

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, March 18, 2014 @ 7:00 PM
Norma Drummer Room – Town Hall

Members present: W. Kurt Miller, Paul Roy, Karen Stanek, Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Len Greene, Jr., Annmarie Drugonis and Al Bruno.

Others present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, Marsha Schuck, Ed Schuck, Frank Loda, Jean Falbo, Rory Burke and Lianna Staffieri, recording secretary.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:04 PM.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and stated the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

None.

ITEM #4: Approve Minutes from March 4, 2014 Special Meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from the March 4, 2014 Special Meeting.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Karen states that Seymour *Lumbar* is spelt wrong and should be Seymour *Lumber*.

ITEM #5: First Selectman's Report.

- I presented my budget to the Board of Finance and gave them a state of the town update. I spent about an hour reviewing all of our financials including debt service, fund balance, capital plans and our strategy to improve our bond rating. I plan to do a very similar presentation at the public hearing for all of the residents.
- Attended a DECD Business Program Announcement with Fred Messoro for MPI held by Governor Malloy and DECD Commissioner Smith about a grant and loan for new equipment for the company. It was a very positive event.
- Along with Town Council Burturla, I met with some cell tower consultants to ask additional questions regarding the potential cell tower at Great Hill. I found the meeting very informative. I obtained a good deal of new information and will provide additional updates to the Board in the coming weeks.
- Met with the owners of the Seymour Lumber property. The building was blighted last Thursday. Yesterday, information was requested and obtained for the demolition permit. I will provide more information in the next week or so as time lines for demolition are established.
- VCOG and COGCNV negotiations are ongoing. I expect to have new ordinance for the board to discuss in the next few months.

- Union contract negotiations for the Clerks, Administrators and DPW are still going on. We are currently 8 months outside of contract. We will be starting the Police Unions contract in the next few weeks.

ITEM #6: Discussion and take possible action on Fair Housing Resolution.

Kurt read resolution as follows:

- WHEREAS,** All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and
- WHEREAS,** Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and
- WHEREAS,** Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and
- WHEREAS,** The Town of Seymour is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Seymour hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chief executive officer of the Town of Seymour or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Seymour and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Adopted by the **Town of Seymour on March 18th, 2014**

Motion to accept the resolution as read.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria	Second: Al Bruno
Vote: 7-Yes	0-No
	0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes	Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes	Karen Stanek – Yes
Len Greene, Jr. – Yes	Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes	

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action on Citizen Participation Plan.

Kurt summarized the Citizen Participation Plan. Kurt stated that this is something that we need to prepare and make notice in public for our Small Cities Block Grant Program.

proclamation from the town of Seymour? Pastors will participate in prayers, and a message will be given appropriate for the occasion. We will need chairs, podium, and microphone. If it rains, I would like to use the Norma Drummer Room. Thank you for your cooperation in the past years.

Sincerely, Rev. Russell Lesiw

Motion to grant Pastor Russell Lesiw's request for Thursday, May 1, 2014, for a National Day of Prayer ceremony at Town Hall.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #11: Discussion and take possible action on Skate Park fundraisers.

Kurt read letter from Matthew Thompson as follows:

Dear Board of Selectmen,

I am submitting this letter to ask for approval to hold two fundraising events at the field adjacent to the skate park.

The first fundraising event would be a cow chip raffle. Raffle tickets would be sold to the public and the field would be graded off in squares and a cow would be used for the event. We are looking to do this event sometime in April, or if delayed then June.

The second event would be an all day concert event. We would need to have a stage set, account for parking and we would like to have food and merchandise vending. We are looking to have this event in July.

Please advise on the proper steps we would need to take in order to gain approval to start planning these events. Thank you for your time.

-Matthew Thompson

Matt Thompson stated that the first event will not take place and he is currently seeking a farm to host that event. He spoke about his ideas for the concert and about putting together a volunteer committee. He explained what would be needed and foresees this as being an all-day event.

Matt stated that he likes the idea of having the concert at the Community Center Field adjacent to the Skate Park because that is where the park is. He explained that he would possibly like to have a demonstration at the Skate Park in between the music. If the Community Center Field is not possible, he could consider another location.

The board discussed with Matt what steps he will have to take, concerns about space and parking, and how many people would be attending. Also, they spoke about suggestions about different locations, public safety, insurance, and possibly pushing the date to August or September.

Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, stated that when assuming everything is in order, he recommended that someone serve as a point person.

Kurt asked if Matt would meet with Tony Caserta, Director of Operations, to find out what he would need and get the details in order before the April 1st Board of Selectmen meeting.

ITEM #12: Discussion and take possible action on usage of LoCIP funds for purchase of cold patch by the Department of Public Works.

Kurt read letter from Director of Public Works, Dennis Rozum, as follows:

The Seymour Public Works Department is requesting the Board of Selectmen to authorize \$4,800.00 in Local Investment Program (LoCIP) money to purchase 40 tons of cold patch to repair pot holes throughout the town.

-Dennis Rozum

Motion to approve the use of LoCIP money to purchase 40 tons of cold patch in the amount of \$4,800.00.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.	Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No	0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes	Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes	Karen Stanek – Yes
Len Greene, Jr. – Yes	Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes	

ITEM #13: Discussion on veteran’s tax exemptions.

Kurt explained that this is more for informational purposes. This was passed as part of section 12-81g of CT General State Statutes. Richard Buturla passed out information on the veteran’s tax exemptions. Kurt explained that this would provide 100% tax abatement for veterans who are 100% disabled. The board discussed this matter with Town Counsel, Richard Buturla. He explained what the tax exemption would provide and entail.

Kurt and Len stated their concerns about the funding disappearing with this program down the road. He stated that there are approximately twenty (20) 100% disabled veterans or their spouses living in Seymour.

The board discussed with Town Counsel the future with this tax exemption and actions they could take if the funding disappears or stalls down the road.

The board agreed to look into the program and discuss at a further meeting.

ITEM #14: Executive session (Primrose).

Motion to add to executive session Pending Litigation and Town of Seymour vs. Vista Gorge, LLC to the agenda.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria	Second: Al Bruno
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No	0-Abstain
Kurt Miller – Yes	Al Bruno – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes	Karen Stanek – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes	
Len Greene Jr. – Yes	

Motion to enter into executive session at 7:45 PM with Town Counsel, Richard Buturla.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.	Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No	0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes	Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes	Karen Stanek – Yes
Len Greene, Jr. – Yes	Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes	

Motion to exit executive session at 8:14 PM with no motions or votes made.

Motion: Al Bruno	Second: Len Greene, Jr.
Vote: 6-Yes 0-No	0-Abstain
Kurt Miller – Yes	Al Bruno – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes	Karen Stanek – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes	
Len Greene Jr. – Yes	

Al Bruno – Yes
Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes
Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Motion to appoint Don Smith to the Strategic Planning Committee for a term of two (2) years, expiring on March 18, 2016.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Motion to appoint Bruce Baker to the Strategic Planning Committee for a term of two (2) years, expiring on March 18, 2016.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Motion to appoint Kathy Vrlik to the Strategic Planning Committee for a term of two (2) years, expiring on March 18, 2016.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Motion to appoint Jeff Dussetschleger to the Strategic Planning Committee for a term of two (2) years, expiring on March 18, 2016.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Motion to appoint Preet Singh to the Strategic Planning Committee for a term of two (2) years, expiring on March 18, 2016.

Motion: Paul Roy

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #16: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to accept tax refunds/abatements as read.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #17: Transfers.

None.

ITEM #18: Correspondence.

- Check register.
- Resignation letter from Ron Balabon resigning from the Economic Development Commission
- Answers to 25 questions about the proposed cell tower.

ITEM #19: Public Comment.

Ed Schuck, 7 Country Club Drive, stated that some people in the neighborhood are angry about the proposal and the lack of communication regarding the proposed cell tower. He believes that there should be more communication.

Michael Flynn, 85 Skokorat Street, stated that we have gone through some severe storms in Seymour and is concerned about food shortages in a catastrophe. He suggested that the First Selectman bring this issue forth at the next VCOG meeting.

ITEM #20: Selectmen’s Public Comments.

Karen Stanek stated that when she first was elected to the Board of Selectmen, her mission was to clean up the blighted properties in town. She stated that she is very happy to see progress.

Kurt stated that the Board of Condemnation met and came up with some recommendations to move forward with blight. Kurt spoke with Mr. Tkacz and later came in with a gentleman who will do demolition to the building. He has a certain amount of time and is under the confines of the Blight Ordinance. Kurt stated that the Building will be down shortly.

Karen also stated that she thought that the Board of Police Commissioners were supposed to attend tonight’s meeting.

Kurt stated that that is an elected board and he doesn’t believe that is our place to bring them in. He suggested going to the board directly with questions and concerns.

Paul Roy asked about the vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Kurt stated that the Board of Selectmen appointed Joseph Ziehl.

Paul stated that the reporter, Quanna, is no longer working for Republican American and will be working for the town of Enfield as a police officer.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria stated that she attended Seymour High School’s musical called *Suesical, Jr.* and they did tremendous job. Every student was a freshman and it was great to see all the talent.

Al Bruno stated that he is happy to hear that the Seymour Lumber property has been blighted.

Annmarie Drugonis stated that the stop sign at the rotary by Chucta and Tomlinson needs to be replaced. She also asked if the Fire Chiefs and the Fire Commissioners can come to the next meeting. Kurt stated he will ask the Fire Commissioners.

Annmarie mentions that OSHA is going to be doing a volunteer audit of our town buildings. She asked if she could review the finding.

Kurt stated he will talk to the Fire Marshal about getting that information to Annmarie.

Annmarie stated that as a municipality we need to make sure that we are following all state and government regulations pertaining to health, safety and the environment. She stated that she would like to see if we need to meet the requirements of the SPCC (Spill Prevention Control Countermeasure Plan), tracking generators, storm water pollution plan.

Annmarie stated that someone had been searching through town minutes and a couple of months of meetings missing in different directories.

Rory will get a list of outstanding Fire Chiefs.

Annmarie stated that she has received phone calls about the proposed cell tower. Two were irate people who received literature on town letter head that was placed in their mailbox.

Len Greene, Jr. mentioned that at the first meeting of the Livable Communities Committee they elected a chair. He gave his best wishes to Joe Luciano in his endeavor.

W. Kurt Miller stated that the Valley mayors have been working together to come up with a valley wide shelter system.

Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, stated that the Connecticut Siting Counsel controls the citing of cell towers. He stated that the only reason why the Town Seymour is involved with this is because it is a proposal to use town, municipally owned property. Richard Buturla explained that the town does not control the citing of towers. If there is a need in a municipality, the Siting Counsel encourages companies and tower providers to seek municipally owned property. He stated that the citing of cell towers is not locally controlled. Therefore, if the town says no, the providers can go to a private property. He stated that the administration is considering all alternatives to deal with issues that have been raised by the neighbors and fire department.

Kurt stated that the board needs to make the right decisions and needs to be fully aware of the ramifications.

ITEM #21: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:41PM.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

0-Abstain

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Submitted by,



Lianna Staffieri
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman