

Town of Seymour
Board of Finance

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Minutes

Special Budget Deliberations Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: David Bitso (7:13pm), Trisha Danka, and Ed Wasikowski

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

Others Present: Tony Caserta, Ethan Fry, Kurt Miller, 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

Rich Grudzias was seated as an alternate.

Item #4 – Public Comment

None

Item #5 – Set date of Public Hearing

Will come back to this item.

Item #6 – Discuss and take action on 2013-2014 Budget to be presented at Public Hearing

The Board of Finance will approve of using the Departmental Budgets unless specified.

- Revenues – WPCA was taken out; governor's #'s were put in
- Planning & Zoning – OK
- Board of Finance – OK
- Town Meetings/Public Hearings – OK
- Probate Court – OK
- Selectmen's Office – under *Communications/Telephones* use the \$33,000 First Selectman's #
- Economic Development – OK
- Economic Development Commission – OK
- Registrar of Voters – under *Purchased Professional Services* use the \$27,000 First Selectman's #
- Finance Department – under *Purchased Professional Services*, the \$10,000 item is for payroll/timekeeping software used to track employee attendance and improve efficiency. Keep this amount in.
- Tax Collector – OK
- Town Treasurer – OK
- Assessor's Office – Move \$33,000 out of capital into the Assessor's Office under a new line item and include in footnote that we are allocating this money annually to pay for revaluation rather than hit the taxpayers every five years with a large lump sum

- Assessment Appeals – OK
- Town Counsel – OK
- Town Clerk – OK
- Printing & Legal Ads – OK
- Inland/Wetlands – OK
- Conservation Aquifer Protection Agency – OK
- Board of Zoning Appeals – OK
- Town Planner – OK
- Town Computers/Data Processing – Use First Selectman's #'s – \$12,500 each for both software and hardware
- Town Buildings – for *Repairs/Maintenance* use \$100,000 – Departmental Budget
- Blight Officer – OK
- Town Engineer – OK
- Town Contributions/Miscellaneous – use the requested \$1,000 for *Potter's Field* (for more flags and maintenance)
- Town Contributions/Health – OK
- Town Contributions/Recreation – use the First Selectman's # of \$750 for the *Boys & Girls Club*
- Police Department – under *Salary: Supers* use the First Selectman's # of \$10,000; under *Overtime* use the First Selectman's # of \$150,000
- Communications Commission – OK
- Emergency Management – OK
- EMS Oversight Commission – OK
- Seymour Ambulance – OK
- VEMS – under *Purchased Services* use First Selectman's # of \$78,000
- Lake Authority – OK
- Fire Department – delete *Chief's Stipend*; increase the #'s for *Electricity, Heating, and Gasoline* to the First Selectman's #'s. Doug will check on these figures to be sure they are correct.
- Fire Hydrant – OK
- Fire Marshal – take out the *Part Time Stipend*. Information was never brought back to the BOF as requested, and it did not go in front of the BOS this year.
- Office of Building Compliance – OK
- Highway Wages & Maintenance – Doug will check on the #'s for *Electricity, Heating, and Gasoline*
- Street Lighting – OK
- Sanitation – Doug will check on the #'s for *Electricity, Heating, and Gasoline*
- Waste Collection – use departmental budget #'s
- Valley Health Department – OK
- Dog Warden/Canine Office – Doug will check on the #'s for *Electricity, Heating, and Gasoline*
- Services to the Elderly – OK
- Recreation Commission – the salary # includes amount for an increase in summer hours and extra night in the pool – use the First Selectman's #.
- Culture & Arts Commission – Doug will check on the #'s for *Electricity, Heating, and Gasoline* – use the departmental budget # for *Land & Buildings* (\$18,000)
- Parks – OK
- Library – OK
- Valley Council of Governments – OK

Trisha Danko voiced Bill Sawicki's concern in his absence, and she agreed with the concern, that the public did not understand the new process that was followed this year whereby the First Selectman

worked very closely with each department prior to submitting the budget. This process gave us a budget which will be very difficult to find areas to cut if needed.

- Security Resource Officers – Where do we put this line item? Trisha Danka was concerned that if we just include it in the Municipal Budget, most of the public will not realize it's there. The Board of Selectmen can approve adding a Non-Binding Advisory Question to the ballot. If the budget passes with the SRO cost in it and the Advisory Question does not, we have a problem. A discussion of different possibilities for presenting the cost for the SRO's took place. If we had a question on the ballot, it could be something like this: The current mill rate is 33.64. Would you like to see the Town of Seymour have a Security Resource Officer at each school (4 total) which would bring the mill rate up to 33.93? Trisha Danka asked if we could have a meeting for people in the town to come and tell us if they are in favor of adding the SRO's. In addition to the money issue, there is an emotional component to this issue. We could utilize the Code Red system to advertise this meeting. We need to have a funding source in order to have a separate referendum for the issue of SRO's. First Selectman Miller commented that these would be more than just security guards. They would also be mentoring and teaching classes as well.

Trisha Danka said the Board of Finance would decide on a budget at the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 26th. Doug will e-mail the budget with corrections, the Glossary of Terms, the explanation of how we got to the present mill rate, and the history of the town to all before Tuesday.

- Board of Education – OK

First Selectman Miller commented that the Board of Selectmen need to approve the Capital plan and is expected to do so on April 2nd. The Capital Reserve – will create the Capital Program over 3 years in the amount of \$33,000 per year for 3 years. Also, the Road Improvement Plan calls for an increase in the Roads amount to \$125,000 this year and increasing yearly to \$500,000 in 2017-2018. In Contingency, \$35,000 allocated to Emergency Management Plan. The Labor Contingency is an estimated number. Union negotiations have not started yet. Doug Thomas noted that the Collection Rate has increased to 98.4%.

Motion to go back to Item #5 - Set Date of Public Hearing

Motion: Rich Grudzias Second: Ed Wasikowski
Yes: 4 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Item #5 – Set Date of Public Hearing

Motion to – pending location confirmation and availability with the Board of Education – schedule the Public Hearing for the Budget Presentation for April 10th, 2013 at 7pm at the Seymour Middle School Auditorium.

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

Item #7– Public Comment

None

Item #8 – Adjournment

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

| Meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

Submitted by:
Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary