

MINUTES  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Tuesday, October 7, 2008 @ 7:30 PM  
Norma Drummer Room/Seymour Town Hall

Members present: First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski, John Conroy, Annmarie Drugonis, Roberta King, John Putorti, Paul Roy, Frank Conroy, and Town Counsel George Temple.

Others present: Frank Loda, Brian Koskelowski, and Alex Danka.

- The First Selectman opens the meeting at 7:30PM.
- Everyone salutes the Flag and states the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve minutes from Board of Selectmen meeting on 9/16/08.

Motion: Paul Roy                      Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 4-Yes (Robert J. Koskelowski, Annmarie Drugonis, Roberta King, Paul Roy)

0-No                      3-Abstain (John Conroy, John Putorti, Frank Conroy)                      0-Disqualify

**First Selectman's Report:**

- The vote for the \$32,500,000.00 renovations/addition to Chatfield School has been going on all day. If it passes then the next step will be to submit the reimbursement paperwork to the State for approval. The State Treasurer put a statement out in the newspaper, television, and radio today stating that the economy in Connecticut is in a deficit and that new school funding may not be available.
- The First Selectman states that the ABC network has been doing reports focusing on each State in the country and he saw the show on Connecticut and was very disappointed that they focused on negative aspects of the casinos and did not talk about any of the positive things in our State. He is going to send an email to ABC with his concerns.
- The Town has had 11 or 12 roads armor coated. On West & Cedar Streets strips of armor coating have been put down to try and deter speeding and they will be painting yellow stripes on them and the word SLOW.
- The First Selectman went to the last Board of Finance meeting and they discussed the need to be very careful with next year's budget due to the economy. There is also a loss of revenue through the Board of Education for the Oxford students. The First Selectman will be requesting that all departments reduce their spending by 2.5% next year. There is a deficit in the State of Connecticut and there will be a loss in revenue from the casinos. Also, the Town departments under spent approximately \$500,000, but there was approximately \$300,000 in lost revenue from the Board of Education and other revenue sources.

**Public Comment:**

None at this time.

**ITEM # 1 - Discussion of GPS on Public Works vehicles. (Take action)**

Denise Powell in the First Selectman's office has been monitoring the sample GPS from three different companies that were placed in random Town vehicles. She provided reports from each system to the Board members for review. The First Selectman thanks her for her effort, but due to the economy right now he is suggesting that the Board table the GPS in the Public Works vehicles and count on the new Foreman to supervise the Public Works employees.

Frank Conroy: Would rather see the money go for hiring another Public Works employee.

Paul Roy: Agrees with Frank Conroy and would like to hire another person. He also would like to utilize the Foreman and not use machines to supervise employees.

John Conroy: Also would like to see the new Foreman supervise the employees and does not feel that it would be cost effective due to the small amount of employees in the Public Works Department.

Paul Roy: Would like to add that the GPS is also taking away from Denise Powell's responsibilities in the First Selectman's office.

John Putorti: Agrees that this should not be done at this time and if there are discipline issues with employees they should be dealt with by the new Foreman.

Robert J. Koskelowski: Would like to thank Denise Powell for all of her hard work on this matter.

Motion to table the GPS in the Public Works vehicles due to the economy and have the new Public Works Foreman supervise the employees.

Motion: Frank Conroy                      Second: John Conroy  
Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

The First Selectman would like to add that there is a new State mandate that all Towns that have web-sites have to post all minutes and agendas as of October 1, 2008. The Town of Seymour has a great web-site that is up to date and all of the workers in the First Selectman's Office have been trained by Deirdre Caruso to post items onto the web-site. Many Towns have shut down their web-sites due to this new law. All Boards and Commissions have been notified to submit copies of agendas and minutes to the First Selectman's Office within the time required by law.

ITEM # 2 - Discussion of benefits for Foreman position at Public Works. (Take action).

The benefits that were approved at the September 2, 2008 Board of Selectmen meeting for the new Foreman position did not include the following that other employees have. They are a winter monthly stipend of \$85.00 per month to have the workers on call 24 - 7 for plowing and a yearly clothing allowance of \$450.00. Mr. Stevens has already received his clothing allowance for this year.

Motion to add to the Foreman position benefits will be the monthly winter stipend of \$85.00 per month for workers to be on call 24 hours per day for plowing and the yearly clothing allowance of \$450.00. Mr. Stevens will not receive his clothing allowance until July 1, 2009, due to already receiving his this year.

Motion: John Putorti                      Second: Paul Roy  
Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

**ITEM # 3 - Discussion of open position at Public Works. (Take action).**

There were over 50 applications received in the First Selectman's office for the open position at Public Works. The person hired will start at the lowest scale of pay and work their way up. The First Selectman asks the Board if they would like to wait on hiring for this position due to the economy. There is money in the budget for this position. If the Board would like this position filled he would like to know if they would like him to bring at least 3 applicants (after a dozen or more are interviewed) to the Board to make the decision. Possibly have a Special Meeting to discuss this in November.

Frank Conroy: Feels that this position needs to be filled and would like to see someone hired before the winter weather hits.

John Conroy: Would also like to make sure that this position is filled before winter starts and would like to see the 3 top picks after the interviews.

Paul Roy: Would also like to see the position filled as soon as possible, even by the middle of November if possible.

Motion to authorize the First Selectman to conduct interviews for the open Public Works position and bring 3 recommendations back to the Board of Selectmen as soon as possible to make a decision.

Motion: Roberta King

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

The First Selectman will try to begin the interview process within the next two weeks. He also states that he will be out of the office from November 7 - 20<sup>th</sup> and that John Conroy will be in charge. The First Selectman will be in contact with the office daily.

**ITEM # 4 - Discussion of Heating System Improvements at the Community Center. (Take action).**

There were no bids received, but several companies have made suggestions. Alex Danka, who works for Hillcrest Fuel volunteered to check the building and has made several suggestions to the First Selectman.

Alex Danka: Went to the Community Center with the help of several other companies and checked the heating system. They all feel that it would be too expensive to replace the heating system and the piping is old. His suggestions are that the Boiler should be cleaned twice during the winter and that the third floor be totally closed down for the whole winter. They would disconnect the top floor thermostats, put plastic on all of the windows and openings and install insulation. This will be done as soon as possible.

**ITEM # 5 - Tax Refunds/Abatements.**

Motion to approve tax refunds as presented in the amount of \$1,669.31.

Motion: John Putorti

Second: John Conroy

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

**ITEM # 6 - Transfers.**

None at this time.

ITEM # 7 - Appointments.

Motion to re-appoint John Conroy, Sr. as the Wetlands Enforcement Officer for a 4 year term expiring on 7/20/12.

Motion: John Putorti                      Second: Paul Roy

Vote: 5-Yes (Robert J. Koskelowski, Annmarie Drugonis, Roberta King, John Putorti, Paul Roy)      0-No                      2-Abstain (John Conroy, Jr. and Frank Conroy)

0-Disqualify

Motion to re-appoint Steve Plotkin to the Inland Wetlands Commission for a 4 year term expiring on 8/1/12.

Motion: John Conroy                      Second: Frank Conroy

Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

Motion to re-appoint William Ryan to the Inland Wetlands Commission for a 4 year term expiring on 8/17/12.

Motion: Frank Conroy                      Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

Motion to re-appoint Pauline Lounsbury to TEAM for a 2 year term expiring on 9/7/10.

Motion: Roberta King                      Second: Paul Roy

Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

Motion to re-appoint William Anglace to the VTD for a 2 year term expiring on 8/17/10.

Motion: John Conroy                      Second: John Putorti

Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

Motion to re-appoint Andy Fielder to the Lake Housatonic Authority for a 3 year term expiring on 8/2/11.

Motion: John Conroy                      Second: John Putorti

Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

Motion to re-appoint Jeffrey Dussetschleger to the Naugatuck Valley Health District for a 3 year term expiring 10/29/11.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis                      Second: John Putorti

Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

ITEM # 8 - Correspondence.

#8a: Check Registers.

#8b: Town Clerk Report for September 2008.

#8c: Copy of ballot for referendum for Chatfield Project for today, October 7, 2008.

#8d: Copy of a letter to Board of Education and the Parks Commission concerning a statement from the Attorney General's Office stating that there have never been any health risk studies on the artificial turf.

ITEM # 9 - Other Business.

None at this time.

ITEM # 10 - Public Comment.  
No Action Taken.

ITEM # 11 - Selectmen's Public Comments.

John Conroy: States there was an article in the New Haven Register about energy efficient programs with the electric company that would be of no cost to the Town. He would like us to contact CL&P to sign up for the energy efficiency program. He would also like to know where the Town's money is invested. Doug Thomas will be asked to provide a list of where the Town's money is invested.

Robert J. Koskelowski: Stated that the next re-evaluation will be completed by the October 1, 2010 Grand List. He states that most of the Town's money is invested in TD Bank North.

Paul Roy: Asks when the CODE RED Reverse 911 system will be implemented. The First Selectman states it should be finished by the end of the month. They are currently working on registering all residents on the system.

ITEM # 12 - Executive Session (Personnel, Contract Negotiations, Pending Litigation).  
None at this time.

ITEM # 13 - Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:27PM.

Motion: John Conroy

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Deirdre Caruso,  
Recording Secretary

Robert J. Koskelowski,  
First Selectman