

COPY RECEIVED
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MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Wednesday, December 21, 2011 @ 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: Frank Loda, Sean Walsh, Wayne Finkle, Sandra Gesek, Paul Roy, Rich Grudzias, Jamie Brennan, and Michele Pavlik.

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 – First Selectman's Report.

- Attended Bristol Resource Recovery and VCOG meetings to get up to speed on issues.
- Caspari donated 500 Christmas Cards, which were sent out to all of the businesses in Town.
- Ethics forms must be filled out by the Board of Selectmen and given to Dee at the end of the meeting.
- A copy of Kurt's 100 day plan (and beyond) was given to the Board Members to review and give their input at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

ITEM # 4 – Public Comment.

Paul Roy, 80 Washington Avenue: Is concerned about the name of the new school at Chatfield, not being named Chatfield LoPresti and instead just staying with Chatfield when it is done. He feels that this project was sold to the LoPresti families with the name Chatfield LoPresti School and would like to see it stay that way.

ITEM # 5 – Executive Session (Contract Negotiations, Pending Litigation, Personnel).

None.

ITEM # 6 – Approve minutes from 12/6/11 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from the 12/6/11 Board of Selectmen meeting with the following corrections: Karen Stanek's name was omitted to the Abstention for the vote for Fred Stanek for Land Use Counsel, Al Bruno's name was wrong on page 2 and put down as Al Bruce, and on page 6 Nicole Klarides-Ditria did not vote for herself.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 7 – Act in Lieu of Special Town Meeting from 12/15/11 @ 7:00PM per Town Charter Section 13.1(f).

No Action Needed. Approved by Special Town Meeting on 12/15/11.

ITEM # 8 - Act in Lieu of Special Town Meeting from 12/15/11 @ 7:15PM per Town Charter Section 13.1(f).

No Action Needed. Approved by Special Town Meeting on 12/15/11.

ITEM # 9 – Discussion and possible action on new phone system for Town Departments.

Tony Caserta, Assistant Finance Director: Has been working with Comcast on converting the Town Hall phone system to Comcast, which is a cable based system. This would require an estimated \$2,000 for re-wiring. We would also have to connect each phone to the Ethernet (POE), since there are not enough electrical outlets for each phone, this will be an estimated cost of \$10,000. We will still need to retain some of the land lines for the fire alarm and the emergency phone in the elevator. Currently we are spending approximately \$2,600 per month on the phone system; the Comcast system will cost approximately \$1,200 per month. A question was asked about whether the Town Hall has a generator, to which the answer is no, but we would like to eventually get one.

Motion to table this item until the next Board of Selectmen meeting on January 3, 2012.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Theresa Conroy

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 10 – Presentation of Emergency Communications Console Specifications by Thomas Eighmie.

Information was in the agenda packet concerning the emergency communications console. Thomas Eighmie, Emergency Management Director was not available to attend the meeting tonight.

Gary Bruce: Would like to see a better break down of the costs for the equipment. Would like that information available for the next meeting on January 3rd.

Al Bruno: Also supports a more itemized list of the equipment.

Motion to table until the January 3, 2012 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 11 – Approve ½ if fencing costs at Chatfield Park/Seymour Land Trust.

After all of the damage from the storms this past year fencing needed to be replaced/repared at Chatfield Park/Seymour Land Trust. Due to it being a safety issue, the former First Selectman requested that the fence be put up. The Land Trust is requesting that the Town reimburse ½ of the cost of the fence. The total cost was \$3,509.55, the Town will be responsible for half of the \$3,300.00 cost, which is before tax. The Land Trust is asking for \$1,650.00.

Motion to reimburse the Seymour Land Trust \$1,650.00, half of the cost for the fence which was installed by The Connecticut Fencemen, Inc. at Chatfield Park.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 12 – Award Banking Services for Town per recommendation from Finance Director.

The Finance Department has yet to have the last bank in to demonstrate the online banking.

Motion to table awarding banking services for the town until the January 17, 2012 meeting.

Motion: Theresa Conroy

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 13 – Acceptance of Barn Hill Lane, Chatfield Farms sub-division.

The Town Planner has submitted a letter stating that the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Town Engineer are recommending that Barn Hill Lane be accepted as a Town Road.

Motion to accept Barn Hill Lane, Chatfield Farms sub-division is accepted as a Town Road.

Motion: Gary Bruce

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 14 – Claim for damage due to pothole.

A vehicle owned by a resident hit a pothole on Canfield Road on October 23, 2011 and it caused \$449.06 worth of damage to their vehicle. The Town’s insurance company has denied payment of the damage. The process is that the Board of Selectmen must decide whether or not to approve the claim.

Information and the claim are in the agenda packet.

Board members would like more information on whether or not the Public Works Department knew about the pothole and the process the department uses to log and repair the holes.

Motion to table the claim for damage to a vehicle due to a pothole until further information from the Public Works Department is available.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 15 – Proposal from EMSOC for semi-annual 2012 meeting schedule.

Michele Pavlik, Chairman of EMSOC: The Commission would like to request that the EMSOC meetings be changed from quarterly to semi-annual due to the stable condition of Seymour Ambulance Association. The Commission would like to still review quarterly financials and review two quarters at a time during the semi-annual meetings.

Motion to change the EMSOC meetings from quarterly to semi-annual, but still reviewing financials on a quarterly basis, and setting the meetings to March 14, 2012 and August 14, 2012.

Motion: Theresa Conroy

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 16 – Discussion of assessment issues on property at 124 Bungay Road with owner of property.

James Brennan, 124 Bungay Road: States that he has been before the prior Board of Selectmen with these issues and would like to get the newly elected board up to speed with his situation. Mr. Brennan has property that had farm status and was recently declassified as no longer being on the tax list as a farm. He claims that his property does in fact still work as a farm and also as historical property in the town. He has several instances of correspondence between himself and the town assessor, the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and the Farm Bureau. This is an ongoing issue with Mr. Brennan. He will be taking this issue to the Assessment Board of Appeals in March 2012 and if he is not successful in that capacity he states he will then go to the Superior Court. What he asks of the Board of Selectmen is their cooperation and support getting answers to why his farm was declassified since there was no change and what the Town could possibly gain from changing the status.

Al Bruno: States that he is impressed by Mr. Brennan’s presentation and would like to see a copy of the file.

Kurt Miller states that he is working with the Assessor and Town Counsel on this matter.

ITEM # 17 – Appointments.

None.

ITEM # 18 – Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$248.72.

Motion: Theresa Conroy

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 19 – Transfers.

None.

ITEM # 20 – Correspondence.

- Check Registers.
- Letter concerning donation of 20 CO Alarms to the Seymour Fire Marshal's Office done by Assistant Fire Marshal Tim Willis.

ITEM # 21 – Other Business.

None.

ITEM # 22 – Public Comment.

Frank Loda, 27 Osprey Drive: States that the claim for the potholes needs to be put through and filed at the Town Clerk's Office as well.

Sean Walsh, 126 Pearl Street: Would like to know what a reasonable amount of time to fill in a pothole is defined as. Would like the weekends taken into consideration that things cannot be done until the week begins.

Frank Loda, 27 Osprey Drive: States that the Statutes say that potholes need to be filled within 48 hours of being reported.

ITEM # 23 – Selectmen's Public Comment.

Karen Stanek: Says thank you for the Red Alert announcement about the robberies and commends the Police Department for their hard work today in catching someone.

Theresa Conroy: Thanks everyone for their donations and help with the Support Our Troops Donation in conjunction with Oxford Lumber in which \$6,000 in cash was donated and a lot of items that were shipped overseas for local service men and women. Would also like to see a policy in place concerning phoning/skyping, etc. into meetings.

Kurt Miller: Will be asking the Ordinance Committee to deal with the policy/ordinance on phoning in/skyping into meetings.

Al Bruno: "To vote on issues at town meetings elected officials and appointed individuals should be physically present. Allowing off-site voting is a dangerous precedent for the town to set. In my opinion, being on a Board is a serious commitment and voting without being present is not acceptable."

Also has issues with the parking area at 98/100 Bank Street and people parking and blocking the exit and the parking lot. Would like signage and police patrols around the building in the morning since this is a safety issue due to children going to the Strawberry Patch. Would like this researched.

Gary Bruce: Would like to wish everyone a happy holiday and safe new year.

Kurt Miller: States that the Ansonia Pop Warner Cheerleaders won National Championships and Melanie Danka, a Seymour resident is on that squad. Would like to publicly acknowledge her accomplishments.


ITEM # 24 – Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:47pm.

Submitted by,


Deirdre Caruso, RS

Reviewed by,


Kurt Miller, First Selectman