

Town of Seymour
Board of Finance

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Minutes

Special General Fund Budget Deliberations Meeting
Monday, April 15, 2013 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: David Bitso, Trisha Danka, Rich Grudzias, Heather McDaniel, Bill Sawicki, and Ed Wasikowski

Members Absent: Michele Pavlik and John Stelma

Others Present: Susan Hunter, Kurt Miller, Bill Paecht, Richard Rossik, Jean Sosnovich, Doug Thomas, and Sean Walsh

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order

Chairman, Trisha Danka called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Trisha deferred chairmanship to Bill Sawicki for this meeting.

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.

Item #4 – Public Comment

Richard Rossik – 34 Roberts Street – Was NOT in favor of putting the \$377,000 in the General Fund budget for the School Resource Officers; also was in favor of Board of Education cutting the amount for teacher's salaries.

Item #5 – Deliberation on General Fund Budget as Presented at the Public Hearing

Budget as presented at the Public Hearing was \$53,803,630.

First Selectman's Comments

The following additions to the General Fund budget are recommended at this time:

- \$1,300 to First Selectman's Office for Employee Assistance Plan
- \$17,200 to Public Works Seasonal Help for added weeks for seasonal help

The following deductions to the budget are recommended at this time:

- \$5,000 from Salary – Police department
- \$377,000 from School Resource Officers
- \$18,521 from Fire Department (amount agreed upon with Fire Chief and Board of Fire Commissioners)
- \$10,000 from Public Works Snow Plowing – Materials
- \$10,000 from Public Works Snow Plowing – Overtime
- \$48,000 from Public Works – Salary (4 Public Works employees retiring – one new employee will be starting at 70% of salary (probationary period) and increase to 80% by the first year employed)
- \$34,000 from Town Disability & Life Insurance
- \$61,000 from Board of Education Life Insurance

These additions/deductions would amount to a net deduction of \$545,021 from the General Fund Budget.

Questions/Discussion

- Trisha Danka – What is the \$17,200 additional for seasonal help? This would be added hours for 2013 and 2014 for seasonal help mainly for the parks.
- Dave Bitso – Will we charge back to the snowplow contractors for damage to curbs? Not sure yet – some money will be part of FEMA award. Are there stakes on the islands at the schools? Sean Walsh said that there are – this storm the snow was just too high.
- Bill Sawicki – Where are we with the reimbursement money from the State (for Seymour Middle School)? Currently this is with the auditors. First Selectman Miller said that there would be no impact to this budget regardless of the outcome of that situation.
- Rich Grudzias – Would the \$18,128 cut to the Fire Department bring the budget to \$403,000? Yes. This was the amount agreed upon with the Fire Chief and Board of Fire Commissioners. \$10,000 of that amount was a deduction for the tires. This item will be included in the Capital Plan.
- Heather McDaniel – How was the decision made about the SRO's? The Board of Education was unanimous in their vote to cut this at this time. We can do a non-binding question with the vote.
- Dave Bitso – We definitely should have the question – we need to get the public's opinion. We should have a plan in place for the future.
- Trisha Danka – What is the reason for the \$5,000 cut in the police department salary? Although there are officers that have been hired, it will take time to get them into the classes, etc. Are there any concerns about taking that money from Public Works? Sean Walsh said that they use a 5 year average. Last year was small. This year we had the large and unexpected storm. There will be some FEMA money that we can put toward Public Works if needed.
- Bill Sawicki – suggested that the Board of Selectman designate that money for specific purposes instead of just putting it all to Fund Balance.
- Ed Wasikowski – If we take out the SRO's are there any other alternatives for this if we decide to implement down the road? We do have \$600,000 in the LoCIP program – we can use that for infrastructure; our police department will be fully staffed at that point so we can provide an officer; First Selectman Miller also has some other options available. First Selectman Miller stated that there should be no guns allowed for anyone in the school system except for the police department.

First Selectman Miller offered a few other areas to think about if we still need areas to cut:

- Building Repairs & Maintenance – there is an additional \$15,000 currently allocated for LoPresti maintenance.
- Assessor's Office – currently has \$33,000 set aside for revaluation.
- Town Computers and Annual Support – could change from \$60,000 to \$50,000 and continue with the consultants for this year.
- Contract Negotiations – insurance – no potential give backs to the unions built into the current budget; also, salary increases – would cut no more than \$25,000.

Trisha Danka recommended that we do not discuss using these cuts at this time. All board members were in agreement.

Motion to Add \$3,000 to the General Fund's Library Budget.

Motion: David Bitso Second: Bill Sawicki

Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Discussion on School Resource Officers:

Trisha Danka – we should take this out based on the fact that the Board of Education doesn't want it in.

Heather McDaniel – not happy with the way the decision from the Board of Education was presented, but is ok with eliminating from the budget.

Dave Bitso – we need to get a plan in place and get the public's support – ok with taking out.

Ed Wasikowski – ok to take out.

Bill Sawicki – support Board of Education and take out of budget.

Motion to Deduct \$377,000 from General Fund Budget for School Resource Officers

Motion: Rich Grudzias Second: Ed Wasikowski

Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to Change the Amount of Deduction from:

\$10,000 to \$5,000 for Public Works – Snow Plowing Materials

\$10,000 to \$5,000 for Public Works – Snow Plowing Overtime

Motion: David Bitso Second: Trisha Danka

Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Total amount of deduction from General Fund Budget as presented at the Public Hearing is: \$532,021.00

Motion to take a 5 minute recess.

Motion: Trisha Danka Second: Heather McDaniel

Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to return to meeting.

Motion: Rich Grudzias Second: Ed Wasikowski

Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

From the Finance Director:

Currently our General Fund Budget is at:

\$53,261,648 Revenues

\$53,261,648 Expenditures

33.46 Mill Rate ~ and increase of 0.63 ~ overall increase of 2.88%

Motion to Approve the Grand Total General Fund Budget Income of \$53,261,648 for the 2013/2014 Annual Budget

Motion: Trisha Danka Second: Rich Grudzias

Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to Approve the Grand Total General Fund Budget Expenditures of \$53,261,648 for the 2013/2014 Annual Budget

Motion: Trisha Danka Second: Heather McDaniel

Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to Approve the Town of Seymour Proposed General Fund Budget for 2013/2014 Fiscal Year Consisting of 52 pages Town Budget Document.

Motion: Trisha Danka Second: Ed Wasikowski

Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to Approve the 2013/2014 General Fund Budget Based on a Mill Rate of 33.46 Mills.

Motion: Trisha Danka Second: Rich Grudzias
Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Item #6 - Turn 2013-2014 General Fund Budget over for Annual Town Meeting and Public Vote

Motion to Turn the 2013/2014 General Fund Budget Over to a Town Meeting on 4/30/13 and a Public Vote on 5/9/13.

Motion: Trisha Danka Second: Ed Wasikowski
Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

First Selectman Kurt Miller asked the Board to entertain a motion to add a non-binding advisory question about the School Resource Officers.

Motion to Add a Non-Binding Advisory Question to the Public Vote Regarding the Expense of \$377,000 for School Resource Officers

Motion: Heather McDaniel Second: David Bitso
Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Discussion – Bill Sawicki stated that we need to say in large letters that the **funds for the SRO's are NOT included in the budget that they are voting on** that night.

Heather McDaniel and David Bitso amended their motion to include the addition of the above statement.

David Bitso asked First Selectman Kurt Miller to include information on the Town Meeting and Public Vote on the Town Website.

Heather McDaniel asked if absentee ballots will be available. First Selectman Miller said they would, but he would need to find out when they would be available.

Heather McDaniel and Bill Sawicki asked if the Board of Finance could observe a moment of silence to remember the fatalities and injured people from the bombing at the Boston Marathon this afternoon.

Item #7 – Adjournment

Motion: Trisha Danka Second: Heather McDaniel
Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Submitted by:
Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary