

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 9/3/13  
TIME: 8:45am  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Town of Seymour  
Board of Selectman  
MINUTES  
Special Meeting  
Tuesday, August 20, 2013 @ 7:00PM  
Norma Drummer Room / Seymour Town Hall

**Members Present:** W. Kurt Miller, Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Theresa Conroy, Gary Bruce, Annmarie Drugonis, Karen Stanek, Al Bruno and Town Counsel Rich Buturla.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Frank Loda, Bill Paecht, Jamie Brennan, Sean Walsh, Keisha Baker, Amber Burton, Pat Borgesano, Sara Gannon, Brett Baker, Tim Gannon, Jorge Ospina, Don Smith and Paul Roy  
Members of the Board of Education: Yashu Putorti (Chairman), James Garofalo, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Fred Stanek and Jay Hatfield

**Item #1 –Call meeting to order.**

First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Joint Meeting with the Board of Education. Board of Education meeting opened at 7:03pm.

**Item #2 –Pledge of Allegiance.**

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item #3 –Presentation of Babe Ruth Championship Trophy.**

The Babe Ruth Championship Team presented the plaque won at Housatonic Valley League Senior Division. Congratulations to the players.

**Item #4 –Presentation of CCM municipal service award certificates.**

CCM Municipal Service Awards will be awarded to three town employees for longevity: Chief Metzler for 25 years of service, Lucy McConologue for 30 years of service, and Craig Stevens for 35 years of service.

**Item #5 –Public Comment.**

Keisha Baker, 15 Housatonic Terrace: Asks Kurt Miller and Theresa Conroy to please petition the state to make Route 34 safer. More police presence is needed. There have been three head-on collisions and many close calls. Please do what you can to step-up police protection and work with the DOT.

Amber Burton, 18 Edgehill Terrace: Asking to do something to step-up police presence in the Route 34 area to increase safety.

Jamie Brennan, 124 Bungay Road: Sent a letter regarding blight reform ideas to the Board of Selectmen and asked them to please take the topics into consideration.

Pat Borgesano, 20 Glen Circle: Would our time be better well spent to find the reason behind the blight? We should help our neighbors and support them by offering a helping hand.

Sara Gannon, 11 Housatonic Terrace: Please increase police and safety on Route 34.

Brett Baker, 15 Housatonic Terrace: Need to increase safety on Route 34. Please be our voice with the state to help with safety and increase police presence during rush hour.

Tim Gannon, 11 Housatonic Terrace: Recent events have been tragic; please increase safety.

Jorge Ospina, 18 Edgehill Terrace: Traveling on Route 34 he was passed by a tractor trailer doing sixty miles per hour. There are lots of kids in the area. Who's next?

**Item #6 –Discussion and take possible action on CCM Energy Program.**

Presentation by CCM and Siemens regarding a proposed Energy Program. Packets were supplied to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education to review the program further for decisions on action in the future.

Board of Education was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Motion to go out of order to Item #15 Discussion and Take Possible Action on Fraud Risk Assessment Audit.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Yes: 7

No: 0

0: Abstain

A final Fraud Risk Assessment Audit report was received by the Board of Selectmen. A representative from Blum Shapiro reviewed recommendations stating some had been completed and that the town does a good job.

**Item #7–First Selectman's Report**

The town engineer provided a drawing of the West Street Intersection. Once Public Works can begin the project should be completed in about two weeks. The old Shell Station has been sold. Henny Penny is scheduled to break ground in a week or two with completion in late December.

Held a walkthrough for potential developers at Lopresti School. Sunday attended and observed a mass casualty drill at the Seymour High School.

New website is under development and the full website launch is planned for mid-September. Continued contract negotiations with unions with no new updates. A ten year strategic plan is being generated and portions of the plan will be brought to the Board of Selectmen in coming meetings.

**Item #8—Approve Minutes from August 6, 2013 Regular Meeting**

Motion to approve Minutes from August 6, 2013 Regular Meeting.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis Second: Al Bruno

Remove Karen Stanek from Members Present and add Fred Stanek to Others Present.

Yes: 6

No: 0

1: Abstain (Karen Stanek)

**Item #9—Discussion and take possible action on George J. Hummel Little League tax abatements.**

Motion to approve the George J. Hummel Little League tax abatement.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Yes: 7

No: 0

0: Abstain

**Item #10—Discussion and take possible action on Skate Park Committee request to purchase additional equipment.**



Yes: 7

No: 0

0: Abstain

Motion for the Town of Seymour to extend an offer of employment for the open position of Public Works Truck Driver to Theodore Freeman pending a background check, license verification, pre-employment drug screening and any other screening the town deems necessary.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Theresa Conroy

Yes: 7

No: 0

0: Abstain

**Item #15—Discussion and Take Possible Action on Fraud Risk Assessment Audit**

Item was discussed out of order earlier in the meeting.

**Item #16—Discussion and Take Possible Action on Blight Ordinance Revision**

An updated copy of the Blight Ordinance Revisions was provided to the Board of Selectmen. Attorney Fred Stanek provided wording regarding larger parcels of property /lawn allowances and provided wording allowing the town to reduce penalties or fines if needed. The Town of Seymour Blight Officer discussed areas of concern with each Board of Selectmen separately.

The Board of Selectmen discussed at length changes regarding public/private view. Karen Stanek stated concern with constitutional issues if the private view is not allowed in the ordinance. Town Counsel will provide an opinion at the next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting.

**Item #17—Set Public Hearing for Tuesday, September 3, 2013 at 6:30pm regarding Blight Ordinance Revisions**

No action taken.

**Item #18—Executive Session**

None.

**Item #19—Appointments**

None.

**Item #20—Tax Refunds / Abatements**

Motion to accept the Tax Refunds / Abatements as presented.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Al Bruno

Yes: 7

No: 0

0: Abstain

**Item #21—Transfers**

None.

**Item #22—Correspondence**

Check Register

Letter regarding Region 2

Letter from the State Delegation to the DOT regarding safety upgrades needed on Rt. 34

Letter from CCM showing the impact of the prescription card plan.

**Item #23—Public Comment**

Sean Strumello, 188 Mountain Road: Thanks to the Board of Public Works, Dennis Rozum and Craig Stevens for an opportunity to work for the town.

Jamie Brennan, 124 Bungay Road: Concerned his letter did not reach the Board of Selectmen since it was not discussed. All blight complaints should be signed and no anonymous complaints should be allowed.

Michael Flynn, 85 Skokorat Street: He has seen improvements in speeding on the street but people are still ignoring the signs. The area needs police surveillance.

Bob Koskelowski, 130 Pearl Street: Agrees with Karen Stanek on the Private view regarding the Blight ordinance. He has a neighbor that has an interior lot with a view from the front door of an old chicken coop and other debris. If a person lives in an interior lot they should not be allowed to blight their property. There is a hearing officer in the blight ordinance to discuss fees and we should not look to the Board of Selectmen to lower fines. Compliments to hiring two people in the Public Works department. The town is doing a fine job with infrastructure.

Al Yagovane, 25 Elaine Drive: At one time he was a Blight Hearing Officer and he would work with people and even received help from local businesses to clean up blighted properties. He also witnessed situations that were not blighted locations but wrongfully sited. A hearing officer must not be politically involved to make fair judgments.

Sean Walsh, 126 Pearl Street: Thanks to the Board of Selectmen for endorsing the recommended hires for Public Works. Please have the Blight Ordinance Changes clearly noted on the posting prior to the hearing to make it easier for the public to understand what was changed from the previous ordinance.

**Item #24—Selectmen's Public Comments**

Karen Stanek: Would like to commend emergency service for the drill on Sunday. It was not easy and very emotional and the EMT's were very kind. Induction banquet for former athletes in the Seymour Sports Hall of Fame in November and it is important to support the event at Colonial Tavern.

Theresa Conroy: There have been lots of accidents on Route 34 with people leaving their lane to pass. She is working to have a rumble strip installed on the center line along with lighting and signs. It would be great to also have more police there. Suggests the recreation department look into skateboard lessons at the new Skate Park. Agrees on Skokorat Street speeding is an issue. Asked Kurt Miller the role of the Downtown Attendant. Kurt Miller stated it is part of the Operations Department working downtown weeding/ garbage and works in conjunction with the Public Works Department.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria: Commends the Seymour EMS on the Mass Casualty Drill on Sunday. They did a great job.

Al Bruno: Kudos to the staff at Town Hall for getting the Fraud Risk Assessment done and following up with some of the points made. Heard you loud and clear on the danger at Route 34. It is time for a change and police presence is necessary.

Annamarie Drugonis: There were good finding on the Fraud Risk Assessment, excellent idea to do and hopes we act on the recommendations. Agrees with Theresa Conroy, it would be great to offer classes at the new skate park. We need to get the Blight Ordinance done. Something needs to be done on Route 34 and knows Theresa will do all she can.

**Item #25—Adjournment.**

Motion to adjourn at 9:04pm.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Yes: 7

No: 0

0: Abstain

Submitted by:



Michelle Walsh  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:



W. Kurt Miller  
First Selectman