

COPY RECEIVED
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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, January 17, 2012 @ 7:30PM
Norma Drummer Room/Seymour Town Hall

Members present: First Selectman W. Kurt Miller, Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Gary Bruce, Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, Theresa Conroy, Karen Stanek and Town Counsel Richard Buturla.

Others present: Jamie Brennan, Sean Walsh, Matthew Petrino, Tara Petrino, Dawn Adams, John Stelma, Frank Loda, Jeanne Loda, Gene Coppola, Jason Weaving, Paul Roy, Linda Bellavance, and Judy Simpson.

ITEM # 1 – Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by the First Selectman at 7:30PM.

ITEM # 2 – Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone salutes the Flag and states the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM # 3 – Public Comment.

Steven Kulas, Skokorat Street: Submits a letter into the record: The Seymour Democratic Town Committee would like to voice it's support of naming the new school being constructed on Skokorat Street, as the Chatfield - LoPresti School, for the following reasons:

1. The Anna LoPresti School will be closed upon completion of this building and it is essential that Miss LoPresti's name be preserved. She was a teacher, Principal, Board of Education Member and Seymour's only woman first Selectmen. It is essential that the Honor originally bestowed upon her continues.
2. When the idea for this project was presented to the voters for approval, it was called the Chatfield - LoPresti Building Project, to change the name at this late date would be a disservice to the voters of Seymour Town, but also to the memory of Miss. LoPresti.
3. It is the understanding to the Democratic Town Committee that various funding resolutions were passed by various Town Boards referencing the name Chatfield-LoPresti School.

For all the above reasons, the Seymour Democratic Town Committee voted to send this letter to the Board of Selectmen, expressing their unanimous support for the naming the new school, Chatfield - LoPresti School. Steve also states that personally he would also like to see the name of the school reflect both schools and show a joined community.

Jamie Brennan, 124 Bungay Road: Has concerns about the Fire Marshal's requests to amend the current fee schedule. He feels strongly that there should be penalties put in place for non compliance instead of additional fees. Would like to see the Fire Marshal's have laptops or tablets on inspections so they can do their reports on site and manage their time better.

Tara Petrino, 18 Woodcrest Road: Is a LoPresti parent and very happy about the new school. Feels that the Building Committee did an amazing job. Would really like to see the name of the school be Chatfield-LoPresti because it is 2 schools coming together and feels that both should be honored.

Paul Roy, 80 Washington Avenue: Hands out publications, legal notices, events all using the name Chatfield-LoPresti during this building process. He has a personal connection to the LoPresti school

since he and his siblings went there and also planted a dogwood tree in the yard. He would like to see the name of the school be Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School.

Gene Coppola: Has been on the Chatfield Building Committee since the beginning and it started as a study committee to see what could be done to upgrade Chatfield School. Then it turned into the combination of the two schools. He is also a graduate of Maple Street School/Anna LoPresti School, as well as his children and family members. He feels that the new school is going to be one student body and maybe the Town should let the people decide and have a Town Meeting to vote on what the name should be.

ITEM # 4 – First Selectman’s Report – Update on 100-Day Plan.

Kurt apologizes for not having the 100-day plan out on Thursday.

- Department head meetings are going well.
- HR Consulting Group will be meeting with the Department Heads on 1/30/12. Then they will be at the Board of Selectmen meeting on February 7, 2012 to present their findings.
- The Tax Incentive Committee has been meeting and should have a report for the Board of Selectmen by the first meeting in March.
- Process has begun in having all Town Buildings under one department (schools, police, fire, ems, town hall, community center, library, etc.).
- Technology Committee have been meeting to discuss looking at new website, taking over of Seymour, CT facebook page, creation of twitter account and the Office of the First Selectman of Seymour Facebook page.
- Housatonic Wire has paid all of their back taxes. The final paperwork for the cleanup was sent to the State on 1/4/12. Check expected from the State by the end of January and cleanup is expected (weather permitted) within two weeks of check arrival. The Town of Seymour has passed the account for the fence around the property back to the owner as of 1/15/12. The owner currently owes the Town of Seymour approximately \$18,000.00 for the fence rental and demolition on the property, he will be invoiced.
- Fish ladder update on agenda tonight. Two more outstanding issues and then hopefully ground breaking this spring.
- Working on making all town parks/fields into one department.
- Reached out to Town Committee’s to submit names for a Charter Revision Commission, to be appointed on the first meeting in February and have the revisions done for the November 2012 election, due to this being a Presidential Election year there should be enough votes to pass the revision.
- Theresa asks that the blue be changed on the 100-day plan because it is hard to read. She also asks about the approximately \$18,000 due to the Town from Housatonic Wire Co. for fencing.

ITEM # 5 – Approve minutes from Board of Selectmen meeting on 1/3/12.

Motion to approve minutes with the following changes to item # 7 – Gary would like the statement for upgrades to be changed to: for this project. He would also like the following added: Gary stated that his main concern is officer safety especially where radio coverage is poor.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Theresa Conroy

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 6 – Executive Session (Contract Negotiations, Pending Litigation, Personnel).

None.

ITEM # 7 – Issue concerning the closing of Cemetery Road during the winter months.

- Karen Stanek: Would like to know the reason that this street is closed and why the sign says until March 31st.
- Kurt Miller: The only thing that he has found pertaining to the closing of Cemetery Road is a letter from 2008 to the Chief of Police from the Public Works Director asking that it be closed due to dangerous road conditions. Apparently it has been closed ever since due to safety issues, plowing difficulty and accidents. Kurt has a list of accidents and during the winter, prior to 2008 there were a significant amount of accidents on Cemetery Road.
- Annmarie Drugonis: Feels that this is a town road and it should be plowed and opened for the residents. There are many steep roads in Seymour.
- Dennis Rozum, Public Works Director: States that there are many issues with the plowing of Cemetery Road and there have been a lot of accidents. There is only a section that is closed because it is very dangerous. This was approved by the Board of Police Commissioners. They have considered a gate system, but are using the cement blocks instead. The cement blocks are stored in the woods and taken out by the Public Works Department. The road is closed between December and March because those are the months of the year that it snows.
- Theresa Conroy: Would like to know why the proper repairs and/or precautions are not being taken so this road can remain open.
- Clifford Strumello, 15 Cemetery Road: He is speaking on behalf of himself and the other property owners on Cemetery Road by saying that they want this road opened and plowed. This is a town road for 70 years and was always taken care of and he is very disappointed that it continues to be closed. He states that it has not been discussed in any meetings since 2008. He feels that there are many roads in the Town of Seymour that are just as steep and dangerous and they are not being closed. He also states that the catch basins are not maintained and that he does a lot of the maintenance on the street himself. He wants the road opened.
- Richard Buturla, Town Counsel: His preliminary answer about this situation is that the Board of Selectmen has the authority to accept roads, but the Police Commission, Police Department and Public Works may have the authority to close them due to an emergency or safety issue. He would like to research this issue and get back to the Board with his findings.
- Annmarie Drugonis: Feels that it is a safety issue to keep it closed in case of fire, a fire truck could not get into that road with it closed.
- Kurt Miller: States that the accident report from 2008 and prior states approximately 16 accidents on Cemetery Road in the winter.

*Allow Town Counsel to research this issue and get back to the Board of Selectmen for their February 7, 2012 meeting.

ITEM # 8 – Acceptance of William Lane Extension as a Town Road. (Tabled on 11/15/11 by the Board of Selectmen. To be tabled and referred to Town Engineers, Nafis & Young for review.)

Motion to table the acceptance of William Lane Extension as a Town Road and refer to the Town Engineer for recommendation to the Board of Selectmen at their February 7, 2012 meeting.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Robert Hall, Attorney for Angelo Catone, Developer of William Lane Extension would like to discuss this issue. The First Selectman states that this issue is going to the Town Engineer for review and will be discussed at the next meeting.

ITEM # 9 – Discuss funding for Fish-by-Pass Project.

bid currently. He states that they will be under budget at completion of the project. He then discusses that the Chatfield-LoPresti School Building Committee has not been charged with the naming of the school and are leaving that decision up to the Board of Selectmen.

Kurt thanks Don the rest of the committee for all of their hard work and dedication to this project and urges the Board members to go to the site on a Saturday and take a tour of the amazing school.

Kurt states that he has received many phone calls and emails concerning the name of the new school. He feels that there are 3 choices:

- 1) Keep the name Paul E. Chatfield School.
- 2) Name the school Chatfield-LoPresti School.
- 3) Completely re-name the school.

He doesn't want people to lose track of what is important here, which is that we as a town are giving our children a state of the art school, which is being built under budget. He also suggests that we let the kids name the school. He gives a brief history of Miss Anna LoPresti. She was a teacher from 1927-1955, she was the principal at Maple Street School from 1955-1967, she was the principal at Chatfield School from 1967-1973 and she was the first woman First Selectman of Seymour 1973-1977.

- Karen Stanek: Was a student at Maple Street School and was upset when they first wanted to change the name to the Anna LoPresti School, but then respected the decision. Feels that maybe there should be a Town Meeting to let the people decide what the name is.
- Theresa Conroy: Went to Chatfield School. Very happy about the great job that the Chatfield-LoPresti Building Committee has done on the school. Would like the school named Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School, but feels a Town Meeting vote may be a good idea.
- Nicole Klarides-Ditria: Feels the name should be about community and heritage and should be named Chatfield-LoPresti after both schools.
- Al Bruno: Feels the name of the school should honor the past and that the most important thing is the learning that will be going on in the school and what an amazing opportunity we have to give the children in our town to go to this state of the art school.
- Annmarie Drugonis: States that although she did not grow up in Seymour she is listening to the parents and would like to see the school named Chatfield-LoPresti.
- Gary Bruce: Also went to Maple Street School and would like to see the residents name the school.
- Kurt Miller: States that the name of the school is needed as soon as possible. Would also like to squash any rumors about costs associated with letterhead, report cards, etc., the letterhead is ordered on an as needed basis and the report cards are computer generated. The only cost would be the lettering on the building and the signs, which shouldn't be much more than approximately \$400.00.

Motion to name the new school Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School.

Motion: Karen Stanek Second: Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

Motion to add to the agenda Rafferty Realty settlement.

Motion: Al Bruno Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

Richard Buturla, Town Counsel: R&R Manufacturing used to be on the Smart and Be Smart Tax Incentive Plans through the Town. They owed the Town of Seymour approximately \$300,000 from not following

the guidelines of the Plans. A settlement was reached on 10/7/11 and the Town was paid \$90,000 up front and was supposed to pay the Town \$30,000 by 6/1/12 and \$30,000 by 6/1/13. They paid the \$60,000 on January 11, 2012, a year and a half early.

Kurt would like to use the money for the Town and will bring recommendations to the Board at their February 7, 2012 meeting.

- The First Selectman excuses the Town Counsel at 9:16PM.

ITEM # 13 – Discussion concerning HR Audit to be tabled until the February 7, 2012 Board of Selectmen meeting due to scheduling conflicts from HR Consulting Group.

Motion to table the discussion of the HR Audit until the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis Second: Karen Stanek
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

ITEM # 14 – Award Town of Seymour banking services, per recommendation from Finance Director.

Motion to change bank relationship for the Town of Seymour to Webster Bank per recommendation from Finance Director as of 7/1/12, per Board of Finance review.

Motion: Theresa Conroy Second: Al Bruno
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

ITEM # 15 – Award phone system upgrade for Town Departments.

Two companies had come to us with quotes and then one of the companies came back with additional quotes and information, which needs to be evaluated. We should have recommendations for the next meeting on February 7, 2012.

Motion to table awarding of the phone system upgrade for Town Departments until the 2/7/12 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Motion: Al Bruno Second: Karen Stanek
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

ITEM # 16 – Update from the Technology Committee.

Jason Weaving, Chairman of the Technology Committee:

Members: Christine Conroy, Paul Thompson, Deirdre Caruso, Evan Islam, and Joe Matusovich.

- Committee has established by-laws.
- List of Deliverables.
- Facebook and Twitter pages.
- Working on web design.
- Created Google Docs to share, living working documents that allow viewing access to certain individuals.
- Will be pursuing grants to help offset costs.
- Meeting at basement systems to have workshops on web design.
- Will teach departments how to use Google Docs.
- Doing case studies on other websites and costs.
- Will provide updates of progress.

ITEM # 17 – Discussion of fire lane issues at 98/100 Bank Street.

Paul Wetowitz, Fire Marshal: Received complaints and requests to put in a fire lane at 98/100 Bank Street buildings due to extremely dangerous situations due to people parking in front of the entrance

and blocking the exits. He will deem the back side of the building a fire lane. It will take some time, but he will send letters to the owners and signage must be put in, but the police must enforce the law.
Al Bruno: Requests additional signage at the side entrance due to people going in the wrong way exit of the driveway.

ITEM # 18 – Presentation from Fire Marshal on summary of major work activities in 2011.

The Fire Marshal gives the Board Members a list of all backlogged work in his office due to lack of staff. He states that technology will not replace an actual person doing the inspections. He states that his office is inundated with inspections on existing buildings. There are 451 existing buildings that need to be inspected.

ITEM # 19 – Deputy Fire Marshal presentation on information on other Valley Town's fee schedules and the Seymour Fire Marshal's office back log on inspections on existing buildings.

Tim Willis, Deputy Fire Marshal: Provides a copy of the Ordinance of Fire Marshal Fees for the City of Ansonia to compare with the request for additional fees on the Seymour Fire Marshal's fee schedule. He also provides a detailed list of all of the back-logged inspections in the Town of Seymour. He is asked several questions about punitive fees and penalties. He answers that his office must follow state statute and that is not the process. His office must go to court to eventually get arrest warrants, which can take a long time and lead to approximately 9 or more court appearances.

ITEM # 20 – Discussion and possible action on proposed fee schedule from the Fire Marshal's Office.

This item was presented and discussed at the last Board of Selectmen meeting on January 3, 2012. This was tabled until this meeting.

Annmarie Drugonis: Feels that this is not the time to add fees in this economy and especially since we are trying to bring businesses into town.

Theresa Conroy: Agrees that we are trying to bring business into town and this will deter that. She feels that the office should be streamlined.

Motion to table until the February 7, 2012 Board of Selectmen meeting so the board can review all of the additional information from tonight's meeting.

Motion: Karen Stanek Second: Theresa Conroy
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

ITEM # 21 – Discussion and possible action on proposal for stipend inspector in the Fire Marshal's office.

Motion to table this issue until the February 7, 2012 Board of Selectmen meeting so the board can review all of the additional information from tonight's meeting.

Motion: Theresa Conroy Second: Karen Stanek
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

ITEM # 22 – Appointments.

Motion to appoint Evan Islam to the Technology Committee for a 1-year term expiring on 12/6/12.

Motion: Theresa Conroy Second: Al Bruno
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

Motion to rescind previous appointment for Fred A. Messoro to the Valley Regional Planning Commission.

Motion to rescind: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second to rescind: Al Bruno
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

Jamie Brennan, 124 Bungay Road: States that if the Fire Marshal's office has 3 volunteer inspectors that do nothing give them an ultimatum that they will have to work and do inspections in order to keep their certifications.

Paul Roy, 80 Washington Avenue: Thanks the board and Kurt for naming the school Chatfield-LoPresti and for all of the continued hard work on the Fish-By-Pass Project.

ITEM # 28 – Selectmen's Public Comments.

Theresa Conroy: Was wondering where we are with the Bamboo Issue in Town?

Kurt Miller: Is working on this issue and gave it to Paul Thompson in his office to take care of.

ITEM # 29 – Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 10:31PM.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes

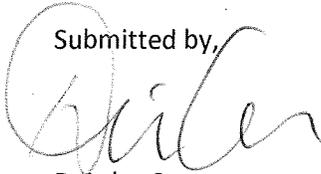
0-No

Second: Theresa Conroy

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Submitted by,



Deirdre Caruso,
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller,
First Selectman