

REVISED

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MINUTES

Board of Selectmen

Tuesday, May 6, 2014 – 7:00PM

Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: W. Kurt Miller, Len Greene, Jr., Karen Stanek, Paul Roy, Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, and Nicole Klarides-Ditria (7:19 PM).

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, Frank Loda, Marsha Schuck, Ed Schuck, Fred Stanek, Rory Burke, Dennis Rozum, Richard Rossik, Robert Leggio.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:02 PM.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

Ed Schuck, 7 Country Club Drive, stated that at the last Board of Selectmen meeting each board member spoke about different issues in the town. He stated that Mr. Miller is quoted as saying “we are really making strides in changing perceptions of Seymour.” He stated that he can’t fathom how the board can consider placing a cell tower in a residential neighborhood.

Marsha Schuck, 7 Country Club Drive, assures the board that the opposition to the cell tower is not limited. She brought forth a petition that was signed by at least 100 residents. She read the petition as follows:

We, the undersigned residents of the Town of Seymour, Connecticut demand the Town of Seymour, Connecticut Board of Selectmen deny the request by AT&T to construct a cell phone tower at the Great Hill Hose Company property located at 140 Botsford Rd. Seymour, Connecticut.

- Potential unknown health risks jeopardize the health of surround residents, visitors and workers in the area.
- The unsightly tower will detract from the beauty and natural topography of the area.
- The Great Hill Hose Company fire station is within the “Fall Zone” of the tower, thus causing concern for the safety of fire fighters and their equipment.
- The proposed least payment by AT&T will have miniscule effect on town revenues.
- The proposed tower will decrease property values of the surrounding homes.

Richard Rossik, 34 Roberts Street, spoke about his FOI request which he handed to First Selectman, Kurt Miller. He spoke about his opposition to the recent changes at the Police Department and also about the Police Chief, Mike Metzler. He inquired about seeing test scores for the Deputy Police Chief position. He inquired about how many times a school administrator can mentally and physically abuse students and parents before he/she is terminated. He stated that something needs to be done. He finally inquired about why the town roads are not being fixed.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from April 15, 2014 regular meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from April 15, 2014 regular meeting.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Abstain

Al Bruno – Yes

ITEM #5: Approve minutes from April 21, 2014 special meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from April 15, 2014 special meeting.

Motion: Paul Roy

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 3-Yes 0-No

3- Abstain

3-0-3

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Abstain

Karen Stanek – Abstain

Paul Roy – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Abstain

Al Bruno – Yes

ITEM #6: First Selectman’s Report.

1. Met with DECD in Hartford to discuss Brownfield Grant for Housatonic Wire. We have been given additional time and as of now; the grant will remain available for the next few months. This information was passed on to the property owner as well. Thanks to St. Rep Conroy, Fred Messorre and VCOG ED Rick Dunne for their help.
2. Attended the first Annual Valley Salvation Army Recognition Breakfast
3. Attended and spoke at Seymour High School’s Take a Stand Day. It was a great event to benefit our kids attending prom. I’d like to thank Rich Kearns for all of the hard work and effort he puts into this program.
4. Attended Comcast Cares Day at the Seymour Community Center. Along with about 40 employees, we painted, landscaped and did some repair work to the building to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Seymour. It was a great event and I am very appreciative of the Comcast staff for all of their help.
5. I had the privilege of hosting the National Day of Prayer services at Town Hall. It was a very inspiring event and always reminds me of how fortunate we are to live in a country that allows leaders of different religions to all meet in a safe and peaceful way for the benefit of the community.
6. Attended the 2014 Emergency Management Symposium to help better prepare Seymour for the upcoming storm season.
7. I am proud to announce the Town of Seymour has won the Connecticut Main Street Center’s 2014 “Renewed Commitment to Main Street Award”. I will be receiving the award on behalf of Seymour at their Awards Gala on June 9th. The award comes from the hard work and dedication of many people. I’d like to personally thank our Economic Development Director Fred Messorre for all of his hard work in leading us toward this great recognition.
8. Finally, I am proud the say that S&P has increased the town’s bond rating two levels from an AA- to AA+. This new rating puts us one level below the highest possible rating and emphasis the financial strength of the town. We made a commitment two years ago to improve the town’s financial condition and this shows we are taking the right steps and headed in the correct direction. Many people have worked very hard to help us achieve this and the impact will be of tremendous benefit for the community. In this year’s budget, we will save close to \$70,000 in debt service costs and over \$320,000 next year.

Motion to add to the agenda discussion and possible action regarding a resolution empowering the First Selectman to sign a contract with the Connecticut State Library Grant for the Historic Documents Preservation grant.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution empowering the First Selectman to sign a contract with the Connecticut State Library Grant for the Historic Documents Preservation grant.

W. Kurt Miller read resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION EMPOWERING FIRST SELECTMAN TO SIGN CONTRACT.

RESOLVED: That W. Kurt Miller, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality, a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Document.

Motion to accept the resolution as read.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

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

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action on usage of LoCIP funds.

W. Kurt Miller read a letter dated May 6, 2014 from the Operations Department as follows:

We are requesting approval for the use of LoCIP funds to have 20 trees in the downtown area removed due to the overgrowth of branches and the undermining by the roots on our sidewalks and roads causing damage. These trees are also obstructing the pathways and are one of the causes for ADA non-compliance.

We received 2 quotes: Jim Weed - \$25,000 and Ted’s Lawn Care - \$17,500. We will be hiring Ted’s Lawn Care to remove the trees and begin work in the evening hours to avoid any conflict with the downtown merchants, as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

W. Kurt Miller read a letter from the Department of Public Works Director, Dennis Rozum, as follows:

The Seymour Public Works Department is requesting the Board of Selectmen to authorized \$5,500.00 in Local Investment Program (LoCIP) money to perform necessary repairs to a broken underground drainage pipe. The funds will be allocated to heavy equipment rental, pipe, pipe fittings, road mix fill and asphalt.

Regards, Dennis Rozum

Motion to use \$17,500.00 of LoCIP funds to hire Ted’s Lawn Care to remove 20 trees in the downtown area and to replace the bricks due to the overgrowth of branches and the undermining of roots on our sidewalks and roads.

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

The board briefly discussed how long the process will take and what will happen with the bricks. They will not know the cost of replacement of the bricks until the work on the trees is done.

Motion to use \$5,500.00 in LoCIP funds to perform necessary repairs to broken underground drainage pipes in front of 13 Bunting Road.

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

The Director of the Department of Public Works, Dennis Rozum, briefly explained the issues with the sinkhole in front of 13 Bunting Road.

Motion to add to the agenda discussion and possible action regarding the hiring of Department of Public Works seasonal employees.

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

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

ITEM #10: Discussion and take possible action on 2014-2015 WPCA Budget.

Kurt stated that the WPCA Budget should have been submitted April 1st but is still being worked on. The Director of Operations, Tony Caserta, has been working closely with the WPCA to make sure their numbers are correct.

The board requested that Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, send an additional letter to the WPCA Counsel, Attorney Ramon Sous, requesting that the Board of Selectmen have the WPCA Budget by the next Board of Selectmen meeting on May 20th.

Motion to table discussion and possible action on 2014-2015 WPCA Budget to the May 20th Board of Selectmen meeting.

Motion: Paul Roy

Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Motion to add to the agenda discussion and possible action regarding an authorizing resolution for Emergency Management Services for the Town of Seymour.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Discussion and possible action regarding an authorizing resolution for Emergency Management Services for the Town of Seymour.

W. Kurt Miller read the resolution as follows:

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE Town of Seymour, Connecticut Board of Selectmen
CERTIFICATION

I, Susan DeBarber, the Town Clerk of Seymour, Connecticut do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Selectmen at its duty called and held meeting on May 6, 2014, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that W. Kurt Miller as First Selectman of the Town of Seymour, Connecticut is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that W. Kurt Miller now holds the office of First Selectman and that he/she has held that office since December 5, 2011,

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this 7th day of May 2014.

Susan DeBarber, Town Clerk.

Motion to accept authorizing resolution as presented.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

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

ITEM #11: Set Public Hearing for Tuesday, May 20, 2014 regarding COG ordinance.

Motion to set a public hearing for Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 6:45 PM in the Norma Drummer Room regarding COG ordinance.

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

ITEM #12: Discussion and take possible action on Greenway Trail budget presentation.

Fred Messore presented the budget and Phase I along with Mark Nielson (the Chief planner for VCOG.) They discussed the next steps for the Greenway Trail. Fred discussed the funding available.

Mark Nielson discussed the funding program at length. He discussed the process of the application and getting the Greenway Trail project started. The thought is for the town to continue with Milone and MacBroom with the Greenway Trail project.

The board discussed timelines of Phase I of the Greenway Trail project with Mark Nielson at length. Mark explained that the State of Connecticut is ready to initiate. The state needs the board’s approval to move the project forward.

Fred discussed the money aspect of the project and that the town would have to put up 20% of the cost for the Greenway project.

The board discussed the next steps. All members were in agreement to work hard to make the Greenway Trail happen. Kurt stated that he will bring a financial plan to the next Board of Selectmen meeting on May 20th so the board can take action.

Motion to add to the agenda discussion and possible action regarding a Section 8-24 referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the potential sale of the Maple Street School to The Primrose Companies, Inc.

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

Discussion and possible action regarding a Section 8-24 referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission for the potential sale of the Maple Street School to The Primrose Companies, Inc.

Kurt gave an update on the sale of Maple Street School.

Town Counsel, Richard Burturla, discussed the next steps in this process in order to move the sale forward. He discussed the requirements of the State Statutes and the Town of Seymour’s Charter. Section 7-163e of the Connecticut General Statutes requires a public hearing any time a municipality is going to sell a piece of public property which has to be set by the Board of Selectmen. The statute also requires two legal notices to be published in a newspaper and a sign to be posted on the property. The town charter requires a special town meeting with respect to the sale of the property.

Motion to forward to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a Section 8-24 referral of the potential sale of Maple Street School to The Primrose Companies, Inc.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Anmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Motion to add to the agenda discussion and possible action regarding the setting a Public Hearing for Tuesday, June 3, 2014 and a Special Town Meeting June 17, 2014 for the potential sale of 29 Maple Street, FKA Anna LoPresti School, FKA Maple Street School to The Primrose Companies, Inc.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Anmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Motion to set a Public Hearing for Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 6:30 PM in the Norma Drummer Room for the purpose of a discussion of the potential sale of the building at 29 Maple Street to The Primrose Companies, Inc.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Anmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Motion to set a Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 6:30 PM in the Norma Drummer Room to discuss and vote on the potential sale of the building at 29 Maple Street to The Primrose Companies, Inc.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Anmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

ITEM #13: Executive session.

None.

ITEM #14: Appointments.

Motion to appoint Steven Kulas to fill an elected vacancy on the Library Board of Directors expiring on November 3, 2015.

Motion: Paul Roy

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Anmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

ITEM #15: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to approve Tax Refunds/Abatements as read.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Anmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes

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

0-No

0-Abstain

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes

ITEM #16: Transfers.

None.

ITEM #17: Correspondence.

- Check registers.
- Summary of the prescription discount card. Savings to date for Seymour residents is \$23,823.92.

ITEM #18: Public Comment.

Robert Leggio, 84 Colony Road, inquired as to why his request was not on agenda for tonight.

ITEM #19: Selectmen’s Public Comments.

Karen Stanek reinforced the comment that was made earlier today about the condition of our roads. She stated that there are numerous roads that need attention.

Kurt stated that the town is entering into their third year of the Proactive Road Program. He stated that the funding is so small, only \$150,000.00. He stated that the town is trying to be as proactive as possible, but it will take 4-5 years to get that proactive account to a level where they can actually make a dent. He explained that two very difficult winters have made a bad situation substantially worse. Kurt stated that the Public Works Board’s goal is to do about \$200,000.00 of road work in the spring and another \$200,000.00 of road work in the summer. They need to keep money in reserve to pay for the Rimmon Hill Project.

Karen stated that she believes that the public will judge the Board of Selectmen by the attention they pay to the portions of roads that have been terribly damaged in town.

Paul Roy publically thanked the board for the support they gave to the Skate Park. It was raining at the Grand Opening and the planned demonstration wasn’t able to be performed. Although, the group came back the next day to do so.

Kurt stated that the Seymour High School woodshop class built five picnic tables for the Skate Park. He stated that they will be placing them as far away from the cement as possible.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria thanked Paul and the Skate Park Committee for all their hard work on the Skate Park. She stated that she was glad to see that the town has received the Excellence Award and proud of Fred Messoro for all the work he has done. She was happy to see downtown moving forward.

Al Bruno commended Fred Messoro and all who helped beautify the town. He believed that the Greenway Trail is a great idea. He inquired when the department reports were due.

Kurt explained that they are due in July.

Al stated that the Third Annual Spring Fest Wine and Beer event will be held on May 31st at Villa Bianca from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. It benefits the American Diabetes Association, Seymour Red, Seymour Soccer Association, other youth sports as well as the Land Trust. He stated that they will have a great vendor this year. The tickets are \$45.00 each and \$50.00 at the door.

Len Greene, Jr. stated that he is happy that the Brownfield Remediation Grant has been extended for Housatonic Wire. He urged the town to keep the pressure on to get that remediated.

Kurt stated that the issue they had was that the grant is for a bona fide developer. Until movement is made there, the grant won't be able to come into play. He stated that the owner has said he will step up and take care of property.

Len stated that the board sent a letter to the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to replace a fence on Cedar Street. He stated that he drove by the fence that had been fixed and it looked terrible.

Kurt stated that he wanted to give the Commissioner a week or so to respond. He stated that with talking to Town Counsel, they decided that the next step is for the Town of Seymour to blight the State of Connecticut.

Len emphasized how important the S&P upgrade to AA+ is for the Town of Seymour. He stated that when it comes to fixing our roads and creating a greenway, this will give the town the financial flexibility to do those things.

Kurt stated that the direct impact that we will see in the budget is \$70,000.00 savings on our debt service and next year a little over \$320,000.00. He stated that they are working on getting the mil rate stabilized. He stated that the target year is still 2017-2018. He stated that with a grade of AA+, this makes the town very attractive when we go out to borrow smaller amounts of money.

Kurt, in response to the public comment by Mr. Leggio, stated that he did not get back in the office until the very end of the day. He stated that if Mr. Leggio would like to be put on the agenda, he should put it in writing.

ITEM #20: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:25p

Motion: Anmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

0-Abstain

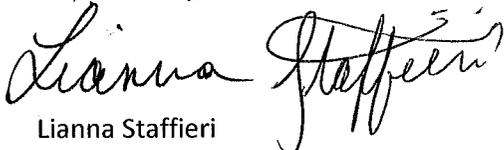
Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Anmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Submitted by,



Lianna Staffieri
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman