

COPY RECEIVED  
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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

**Town of Seymour  
Board of Selectman  
MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 19, 2013 @ 7:00PM  
Norma Drummer Room / Seymour Town Hall**

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

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Frank Loda, Sean Walsh, Thomas Eighmie, Robert Rich, Michael Marganski, Lori Tilton, Thomas Picort, Fred Stanek, Jeffrey Dussetschleg, Paul Sponheimer, John Uhelsky, Donald Smith, Jr. and RosalieAverill.

**Item #1 –Call meeting to order.**

First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**Item #2 –Pledge of Allegiance.**

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item #3 –Public Comment.**

Thomas Picort, 39 Roberts Street: The town did a good job with communication during the storm and looks forward to more code reds.

**Item #4—First Selectman's Report.**

Renegotiating the contract with the Strand Theatre has begun with discussions with Culture and Arts, The Knights of Columbus and the Walnut Hill Church.

Union contracts with Department of Public Works, Town Hall Administrators and Town Hall Clerks are ongoing and plan to begin negotiations in the next two weeks.

Interviews for the Rimmon Street Project engineer have been completed. Decision should be made by Wednesday February 20, 2013 and ground breaking is expected for 2014.

The process of updating the Norma Drummer Room has begun, video cameras have been installed and should have the system working in March 2013.

DEEP is finalizing the contracts with OPM and expect ground breaking at the end of March 2013. Finalizing the plan for School Safety and expect to have an update with regard to capital improvements at the March 5, 2013 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Thank you to all the members of Public Works, Police, Fire, Ambulance and Emergency Management for the exceptional effort that was put in with Blizzard Charlotte. Public Works along with private contractors worked around the clock Friday through Monday. Kurt Miller will meet with department heads to receive a de-brief on the storm and look for areas of improvement. Special thank you to the First Selectman Smith and the residents of the Town of Beacon Falls for the use of a large dump truck and loader.



WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Seymour make application to the State for \$500,000.00 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board of Selectmen:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,
2. That the filing of an application by the Town of Seymour in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 is hereby approved, and that the First Selectman W. Kurt Miller is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Seymour.

Motion to accept the resolution regarding the Small Cities Program Grant as presented.

Motion: Theresa Conroy

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Yes:7

No: 0

0: Abstain

**Item #8— Discussion and take possible action on Fair Housing resolution**

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



Yes: 7

No: 0

0: Abstain

Further discussion regarding plans for the town's buildings is needed by the Board of Selectmen. Information was requested regarding the cost of a government facility center to accommodate all town functions at the Pine Street location. Kurt Miller will email all existing information to the Board of Selectmen.

Motion to go out of order from the agenda and proceed with Item #17, Public Comment.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Yes: 7

No: 0

0: Abstain

Robert Rich, 9 N. Benham Road: Going slowly for a major building project is a good route. LoPresti should go and moth balling the old Middle School maybe good to hold onto the grant money. The old Middle School will be too big for what we need. We need to avoid asking taxpayers to pay any more. The Federal and State government will not provide funds.

Sean Walsh, 126 Pearl Street: Recently toured the buildings and the reason LoPresti must remain at 55<sup>o</sup> is due to the sprinkler system. The old Middle School has the same sprinkler system and would need to be heated. Gary Bruce brought up a good point, need to see if the money from the sale of LoPresti could be used to fix the old Middle School.

Paul Sponheimer, 25 Falcon Drive: Was on two building committees. The first focused on moving the Board of Education out of 98 Bank Street. Two locations were mentioned in the High School for the Board of Education, however, the building committee talked about moving them to the guidance department that is shut off from the rest of the building and has its own entrance. The lack of an elevator at 98 Bank Street has always been an issue and the meetings would be moved to the NVHD conference room. The second building committee was informed the town would not sell Pine Street because it is river front. LoPresti may not be the building to sell. Need a plan for the whole season.

Rosalie Averill, 38 N. Benham Road: Thanks for listening and providing all the options. The NVHD lease was put into place with careful consideration. Why would 98 Bank Street be removed? The building does not cost the town much money. Start with LoPresti and see what goes. If the town is trying to save on costs, 98 Bank Street is not an option.

Jeffrey Dussetschleg, 48 Davis Road: Thanks for looking at all the buildings. Likes the idea of having a plan. The NVHD is willing to work with the town for the greater good. Also, the boiler at 98 Bank Street was acquired from a grant through the NVHD.

Thomas Picort, 39 Roberts Street: We should not move the Recreation Department or seniors to the schools.

Fred Stanek, 22 N. Benham Road: Speaking personally, he is pleased to hear discussions. Is a strong advocate to remove the old Middle School because it does not meet the town's needs and for health reasons. Saw many employees in the 1990's become ill and remembers an old teacher contributed his cancer to the Middle School. When he is at the old Middle School for a long time he reacts to it. The building needs to be removed from the town and maybe the grant could be forgiven. Would like to see a government facility center.

Michael Marganski, 14 Franklin Street, Ansonia: NVHD liaison. Asks the town to please maintain the level of services they provide at 98 Bank Street. The lease with the town was not done blindly and needed to be done to secure a mortgage on the property.

Thomas Eighmie, 50 Laurel Lane: 98 Bank Street needs 85 feet of roof repaired and the chimney needs work. The Community Center has tanks that need to be removed. To allow for more parking at LoPresti remove the old section of the building.

John Uhelsky, 15 Third Ave: Was a member of the building committee. Each building has positive and negative attributes. Parking is limited at 98 Bank Street. LoPresti is about the same size as the Community Center. There is no market for schools at this time. The Seymour Housing Authority showed interest but could not get funding. The Board of Selectmen should review the notes Jen Magri took from all the meetings. What tax revenue does the town loose by owning the buildings? Correct knowledge is needed to make a decision.

Donald Smith, Jr., 56 Greenwood Circle: There are significant code issues to have the Board of Education at the High School. The Community Center has a roof that was done in the 1990's and there is at least 10 years remaining on that roof. If the building were sick, it would need to be addressed whether it was demolished or renovated. There has not been any air quality test performed on the building to confirm or deny health. The structural integrity of the building is solid and new boilers can be done. Good Luck.

Town Counsel is excused at 9:10pm.

**Item #13— Appointments.**

None.

**Item #14—Tax Refunds/Abatements.**

Motion to accept the Tax Refunds / Abatements as presented.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis      Second: Al Bruno  
Yes: 7                                      No: 0                                      0: Abstain

**Item #15—Transfers.**

None.

**Item #16—Correspondence.**

Check Register.

**Item #17—Public Comment.**

Lori Tilton, 82 Great Hill Road: Thank you for decision regarding the Botsford Road claim.

Thomas Picort, 39 Roberts Street: During the major storm his neighbor had to get to dialysis. He called the Seymour Police Department that directed him to call the State Police. The State Police directed him to call the Seymour Police Department. Where is the proper place to call? Kurt Miller stated the Emergency Services phone number can be found on the Town website.

Thomas Eighmie, 50 Laurel Lane: It is very rare that we hear townspeople supporting the town workers. This storm had many stories of townspeople keeping the Public Works Department motivated and happy. Thanks to all the townspeople that helped lift the spirits of the plow drivers.

Rosalie Averill, 38 N. Benham Road: Traveled to other towns after the storm and commends the Town of Seymour on a job well done. Can see a difference from town to town.

John Uhelsky, 15 Third Ave: Both the Seymour High School and Community Center are on a flood plane, which needs to be considered.

Sean Walsh, 126 Pearl Street: Chairman of Public Works Board. Normally don't have storms like this and the town handled this better than most. Staffing has not grown with the population. There had been some concern that one side of town was cleared better than the other. There are larger trucks used on one side of town and smaller trucks on the other—the smaller trucks were un-useable after midnight due to the large quantities of snow.

**Item #18—Selectmen's Public Comments.**

Karen Stanek: We didn't lose power during the storm but would Chatfield School have been available as a shelter? Tom Eighmie stated yes. Asked for an updated Blight Report. Kurt Miller stated an updated report would be provided at the March 5, 2013 Board of Selectmen meeting. Moving the BOE to the High School in the guidance department. Many people have access to the High School. The guidance department is isolated from the rest of the school. We can't go into panic mode that someone other than a parent or student is at the High School

Theresa Conroy: Thanks Public Works. Very proud of the community when she saw neighbors helping each other. We have had a lot of discussion regarding buildings. We need a lot more information and the appraisal on Lopresti is needed. Kurt Miller stated the appraisal should be available in 3 to 4 weeks.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria: Thanks to Public Works. We learn something new with each storm to keep progress in the right direction.

Al Bruno: Would like to see a report of the de-brief with department heads regarding the storm and what would be planned to do better next time. Kudos to all emergency departments and Kurt Miller for dealing well with the emergencies and providing great communication.

Annamarie Drugonis: Thanks to Public Works, Tom Eighmie and Kurt Miller, good job. There is a lot going on with the buildings and it is great to receive the taxpayer's input. Happy to see a new town website coming.

Gary Bruce: Would like to echo Theresa regarding the town residents input on the buildings. Thanks to everyone for their input and asks them to come back for more discussions.

Kurt Miller: Thanks to Public Works and Tom Eighmie. It is very beneficial to have him there to bring his level of expertise to the situation.

**Item #19—Adjournment.**

Motion to adjourn at 9:36pm.

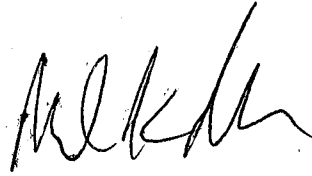
Motion: Annmarie Drugonis      Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria  
Yes: 7                                      No: 0                                      0: Abstain

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:



Michelle Walsh  
Recording Secretary



W. Kurt Miller  
First Selectman