

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 – 7:00 PM

Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Gary Bruce, Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, W. Kurt Miller, Nicole Klarides-Ditria (7:16 PM), Theresa Conroy, Karen Stanek and Town Counsel Warren Holcomb

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Deirdre Caruso, Fred Messori, Mike Kearney, Ron Fasone, Michele Wasikowski, Doug Thomas

Item #1 – Call meeting to order

First Selectman W. Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Item # 2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Item #3 – Public comment

Mike Kearney – 72 Mountain Road – representing Emil Singer American Legion Post 10 – There will be a memorial event for John DeBarber – Seymour's first casualty in Vietnam this Sunday along with Ronny Randall, who has field at community center named after him. We have been working with Kurt, his father, Art Paquette and we have put a tentative program together and a nice service. I also want to put in two stones to honor vets after Vietnam at French Park. The Vietnam stone is wrong, The State rolled back it's recognition of the Vietnam War to 1971. There are also currently no memorials for Grenada, Panama, Gulf War, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom. I found information on where stones came from – CT Stone. I contacted New Haven Foundation about a grant as well as the Matthies Foundation. It was turned down previously. The Legion is not the VFW and vice versa – they have different eligibility requirements.

Item # 4 – First Selectman's report

I attended CCM Annual meeting and networked with municipal executives and attended several informative sessions. I also attended the CCM Labor Relations and Finance Committees and think the Town will benefit from my involvement. The Lt. Gov. attended the VCOG meeting last week and listened to the problems we are facing in the Valley. There is no update on union negotiations as nothing has changed. The employee handbook issue is resolved and goes into effect in November. I was also able to attend TEAM INC's 44th annual meeting. I also held a 5k and Smoke in the Valley debrief meeting and there were several good ideas to improve the event. The 4th Annual Pink Promenade on Sunday raised more than \$7,000 for Seymour Pink. Tomorrow is Seymour Pink Day so I would like all residents to wear pink in support.

Item # 5 - Approve minutes from October 1, 2013 regular meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the October 1, 2013 regular meeting .

Motion – Al Bruno Second – Theresa Conroy

Discussion – Karen Stanek – Time of ceremony on Saturday – minutes say 9:30, it was 10:30.

Yes: 5

No: 0

Abstain: 1 (Annmarie Drugonis)

Item # 6 – Report and discussion with Economic Development Director Fred Messoré

The Henny Penny property has been closed on. We had to work with DOT to finalize. Demolition went smoothly and we're in the construction phase now. A few new businesses have moved into Town. Clean Harbors moved into 770 Derby Avenue. They are an environmental services company in Canada, USA and Mexico. They selected that location because of its easy access and the building stock was workable with little modification. They provide 50 jobs mostly already in existence from merger of two CT offices. Grand Light purchased 104 Day Street. They needed to do renovations but had closed last year. They had been in New Haven for 80 years and have modified their business plan by moving to mostly Internet sales. They manufacture and refurbish high-end antique lighting. They are open to the public October 25th, 11-4. They have offered their services to the Town. The "Welcome to Seymour" signs are finally coming in. This grant started under Paul Roy. It was awarded to a company and had been delayed with bonding and contractual issues. They were hired to do 16 signs for the industrial park and we had leftover funds with which we decided to do gateway signs. 6 signs remain. We're hoping to do another round with consistent signage for Adopt-a-Spots as well as some directional signage. The Fish Bypass is going well. I attend frequent meetings and I'm working with them on parking and lighting issues that are happening as a result of the project such as the Strand and the trestle. The Greenway Trail draft is almost complete. Milone & MacBroom were able to bypass the bid process because they had worked on the Bypass project and as such had a lot of knowledge on the subject. We're hoping to put in another grant application in with the same organization to try and get funds for the trail itself and it will be done in phases. Hopefully for the November 16th meeting we will have something. I've been working with businesses in the industrial park and we have started on a tentative plan to expand the industrial zone. We're working with the owner of Seymour Lumber but they had a potential buyer fall through. We will meet again next week. I reached out to a few retailers about TriTown and have distributed packets and the owner is working on his own to market the property. As a Town we're heading in the right direction – we have tax incentives and have been attracting businesses. We've been implementing the downtown plan and the EDC is finalizing a parking map.

Al Bruno – Did any of the incoming businesses take advantage of the tax incentive plan?

Fred – Henny Penny did and Grand Lighting took advantage of the enterprise zone. They've run into issues with the State but I've been helping them. Clean Harbors did not, but they are leasing so it may not be worth it for them.

Al – When will the Henny Penny be complete?

Fred – Probably 2014, but it will depend on the weather, probably spring of next year.

Kurt – It all depends on the asphalt.

Fred – There will be another “Welcome to Seymour” sign there as well. People have complained that it’s just a gas station and convenience store but it is a gateway and will definitely change people’s impressions coming in.

Nicole – When will the “Welcome to Seymour” signs be done?

Fred – We’ve had a lot of issues with the vendors so it’s hard to say. We were going to give them more signs because the bid came in so low, but we will be using a different vendor.

Theresa – On the Greenway Trail, this is just one of the phases, right?

Fred – This was a plan to see what it could be. We’re breaking it into phases because it’s too big a project to do at one time. The other phases will be connecting north to Beacon Falls and south towards the Community Center. It was also recommended that we establish a trail committee. Right now we’re seeing if it’s feasible. We don’t own the land so we have to work with DOT. Then we will have to apply to funding and there will be a financial commitment on behalf of the Town.

Theresa – Is Seymour Lumber structurally sound?

Fred – I’m not a structural engineer so I can’t say.

Kurt – It was condemned 20 years ago.

Karen – We’ve been patient but it’s an attractive spot and it’s time for us to do something definitive. With all due respect to the family, it’s been vacant for many years.

Kurt – There are things we will be able to do now that we could not have used before.

Theresa – Thule took advantage of the tax incentive plan. Did they remodel?

Fred – Yes, and several departments in Town Hall were fortunate enough to get some of their used furniture. Housatonic Wire’s insurance claim has been finalized and now they’ve contacted a real estate agent. The previous administration worked on getting a loan from the State to demo the site and we applied for Brownfields money for the next bona fide developer. Also they’re right across from the Greenway trail site so we’re hoping to clear some vegetation to clear the view.

Theresa – The Brownfields money is going to a new owner, correct?

Fred – Yes. Also the Plan of Conservation and Development that has to be redone every 10 years is being worked on with assistance from VCOG.

Kurt – We had a meeting with Milone and MacBroom about bridges in Town and we included the one between the two sites.

Fred – They’re doing a Route 67 development study. We’re also working with the VTD to try to improve and increase service.

Gary – What about Maple Street School?

Fred – We received one bid and it didn’t qualify. I reached out to all the developers and two said they would submit. I’ve been in contact and they weren’t able to get them in on the date. We’re working to get them submitted.

Gary – Do you think the Town is going to be on the hook during the winter for maintenance?

Fred – Right now it is. We might have to do a zone change in order to facilitate a proposal so it may take time.

Gary – So we're going on Don Smith's recommendation and nobody else looked at it to see if it's cheaper?

Kurt – No, we went with Don Smith's opinion. Jachimowski has done work on the Community Center before.

Gary – We have no idea what the asbestos and lead abatement will cost?

Kurt – They don't foresee that being an issue in that area because it's located in a different part of the building.

Gary – I would just like to see a little more competition

Yes: 6

No: 1 (Gary Bruce)

Abstain: 0

Item # 8 – Discussion and take possible action on directional signage proposal

Nafis & Young opened 1 bid for the Directional Signage Project II on Monday, September 20, 2013 from Nu-Age designs of 132 Silvermine Road, Seymour. The bid came in at \$35,545. Due to time constraints and funding issues we met with Nu-Age Designs to negotiate the price. Due to some of the original signs not being needed, we eliminated some of them and brought the price down to \$28,575. We have approximately \$25,000 in grant money and have additional money for the Adopt-a-Spot signs, which are part of this project, from the Economic Development Department. We are requesting that you approve the sign proposal as presented. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Deirdre Caruso – The signage idea came a year or two ago. We only received one bid and we realized we didn't have enough grant money. This money expires at the end of the year. It's also starting to get cold, which would impact installation, so we want to push the project forward. We chose not to go with the other company because of how the first phase has been handled. We took out some items to negotiate on the price. One sign was a directional sign for the island on West Street that's being removed so we removed it from the bid. Another was for the library. When the trim on the library was painted, they did the sign for free. We negotiated it down to \$28,575. Because we have Adopt-a-Spot in there, EDC has agreed to put in the rest of the money. We would like permission to move forward with the project and apply with DECD for more money

Al – We're never going to use that company again, correct?

Deirdre – No, we will strongly consider not using them again.

Theresa – How many signs is this?

Deirdre – 13 types, 18 total, 9 of which are Adopt-a-Spot but it includes posts and caps. The sign by the Trestle will be bigger and include more information. We're replacing the Gary Park sign. There's another sign off exit 19 and several wayfinding signs for parks. In the future, companies with Adopt-a-Spot will pay for their replacement plaques.

Theresa – How long will they last?

Deirdre – The foam is harder than wood.

Gary – Does the Town receive a fee for the Adopt-a-Spot program?

Deirdre – No, the company must maintain the area though.

Gary – In the future I would like to see them contribute some revenue.

Motion to award the Directional Signage Project Phase II to Nu-Age Designs

Motion – Nicole

Second – Karen

Yes: 7

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item #9 – Discussion and take possible action on LoCIP projects

The attached quote that was received by the Operations Department on 9/23/13 is to replace 2 doors in Town Hall and add a handicapped ADA compliant door opener to the front door where the elevator is. The quote is for \$11,891. We had received another quote in August, but it was only for the opener and not the doors, which are in desperate need of repair. We are requesting the use of LoCIP funds to have this work done. Our administrator at OPM has already approved this work as a LoCIP expenditure.

Kurt – The money will be going to replace the doors in Town hall, which are very old and not handicap accessible. After returning money to the LoCIP account that wasn't used on school security we have... before this project. Our balance would still be about \$350,000 in the LoCIP account. I'm asking for a motion for the use of \$11,891 from LoCIP to address the work as mentioned.

Motion – Theresa Conroy Second – Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Discussion – Kurt - We've been looking into this since the spring and we had two locksmiths come in but the frames and doors are rotted so we needed to find someone who was willing to do it all at once.

Nicole – What kind of doors will they be?

Deirdre – Steel.

Theresa – Who will finish them?

Deirdre – Public Works.

Al – It should have been done a long time ago but this is an old building, it wasn't universally designed.

Deirdre – We have it in the Police Department and the Library already

Yes: 7

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item #10 - Executive session (Ron Fasone, Beres settlement)

Go into executive session at 8:10 – Warren Holcomb, Doug Thomas, Michele Wasikowski and Ron Fasone were invited to stay.

Come out at 8:44 – no action was taken.

Item #11 - Discussion and take possible action on Beres settlement

A motion to settle as discussed in executive in \$75,806.02 –

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Al Bruno

Yes: 7

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item # 12 – Discussion and take possible action on employee Ron Fasone

Motion to terminate

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Yes: 7

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item # 13 – Transfer

Control # 4 - \$40,000 from contingency to legal settlements

Motion to approve as presented

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Yes: 7

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item # 14 – Appointments

Motion to appoint Rory Burke as Veterans Services Coordinator

Motion – Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Karen Stanek

Yes: 7

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item # 15 – Tax Refunds/Abatements

Motion to approve the tax refunds/abatements in the amount of \$419.39 as presented

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Theresa Conroy

Yes: 7

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item # 16 – Correspondence

Check Register and CCM Prescription Discount card usage summary

Item # 17 - Public Comment

Michael Flynn – 85 Skokorat Street – What’s going on with the property on Squantuck Rd? Also the trestle is very rusted.

Michael Kearney – There are no flags at French Park. Bob Koskelowski gave us the flags.

They’re not flying because there are no lights. There has also been vandalism and one flagpole

has no mechanism. Some of the lock boxes are broken. The kids steal them and one pole has

been knocked down and flags stolen. The Legion owns the property at Wakelee and Bank and

the fence is there to prevent vandalism. Why can’t people put signs up on it to promote

downtown? I think it’s a good idea. Randall field has no sign and I would like to get one. There

is also no sign for Veterans’ Grove at French Park. We want our driveway back at the Legion. It

was blocked several years ago when the sidewalk was redone. There is also a tree buckling the

sidewalk. I don’t know why we can’t keep the gymnasium and cafeteria at the Maple St. school?

Also Rory was appointed Veterans Services coordinator – the Legion was looking to take over

that but the State hasn’t allocated enough money so the Legion is going to walk away. Also,

what happened to the sludge lagoons behind Stop & Shop? Also I want local legislators to try to

do something about the unfriendly business nature in the State of Connecticut.

Item # 18 - Selectmen’s Public Comments

Karen Stanek – We’ve collected \$5,600 in blight fines. I was wondering where it’s going?

Kurt – It sits in a special fund that is used for remediation of other properties.

Karen – Also I want an update on the mold remediation.

Kurt – We should have it Friday.

Karen – A few weeks ago I heard the tree in the island on West Street was cut down.

Kurt – It couldn't be saved.

Karen – There were two police officers on duty there that were doing nothing in terms of directing traffic. It was a mess. Could we get more traffic supervision there?

Kurt – I will speak to the officers tomorrow.

Karen – We just had a report by the DTC and we have American flags that are falling off the poles.

Kurt – I'll ask Dee tomorrow and get back to you.

Karen – I had asked for clarification on FOI regarding recording the voting by name.

Kurt – We've begun to do it and Warren will look into it.

Theresa- If we could get some better lighting at the community center that would be good, especially with the Boys and Girls Club. Also, who maintains the properties on Chamberlain Road?

Kurt – I think the tenants have some responsibility.

Theresa – Please look into that. When will the recording equipment for meetings be working?

Rory – We received a repaired piece of equipment and I'll try to repair it.

Theresa – Do we have a service agreement?

Rory – I'm not sure, we'll have to look into it.

Theresa – Thank you to everyone who is wearing pink tonight and I look forward to tomorrow,

Nicole – I just want to commend everyone who came out for the walk last Saturday.

Annamarie – Stop sign at Sprucebrook and Tomlinson is missing and there is a bus stop there.

Pop Warner cheerleaders made it to regionals in Massachusetts. Sunday is Pop Warner's Pink Day so they'll all be in pink. They play at 9 and 11 at the high school. If nothing is happening with LoPresti, it would be nice if we could use the gym for practice.

Kurt – The gym is filled and we only have the heat budgeted to 55.

Gary – I want to give my thoughts and prayers to those impacted by breast cancer.

Kurt – Seymour plays Oxford Friday night at Oxford. I have a bet with First Selectman Temple.

The loser has to wear the opposing team's jersey for the day and to the next Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Item # 19 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 PM

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

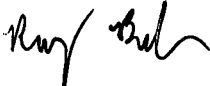
Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Yes: 7

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Submitted by,



Rory Burke

Recording Secretary

Approved by,



W. Kurt Miller

First Selectman