \$10,000 for Personnel Software.

**Town Computers/Technology** – Doug Thomas and First Selectman Kurt Miller recommended a cut of \$20,000 for the full-time technology person.

Board of Finance decision to cut \$10,000 from Finance Department – Personnel/Software and \$20,000 from Town Computers/Technology – Full-time Personnel was approved by all.

**Board of Education** – Chairman Yashu Putorti stated that he could not give recommendations on specific areas to cut. Things may change as far as what areas will be cut and he did not want to make any idle threats and have the actual areas cut be different. The Board of Education has a meeting next Monday. He stated that the Board of Education originally requested a 2.4 % increase which was reduced by the Board of Finance to 2.1%. He suggested that a 2.0% increase would be a difference of around \$50,000 and a 1.99% increase would be a difference of around \$53,000. This would bring the overall budget to under \$31 million.

-Chairman of the Board of Finance Trisha Danka asked how we can support a cut of \$168,000 to the Town Budget and only a \$53,000 cut to the Board of Education Budget when the Education budget failed worse than the Town Budget did.

-Mr. Putorti stated that Salary & Benefits was most of the increase. This was just to move from last year to this year. This was an increase of 1.7% . Other increases were minimal - \$211,000. This is for much needed improvements including a late bus; 4 part-time paraprofessionals; 2 teachers at the Middle School. He also stated that there has never been a relationship before between the cuts (voting patterns) to the Town and Board of Education.

-David Bitso asked if there were any teachers retiring in June. Mr. Putorti said that there were two; these positions are being replaced at lower salaries and were already reflected in the budget.

Board of Finance recommended cuts by Board members are as follows:

Trisha Danka: (\$170,500)

- o Economic Development - \$10,000 (Other Professional Services)
- o Economic Development Commission - \$8,500 (Other Professional Services – MEDC)
- o Finance Department - \$10,000
- o Town Computers - \$20,000
- o Police Department - \$69,000 (Car & Prospective Captain's Salary)
- o Communications Commission - \$6,000 (Machinery & Equipment)
- o Fire Department - \$6,000 (Gasoline)
- o VEMS - \$8,000
- o Highway Wages & Maintenance- \$10,000 (Snow Plow Materials)
- o Culture & Arts Commission - \$3,000 (Building Rental)
- o Services to the Elderly - \$5,000 (Trips)
- o Recreation Commission - \$5,000 (Regular Employees)
- o Parks - \$10,000 (Repairs & Maintenance)

Ed Wasikowski:

Basically same as Trisha Danka's recommendations - Total Town reductions between \$150,000 to \$200,000. Board of Education reductions around \$45,000.

David Bitso:

Suggest not to cut the Economic Development and Economic Development Commission. We need to keep working toward beautifying our town. OK to cut the snowplowing materials.

Rich Grudzias:

Basically same recommendations as Trisha Danka.

Board of Finance Recommendations are to cut the following: (Total \$132,000)

- VEMS: \$8,000
- Communications Commission: \$6,000
- Culture & Arts Commission: \$3,000
- Police Department: \$69,000
- Fire Department: \$6,000
- Finance Department: \$10,000
- Town Computers: \$20,000
- Highway Wages & Maintenance: \$10,000

First Selectman Kurt Miller's recommendations are to cut the following:

- Economic Development - \$10,000
- Finance Department - \$10,000
- Tax Collector - \$3,900 – Other Purchased Services (\$2,900) and General Supplies (\$1,000)
- Town Computers - \$20,000
- Police Department - \$69,000
- Communications Commission - \$6,000
- Seymour Ambulance - \$1,000 – Electricity (\$500) and Heating (\$500)
- Fire Department - \$11,000 – Building Improvements (\$6,000) and Machinery & Equipment (\$5,000)
- Public Works - \$20,000 – Snow Plow Overtime (\$5,000) and Snow Plow Materials (\$5,000) and Highway Maintenance (\$10,000). Please note that with OCIP Rules changing, some of these costs may be reimbursable.
- Culture & Arts Commission - \$3,000
- Parks - \$9,400 – Repairs & Maintenance (\$7,400) and General Supplies (\$2,000)
- Consider using \$25,000 out of Fund Balance until the union contracts have been negotiated. There will most likely be at least that much in healthcare savings.
- Capital Road Program – reduce from \$125,000 to \$100,000. (David Bitso and Rich Grudzias vote NO to this cut – it would be a step backwards.)

First Selectman Miller received a respectful voicemail saying that because of the Governor and Presidential budgets the taxes are already being raised. This is why we need to make cuts.

Trisha Danka agreed with this but the quality of life in this town will be affected by making significant cuts. We need to get people to take the time to understand what they are voting on and come out and vote.

David Bitso added that while people are asking for cuts, but have no ideas/recommendations as to where they would like the cuts to be.

Motion to reduce the Town Budget by \$155,000 as follows:

- VEMS: \$8,000
- Economic Development: \$10,000
- Finance Department: \$10,000
- Town Computers: \$20,000

- Communications Commission: \$6,000
- Seymour Ambulance: \$1,000
- Fire Department: \$6,000
- Public Works: \$10,000
- Culture & Arts Commission: \$3,000
- Highway & Maintenance: \$10,000
- Parks: \$2,000
- Police Department: \$69,000

Motion: David Bitso                      Second: Rich Grudzias  
 Yes: 4                                      No: 0                                      Abstain: 0

Board of Education:

Recommendations by Board of Finance & First Selectman:

- Ed Wasikowski – cut \$45,000
- David Bitso – cut \$150,000
- Trisha Danko – cut \$75,000
- Bill Sawicki (via e-mail) – cut \$150,000
- Heather McDaniel (via e-mail) – cut \$150,000
- Rich Grudzias – cut \$75,000
- First Selectman Miller – cut between \$100,000-\$125,000

Motion to reduce the Board of Education Budget by \$75,000.

Motion: David Bitso                      Second: Ed Wasikowski  
 Yes: 4                                      No: 0                                      Abstain: 0

**TOTAL CUT: \$230,000**

Motion to take a 10 minute recess.

Motion: Rich Grudzias                      Second: David Bitso  
 Yes: 4                                      No: 0                                      Abstain: 0

Motion to reconvene.

Motion: David Bitso                      Second: Ed Wasikowski  
 Yes: 4                                      No: 0                                      Abstain: 0

Motion that the Grand total Budget income be approved at \$53,023,899

Motion: David Bitso                      Second: Ed Wasikowski  
 Yes: 4                                      No: 0                                      Abstain: 0

Motion that the Grand total Budget expenses be approved at \$53,023,899

Motion: David Bitso                      Second: Rich Grudzias  
 Yes: 4                                      No: 0                                      Abstain: 0

Motion that the document titled Town of Seymour, fiscal year 2013/2014 Budget, consisting of 52 (Fifty two) pages to be approved as the Town's budget document

Motion: David Bitso                      Second: Ed Wasikowski  
Yes: 4                      No: 0                      Abstain: 0

Motion to set the Mill Rate for the 2013/2014 Budget at 33.26

Motion: David Bitso                      Second: Rich Grudzias  
Yes: 4                      No: 0                      Abstain: 0

**Item #6 – Adjournment**

Motion: David Bitso                      Second: Ed Wasikowski  
Yes: 4                      No: 0                      Abstain: 0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Submitted by:

**Monica Dimon**  
**Recording Secretary**

**Dimon, Monica**

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**From:** Danka, Trisha <Trisha.Danka@peoples.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2013 8:37 AM  
**To:** Dimon, Monica  
**Subject:** FW: May 13th meeting

Please print and file with the minutes you get around to filing them from last night. I need this with the official record, which is the minutes...

Thank you.

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**From:** Sawicki, William [<mailto:William.Sawicki@marcumllp.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2013 7:05 PM  
**To:** Danka, Trisha  
**Subject:** May 13th meeting

Please seat Rich Grudzias in my place at tonight's meeting as I am in Texas and cannot be there.

Bill



*William Sawicki, CPA Profile*

*Director*

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