

Town of Seymour
Board of Finance

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

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

Members Absent: Michele Pavlik, John Stelma

Others Present: Tony Caserta, Tom Eighme, Dana Flach, Ethan Fry, Frank Loda, Chief Michael Metzler, Kurt Miller, Lt. Paul Satkowski, Jean Sosnovich, and Doug Thomas

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

None.

Motion to approve Beverly Kennedy as Republican Alternate replacing Kim Welch

Motion: Bill Sawicki

Second: Heather McDaniel

Yes: 5

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item #4 – Public Comment

None

Motion to go to Item #11 Continue Budget Deliberations if Needed

Motion: Bill Sawicki

Second: Ed Wasikowski

Yes: 5

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item #11 Continue Budget Deliberations if Needed

No one had any changes to the Board of Education Budget as presented.

Item #5 – Approval of Minutes—February 26, 2013 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from February 26, 2013 Regular Meeting.

Motion: Ed Wasikowski

Second: David Bitso

Yes: 5

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item #6 – Comments from the First Selectman

See below (with Item #8)

Item #7– Report from the Finance Director

Three transfers for this month.

Item #8 – Transfer Requests

- Transfer Request #6:

Request to Transfer \$13,051.00 from Contingency to Communications/Telephones for unanticipated rate changes from A T & T radio circuits. At time of budget there were no known rate increases from sales representative. Approved by the Board of Selectmen on 3/5/13.

Motion to approve Transfer Request #6.

Motion: Heather McDaniel Second: David Bitso
 Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0

- Transfer Request #7:

Request to Transfer \$599,517.55 from Fund Balance and Contingency to several line items. This transfer is to cover the cost of the Blizzard of 2013, LoPresti School utilities and repairs, ineligible grant engineering costs, legal costs for workers compensation and heart & hypertension cases.

Motion to approve Transfer Request #7.

Motion: Bill Sawicki Second: David Bitso
 Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0

FEMA reimbursement is estimated at \$188,500. This is a low estimate, and any additional funds will go back into Fund Balance. The actual impact to the Fund Balance is about \$25,000.00 due to the Tax Lien Sale. The Town Attorney and Workers Compensation lines are estimated numbers; the Legal Settlement line is an actual figure. The additional money requested for these line items is definitely needed to get us through the year. Some of the legal money was due to the charter revision (about \$17,000). If approved by the Board of Finance, this Transfer will go to the Town Meeting set for April 2, 2013 for approval. Chairman Trish Danka said she would have preferred the transfers be separate between the storms with expected FEMA reimbursement and all others, but due to the breakdown and detail provided it was clear enough for her to support.

- Transfer Request #8:

Request to Transfer \$20,000.00 from Captain's Salary to Overtime. The Seymour Police Department is projecting a deficit in the Overtime account due to several weather related incidents and the inability to get recruits into police academy seats. The shortage of manpower has been well documented over the past 3 years and is being addressed by the Board as expeditiously as possible. The September 2012 retirement of Captain Beres and reduced expenditure for Acting Lieutenant has provided this funding in the Captain's Salary line item.

Motion to approve Transfer Request #8.

Motion: Ed Wasikowski Second: David Bitso
 Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Bill Sawicki asked if we will need to cut a check for the middle school debt in May? First Selectman Miller said that we hope to have the situation finalized by April meeting.

Motion to add suspense list from the Tax Collector to the Agenda.

Motion: Bill Sawicki Second: Ed Wasikowski
 Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0

The Tax Collector presented the Board of Finance with the Suspense List and requested that these accounts be posted to Suspense and removed from consideration as assets of the Town.

Motion for the Chairman of the Board of Finance to sign the Suspense List presented by the Tax Collector removing these accounts from the assets of the Town.

Motion: Bill Sawicki Second: Ed Wasikowski

Yes: 5

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Request by the Chairman to amend this motion.

Motion for the Chairman of the Board of Finance to sign the Suspense List presented by the Tax Collector removing assets totaling \$50,282.44 from the assets of the Town.

Motion: Bill Sawicki

Second: Ed Wasikowski

Yes: 5

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item #9 – Public Comment

Frank Loda – 27 Osprey Drive – asked if the \$17,000 in Transfer #7 under Town Attorney was for legal fees in conjunction with the Charter Revision. Trisha Danka said she would get an answer for Mr. Loda.

Motion to add Correspondence to the Agenda.

Motion: Bill Sawicki

Second: Ed Wasikowski

Yes: 5

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item #10 – Correspondence

- We have received approval for the April 10, 2013 at 7:00pm at the Seymour Middle School.
- Trisha Danka asked First Selectman Miller to touch base with Roberta with a copy of the presentation. The space has been reserved from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. Trisha Danka has requested the laptop, microphones, and projector.
- Trisha Danka passed out a list of links to articles regarding other towns' solutions to the situation of funding for School Resource Officers.

Item #11 – Continue Budget Deliberations As Needed

The budget packet this year contains:

- Calendar (new this year)
- Introduction to Seymour (History)
- Charts
- Budget has footnotes
- Financial Glossary
- Explanation of how the mill rate was arrived at

Bill Sawicki suggested that we should change the line item under Town Expenditures labeled "Capital Reserve Fund – Charter Sec. 12.4" to "Capital Non-Recurring". This would eliminate the need to send any expenditure to a vote.

Trisha Danka has done some research regarding the School Resource Officers. This should be a decision made by the public. There is the potential for the budget to pass but the advisory question on SRO's to not pass. A possibility for us would be to have police officers at each of the schools completing their paperwork rather than doing so in their cars or back to the Police Department. Per discussion with Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools and Yashu Putorti, Chairman of the Board of Education, there is room available at each school for these officers. This would eliminate the need for the \$377,000 expense.

Bill Sawicki commented that if we leave this money in the budget where it is, if the budget doesn't pass, we will have a place that we can start to reduce costs. We could always keep some of the money in this line item. And also make cuts to other line items. He recommended leaving the money in the budget. We can always take it out. Trish Danka argued this would not be what the people voted on, though.

David Bitso commented that if the budget does not pass and the advisory question was voted down that we could then take this money out of the budget. We may also need to take out other things. We could also use the approach of the police on patrol at the schools. At least some of the funds could be used for this.

First Selectman Miller commented that the Security Team did have the discussion about having just one SRO or just a few. The question arose about what would happen if something happened at one school while the officer was at another school. Also, would these officers focusing on paperwork be taking them away from their original purpose? Another possibility would be to use the \$377,000, if approved, for 3 years toward increasing building security. We already have many security measures in place. We should present these options to the public at the Town Meeting. This way we can get a feel for how the people would respond to this question of the Security Resource Officers and Security.

Motion for a 5 minute Recess.

Motion: Bill Sawicki Second: Ed Wasikowski
 Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to reconvene.

Motion: David Bitso Second: Heather McDaniel
 Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Trisha Danka asked what we would do with the money if the \$377,000 was kept in the line item, but the people vote against the SRO's. Bill Sawicki commented that this will depend on the vote. How many people were for and against? We can always adjust the amount. If the money is in the budget, we still need the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Town Meeting approval to spend the money differently. If we send the budget to Public Hearing we can get the Town's feeling on the matter and will have the option of taking out that money. By taking the line item out now, we are taking away the choice from them. First Selectman Miller said that we would use all the resources available to advertise this question being posed at the Public Hearing: Newspapers, facebook, internet, code red announcement, etc..

Motion to approve budget as presented: 33.91 mill rate to Public Hearing on April 10, 2013 at 7:00pm at the Seymour Middle School auditorium.

Motion: Bill Sawicki Second: David Bitso
 Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Item #11 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Motion: Bill Sawicki Second: David Bitso
 Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Submitted by:
Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary