

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Wednesday, December 17, 2014 – 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

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

Members Not Present: Paul Roy

Others Present: Town Counsel Warren Holcomb, Assistant Fire Chief Mike Lombardi, EMSOC Chairman Pat Lombardi, Fire Commissioner Chris Motasky, Rory Burke

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 recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

Mike Lombardi – The Fire Department is looking to alter Ordinance 6-22 regarding volunteer firefighters. This was approved by the Chiefs and Commissioners. We would like to change it to the following:

*The Department shall consist of not more than 200 people and shall be filled by voluntary enlistments from the citizens of the town **or bordering towns** under such regulations as shall be established by the Chief and Assistant Chiefs. Provided, however, that no person under the age of 18 years shall be a member of any company, nor shall any enlistment shall be a member of any Company, nor shall any enlistment be allowed for a term of less than 12 months.*

We're doing this because we have members from both Companies that live in bordering towns.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from November 18, 2014 regular meeting.

A motion was made to approve minutes from November 18, 2014 regular meeting.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Discussion: Kurt: The Fire Chief's name is John, not Mike.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Kurt Miller abstained)

ITEM #5: First Selectman's Report.

1. Union Contract Negotiations are starting to wrap up. Warren is with us tonight and will provide us an update during Executive Session on the current status of each.
2. Weekly review of the 2014-2015 budget is ongoing. On the income side we remain in line with projections. On the expenditure side, we are showing two areas of potential concern that I have previously mentioned.... Retiree Health Benefits and Town Building Maintenance. Also, we are projecting to be aboutn\$10,000 short in our Engineering line item. With the increase of projects through grants as well as the road program, we are having more worked produced than anticipated. We will continue to monitor these accounts and will provide updates as the year goes on. All other accounts are trending as projected.
3. I completed my initial recommendation for the 2015-2016 budget. I am now meeting with department heads to review their expectations and to prepare for presentation to the Board of Fi-

nance next month. I will be recommending several changes to the overall budget to continue to stream line our operational process.

4. Attended the National League of Cities conference in Austin, TX Nov 18-22. I had the opportunity to attend several very informative workshops on Economic Development, Budgeting, Long Term Planning and Performance Management. I also had the chance to speak with other chief elected officials to discuss things that are and are not working well for them. Over all, I thought the experience was very positive and very worthwhile. I look forward to attending next year's conference.
5. Took part in two National League of Cities University webinars to expand on sessions I attended in Austin. The two sessions expended on Performance Management and its importance in building a better service delivery operation. I will be working with Michele in the coming months to start a similar program for the town.
6. Received letters of request from SONCCA and VEMS regarding tax status with the town of Seymour. Both organizations received denial letters from the Assessor's office regarding their tax exempt status. I have spoken with the Executive Directors of each organization as well as speaking with the Assessor. I will be turning both of these issues over to Rich to have him review and to report back to this board at our next meeting to provide direction and next steps.
7. Attended the Shelton Economic Development Corporation Annual Meeting to show support to our fellow Valley town.
8. Attended the Rimmon Street Informational meeting. Due to the state's time line, we will not be going out to bid on this project until Sept of 2015, pushing the start date off until Spring of 2016, one year later than anticipated.
9. Attended the Christmas Tree Lighting at Broad Street Park. I'd like to thank all of those that worked to make the event possible. It was a nice way to kick off the Christmas season.
10. Meet with Superintendent Syriac and others regarding the possible creation of a town wide Facilities Department similar to the Technology Department recently created. Initial conversation went well and I expect to be coming back to this board with more information in the coming months. Other areas we could potential look at down the road include legal services and finance.
11. Was very proud to accept on behalf of the town, a 2014 CERC Celebrate Connecticut award for our work on the fish by pass project. The award recognizes a communities overall contribution to the economic growth of the State of Connecticut.
12. Finally, the transition for our MSW and recycling pick up has been completed. While we have had a few small bumps along the way, everything seems to be running very well. In the regards to projected savings, for MSW, our net tonnage for November was 409.61 down from 571.41 in October, a savings to the town of about \$12,500. On the recycling side, in the 16 months before the change, the town averaged 25.26 tons a month with a reimbursement monthly average of \$252.56. In November, we recycled 41.23 tons for a reimbursement of \$494.76. While it is still only one month in, the numbers are much better than we ever expected. I think this board should be very proud of the decision that we made on behalf of all of the residents of Seymour.

ITEM #6: Discussion and take possible action on approval of Efficient & Effective Local Government portion of Strategic Plan.

A motion was made to accept the Efficient/Effective Local Government portion of the Strategic Plan as presented.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

ITEM #7: Presentation and discussion of EMSOC 2014 report.

Pat Lombardi presented copies of the report to the Selectmen.

Pat: We used 8 different categories. One was equipment. The SAA purchased an F450 ambulance for \$170,000. They put \$120,000 as a down payment and financed the balance. Additionally, they purchased a third mechanical CPR device so that now each ambulance has their own. They provide automatic compressions in the event of cardiac arrest. In addition to 23,000 volunteer hours, they participate in about 10 different events around Town. I'd like to thank Scott Andrews and the volunteers for their work this year.

A motion was made to accept the report as presented.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

ITEM #8: Discussion and take possible action on 1-year extension of WPCA contract with Veolia.

Kurt: We have been working with Veolia since we signed the last extension. Because of the size of the contract, Rich didn't feel comfortable not going out to bid on this. We'd be talking about \$15 million for a 10-year contract. I worked with Veolia to extend our contract as-is for one more year to go out to bid. They feel comfortable they'll win the bid. Jim Galligan is writing the bid specs and we expect it to go out January/February. Veolia is open to starting the contract in July.

A motion was made to sign the 1-year extension with Veolia Water North America for operation and maintenance of the Seymour water pollution control facility as presented:

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-0

ITEM #9: Discussion and take possible action on Seymour Fire Department surplus equipment request.

Kurt: At the last meeting you had a discussion with Chief Cronin regarding the surplussing of two trucks. There is a letter in your packet that I will read into the record:

Dear First Selectman Kurt Miller,

This letter is to inform you and the Board of Selectmen that on December 8, 2014, the Board of Fire Commissioners voted to surplus Engines 10 & 18.

Sincerely,

Gene Atkas, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners

Town practice is to take the advice of the Board surplussing the equipment and then make it available to any Department that would like to make a claim on it. From there, if it is sold, the money will enter back into the general fund.

A motion was made to surplus the equipment per the recommendation of the Board of Fire Commissioners:

Motion: Annmarie

Second: Len

Discussion: Karen: I would like some more information about this. I just don't think I can make an informed vote without more. I understand the equipment is older but I get a lot of questions about the amount of fire equipment that we have in this Town. As someone who lives in an area of Town without hydrants I don't personally have a problem with this but why we're constantly replacing fire equipment.

Kurt: To make it clear, we're just accepting their recommendation to surplus the trucks, not necessarily purchase new equipment. From our perspective, this decision doesn't impact that one.

Mike Lombardi: A better word than surplus from our perspective is decommission. This is not like the ladder trucks. As far as non-hydranted areas, we're about 40% non-hydranted. We have a tanker that we use and we were able, with the help of a mutual aid agreement, to flow 89,000 gallons of water over 2 hours, which is substantial. Ponds aren't as large as everyone thinks so we have to be careful using them.

Len: Do we have sufficient coverage with retiring these two trucks?

Mike: Yes.

Len: Was the vote taken by the Fire Commissioners just to surplus the equipment or to do something else.

Mike: It was to surplus and eventually replace it with a utility truck. We could never hook these old trucks up to our larger ones.

Kurt: I guess there is some concern that this was brought to us before the vote was made.

Scott: It was tabled in October before we came in November because there were internal questions.

The Fire Commissioners canceled their November meeting. Regarding whether there was anything else included in the motion, we also asked the Town to sell the equipment outright and apply the funds to replacing it. There are other fire departments without our resources that would value this equipment, and we've received numbers in the range of \$15,000, which we hope to apply to replacement equipment. It wasn't to circumvent the Town's process, just to encourage the Board to sell it rather than offer it to other departments.

Kurt: The issue we have now doesn't state that question. If you feel that isn't the desired action, you could withdraw it and resubmit it in January. Just to make this clear, this isn't just a Board of Selectmen decision, this is also Board of Finance because it affects the capital plan.

Scott: Typically, it has been able to come back to the Department.

Chris Motasky: We understand it's a possibility it won't come back to us, but one hasn't been used in 10 years and the other breaks down every time we use it. We definitely want to surplus the equipment no matter what.

Kurt: Karen, do you feel comfortable voting on this?

Karen: Yes.

Vote: 6-0

Kurt: We also received a letter dated December 11th:

W. Kurt Miller:

On Monday, December 8, 2014, the Board of Fire Commissioners voted to surplus their 1979 Dodge/Salisbury front mount 4-wheel drive pumper in service, currently stationed at the Great Hill Hose Company.

As per Town Charter, Emergency Management is requesting that vehicle to further enhance our abilities to deliver assistance to the community and provide a platform for our CERT team to grow on.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Eighmie, Emergency Management Director

We have a request for the vehicle. I spoke to Tom Eighmie today, it's his intention to use this truck to replace the 4x4 truck they have now, which has severe body rot. They feel it will be several thousand dollars' worth of repair. He would surplus his vehicle and support any funds from that going to the Fire Department.

Chris: The only question I have is that it's a pumper. We don't have the money to keep it on the road under our budget. I don't know how Emergency Management would.

Mike: I'm not sure what Emergency Management would need an engine for. Who would do the maintenance on it?

Kurt: It is my understanding the pump on the front would be removed and it would be used as a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Mike: What's the age of the existing vehicle?

Kurt: I'm not sure, but it's newer than the fire vehicle. It was a Police vehicle so it has serious wear. Every department's need is unique so we have to look at them. We don't have to take action on this tonight.

A motion was made to table the request.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Karen Stanek

Discussion: Len: I think it's important for us to get some more information about the proposed usage and repair costs before a decision is made.

Kurt: I can ask the mechanics at Public Works to take a look at it to get their opinions on it. What do you want to do with the trucks in the meantime?

Mike: We have to remove equipment and that will take a while.

Kurt: Would you want the pump regardless of what happens.

Mike: Yes.

Vote: 6-0

ITEM #10: Executive session (Personnel – DPW and Clerks Union Contracts).

A motion was made to add to enter into executive session at 7:43 PM with Town Counsel Warren Holcomb.

Motion: Len Green Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to exit executive session at 8:09 PM with no motions or action taken.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-0

ITEM #11: Discussion and take possible action on Department of Public Works union contract.

A motion was made to approve the successor collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME Council 4, Local 1303-24 covering the Public Works bargaining Unit having a term from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2017.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

ITEM #12: Discussion and take possible action on Clerks union contract.

A motion was made to approve the successor collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME Council 4, Local 1363-240 covering the Town Hall Clerks bargaining unite with a term from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2017.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

ITEM #13: Appointments.

A motion was made to appoint Gary Popielasz to the Parks Commission for a term of two (2) years expiring on December 17, 2016.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Deb Ice as the Animal Control Officer for a term of one (1) year expiring on December 31, 2015.

Motion: Nicole Klairdes-Ditria

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Paul Niedmann as the Assistant Animal Control Officer for a term of one (1) year expiring on December 17, 2015.

Motion: Nicole Klairdes-Ditria

Second: Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Pat Lombardi to the Board of Fire Commissioners for a term of three (3) years expiring on December 17, 2017.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Dan Zaniewski to the Board of Fire Commissioners for a term of three (3) years expiring on December 17, 2017.

Motion: Nicole Klairdes-Ditria

Second: Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Peter Jezierny to the Conservation Commission for a term of four (4) years expiring on December 31, 2018.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Jay Hatfield to the Conservation Commission for a term of four (4) years expiring on December 31, 2018.

Motion: Nicole Klairdes-Ditria

Second: Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Paul Sponheimer to the Downtown Committee for a term of one (1) year expiring on November 20, 2015.

Motion: Karen Stanek **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Mike Horbal to the Economic Development Commission for a term of three (3) years expiring on December 6, 2017.

Motion: Karen Stanek **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Rory Burke as the First Selectman's Administrative Assistant for a term of one (1) year expiring on December 3, 2015.

Motion: Nicole Klairdes-Ditria **Second:** Karen Stanek

Vote: 5-0-1 (Kurt Miller abstained)

A motion was made to reappoint Beverly Kennedy to the Memorial Day Committee for a term of two (2) years expiring on November 20, 2016.

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Karen Stanek

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Tom Eighmie as an Open Burning Official for a term of one (1) year expiring on December 3, 2015.

Motion: Nicole Klairdes-Ditria **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Paul Wetowitz as an Open Burning Official for a term of one (1) year expiring on December 3, 2015.

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Al Bruno

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Elizabeth Conrad to the Pearson Memorial for a term of one (1) year expiring on December 5, 2015.

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Susan DeBarber to the Pearson Memorial for a term of one (1) year expiring on December 5, 2015.

Motion: Karen Stanek **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Jamie Yakusewich to the Recreation Commission for a term of two (2) years expiring on December 17, 2016.

Motion: Nicole Klairdes-Ditria **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Bill Paecht to the Regional Planning Committee for a term of four (4) years expiring on December 17, 2018.

Motion: Nicole Klairdes-Ditria **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Discussion: Kurt: We have to appoint new regional planning representatives because the new COG has a new regional planning contingent and it had to come from Planning & Zoning.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Dave Bitso as an alternate to the Regional Planning Committee for a term of four (4) years expiring on December 17, 2018.

Motion: Nicole Klairdes-Ditria **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Bryan Ryan to the South Central Regional Council Board of Directors for a term of one (1) year expiring on December 22, 2015.

Motion: Nicole Klairdes-Ditria **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Stephen Chucta, Jr. to the WPCA for a term of four (4) years expiring on December 12, 2018.

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Karen Stanek

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Paul Chapla to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term of four (4) years expiring on December 17, 2018.

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Nicole Klairdes-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

ITEM #14: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

A motion was made to approve Tax Refunds/Abatements dated November 26, 2014 as read.

Motion: Nicole Klairdes-Ditria **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to approve the Tax Refunds/Abatements dated December 15th, 2014 as read.

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Nicole Klairdes-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

ITEM #15: Transfers.

Kurt: Control #1: Asking for \$3,300 from contingency for professional services for auditing. They didn't have the exact auditor's numbers when they did the budget and it came in higher than expected.

A motion was made to approve the transfer as presented for action by the Board of Finance.

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Nicole Klairdes-Ditria

Discussion: Kurt this will be forwarded to the Board of Finance for approval.

Vote: 6-0

ITEM #16: Correspondence.

Kurt: There are several items of correspondence this week:

- Check registers.
- A letter from Board of Public Works Chairman that they received no bids when they published an RFP for a new dump truck.
- A notice that the Friends of the Broad Street Park are taking new orders for brick purchases.
- A letter to VEMS that Kurt assuming municipal position on Board of Directors – mayors feel they need more say on VEMS Board. Scott formerly held this one.
- A letter to Board of Public Works regarding their questions on the garbage changes and my response.

- A letter recommending Pat Lombardi for Citizens' Engine Co. Fire Commissioner.
- A letter recommending Dan Zaniewski for Great Hill Hose Co. Fire Commissioner.
- A request from Assistant Chief Lombardi for the aforementioned ordinance changes.
- A letter that the 8-24 referral for LoPresti was approved. Town Counsel Brian Lema is working with the developer's attorney to sell it in January.
- Another letter that the 8-24 referral for capital purchases was approved.
- The savings from prescription discount program.
- A letter from Joseph A. Luciano who was unable to come for public comment so asked that his letter concerning accessibility and ADA-compliance issues in Seymour be entered into the record.

ITEM #17: Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

ITEM #18: Selectmen's Public Comments.

Karen – I attended the Veterans' ceremony and Christmas Parade and I want to commend Bob Lang. There were a lot of people there this year. I have two questions. One is about the Adopt-a-Spot program. No one is adopting them.

Kurt: They're working with Nu-Age to get signs made. We have more requests than spots.

Karen: There is a Jaguar parked in front of the VFW for sale. It's a convertible, but the top isn't up. It's not a used car lot.

Kurt: We'll let the blight officer know. We may not be able to do anything about it because it doesn't violate the Blight Ordinance.

Karen: What about the crosswalk to the Broad Street Park on Pine Street?

Rory: Dawn from Public Works has contacted the State about it.

Nicole: I also attended the Christmas Parade, it was a great time and lots of people were there. The Hurricanes did a great job. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Al: Can the Blight Officer also look at the disabled vehicle 2 feet from the road on Tomlinson between MacConnie Court and Lantern. It's in front of a white house with a detached garage.

Annmarie: The parade was great. The Hurricanes did a great job along with Aimee's Academy of Dance.

Len: I'm very happy to hear that the recycling and garbage program is succeeding so much. \$12,000 per month is a big deal.

Kurt: We have an employee following the garbage truck taking notes so we'll get some information regarding how we can improve it.

ITEM #19: Adjournment.

A motion was made to adjourn at the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

Submitted by,



Rory Burke
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman