

**Town of Seymour  
Board of Finance**

**Minutes**

**COPY RECEIVED**  
**DATE:** 5/3/11  
**TIME:** 12:00 PM  
**TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**Special Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 6:30pm**  
**Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall**

**Members Present:** Robert Koskelowski, Bill Paecht, Bill Sawicki, Kristen Harmeling, Peter Jezierny, and Michelle Walsh

**Others Present:** John Stelma, Doug Thomas, Frank Loda, Jeanne Loda, Edward Strumello, Rick Belden, Marianne Mascolo, Chief Metzler, Cindy Dion, Jennifer Magri and Michelle Pavlik

**Item #1 – Call Meeting to order**

The Chairman, Robert Koskelowski, called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

**Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item #3 – Appointment of Alternates if needed**

None

**Item #4 – Public Comment**

Cindy Dion, 18 Carriage Drive: The BOF has difficult decisions to make. The BOE had 849 No votes which is a huge step forward from the past. The vote results were not far from the town. Kids need a good education to become what they want when they grow up. Let the budget move forward again.

Jennifer Magri, 16 Union Street: Disappointed the budgets did not pass due to apathy. People voted that weren't there in the past. Please do not slash the education budget by arbitrary dollar amounts. Asking the BOF to go out and say you support your budget. Stop the assault on education.

Michele Pavlik, 5 Emma Street: The town's labor costs are too high and the budget increases are to cover employee benefits. We are in a recession and other expenses are rising, businesses have taken reductions to remain profitable by reducing staff and freezing salaries. A fazed in labor cost reduction would have helped to weather out the recession. Board of Education employees receive 2 months of paid time off per year; many receive longevity, pay raises, and health benefits. Restructuring the town could save hundreds of thousands of dollars. The BOF only has a few options because labor costs are not an area they can control. The First Selectman and former Selectman had the responsibility to fix the labor costs.

Marianne Mascolo, Superintendent of Schools: Please be fair and realize the BOE is a \$30 million organization that is run efficiently. Every dollar is watched carefully. Today the efficiency of Seymour Schools was honored at the State Capitol. They are running on the same budget since 08/09. Need to take care of the children and community; we will only hurt them by not properly funding education.

Jeanne Loda, 27 Osprey Drive: (Board of Education) Take into account that the BOE has received \$0 for two years. The budget was only a 2.48% increase.

Frank Loda, 27 Osprey Drive: Noticed John Stelma (Democrat) was invited to sit at the BOF table, yet was not seated as an alternate for Jay Hatfield (Republican). Mr. Stelma has the right to sit and meets the minimum requirement for Republican / Democrat seating.

**Item #5 – Board of Finance to Act on Final 2011/12 Annual Budget**

Chairman, Bob Koskelowski asked Finance Director, Doug Thomas to look closely to the presented budget and see if new information has surfaced which would provide savings. Doug Thomas passed out information for BOF review. Savings were found in Town Insurance and Valley Council of Governments. An increase was presented due to the Clerical Union Contract.

Chairman, Bob Koskelowski asked Police Chief Metzler if he could suggest any reduction in the Police Budget. His recommendation is for a reduction of \$25,032 from the Salary Line item ending in 110.

Motion to reduce the total Town Insurance expenditure by \$74,895.45.

Motion: Kristen Harmeling      Second: Bill Paecht

Yes: 6

No: 0

0: Abstain

Motion to reduce the total Board of Education expenditure by \$22,000.

Motion: Bill Paecht      Second: Kristen Harmeling

Motion Amended.

Amended motion to reduce the total Board of Education expenditure by \$20,000 for a total budget increase of \$702,000 from the 2010 / 2011 budget.

Motion: Bill Paecht      Second: Kristen Harmeling

Yes: 6

No: 0

0: Abstain

The BOF requested Doug Thomas look for any further savings, confirm figures supplied for accuracy and present findings at the Monday May 2, 2011 Special BOF meeting.

**Item #6 – 2011/2012 Audit Recommendations for Auditor Selection**

Audit Subcommittee of Bill Paecht, Bill Sawicki and Bob Koskelowski scheduled to meet on Monday, May 9, 2011 to discuss proposals. Firms will be selected for interview from RFP's received. The Subcommittee will schedule interviews of select firms for Tuesday, May 17, 2011. Recommendations will be presented to full Board of Finance at the regular meeting on May 24, 2011

**Item #7 – Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn

Motion: Bill Sawicki

Second: Kristen Harmeling

Yes: 6

No: 0

0: Abstain

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Submitted by:

Michelle Walsh

Board of Finance