

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, September 4, 2007 @ 7:30 P.M.
Norma Drummer Room/Seymour Town Hall

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

Others present: Michael Kearney, Thomas Eighmie, Jeanne Loda, Frank Loda, Paul Wetowitz, Bill Kovacas, Melanie Kalako, John M. Rolleri, Dan Zaniewski, Scott Martin, Ugo Zullo, John Leon, Alfred Yagovane, and Bill Paecht.

- Everyone Saluted the Flag and Stated the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The First Selectman Opened the Meeting @ 7:30 P.M.

Motion to Approve Minutes from the Board of Selectmen Meeting on August 14, 2007.

Motion: Frank Conroy

Second: Clifford Strumello

Vote: 6-Yes (Robert J. Koskelowski, Frank Conroy, Clifford Strumello, Roberta King, Paul Roy, John Putorti) 0-No 1-Abstain (John Conroy, Jr.) 0-Disqualify

First Selectman's Report:

- At last meeting a citizen made comments and wanted information which I gave him. He also stated publicly his taxes went up 50% over last two years. I sat with him and went over his records and his taxes went up 31% over the last two years. Reevaluation accounted for 25% and 6% because of taxes and two years ago he only had one motor vehicle he was taxed for and now he has four motor vehicles as reported to me by the Assessors office.
- Day Street Bridge is going out to bid with Anchor Engineering. Anchor Engineering was hired by the Town of Seymour back in the late 90's to oversee this project. Dennis Rozum, Public Works Director and I went to Hartford to go over final plans and we will be going out to bid. Bids will come into the First Selectman's office, opened, and turned over to Anchor Engineering for their recommendation. The cost for this project is 1.7 million dollars, 80% of the cost is being paid for by the Federal Government and 20% by the State of Connecticut and this will be at no cost to the taxpayers of Seymour.
- Seymour Ambulance building has been completed.
- Dog Pound will officially open at the end of September. Anyone wishing to tour the Dog Pound may contact the Dog Warden.
- Starbucks grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony will be September 22, 2007 @ 2:00 P.M.
- Town Counsel, Richard Bruchal has been working on the Ordinance for recreational vehicles use. There was a lot of time and research involved in developing an Ordinance. He had to make sure no other Town's or City's in the State that had such an Ordinance that was unenforceable. This will be presented to the Ordinance Committee on September 18, 2007 for their review and

- recommendations and then will be presented to the Board of Selectmen and then have a public hearing.
- Moody's bond rating is done every two years and this year we went with Standard & Poor and they upgraded the Town to an A+ rating. Today Moody's called and upgraded the Town of Seymour's bond rating to an A2, which will save the Taxpayer's tens of thousands of dollars in interest costs on borrowed money.
 - Roof has been finished at Public Works and today Nick's Roofing started work on the Library Roof.
 - There will be a 50 year rededication of Sochrin's Park in October. The Sochrin family will erect new signage at the entrance of the park. Public works will be cleaning up the brush around the perimeter of the pond allowing the pond to refill to its normal level by replacing the flood boards. They will also repair the lights on the pond and repair the fence along the Moss Ave entrance and remove brush and overgrowth.
 - Additional parking for downtown business has been made available across the Street from the back of the Town Hall. Letters went out to local business to notify them of this extra parking so their employee's may park there. This will free up parking spaces for patrons of these business. All new parking signs are being made up for the downtown area with 2 hour parking the only signs that will have less time will be in front of the Post Office.
 - Sikorsky Credit Union grand opening is September 10, 2007 @ 10:00 A.M.
 - Road resurfacing update - Dennis Rozum, Public Works Director reported O & G will be paving at the end of this week, however could be next week.
 - I would like to congratulate the Seymour Girls Big League Softball Team on their win at the Big League World Series. Letters went out today to the Ball Players, Manager, and Coaches. We are extremely proud of them all.

ITEM # 1 - Act in Lieu of Special Town Meeting per Town Charter Chapter 13 § 13.1.(e).

Motion to act in lieu of Special Town Meeting per Town Charter Chapter 13 § 13.1.(e) to transfer \$23,645.00 from the Public Works Dump Truck acct # 10014101950530873 into Public Works Maintenance Vehicle acct # 10014101950530877 for the purpose of purchasing a vehicle for the mechanic at the Public Works Department, due to lack of quorum.

Motion: Frank Conroy

Second: John Putorti

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM #2 - EMSOC Report on Seymour Ambulance Association and discussion of Seymour Ambulance Association's Auditor's Management Letter.

The Board of Selectmen received a copy of the Management letter and also received a letter from our EMSOC Committee. I also have the Finance Director, Doug Thomas and Assistant Finance Director, Tony Caserta along with the EMSOC Committee is here concerning Seymour Ambulance Association IRS Form - 990 and 2005 Management letter. Doug Thomas stated that the 990 Form # 2(c) is of concern. If you have any questions you can ask the Finance Director to respond. In there you can see the IRS Form does not match up to the Audit. First Selectman, Robert J. Koskelowski expressed

concern that after everything that has happened in the Town of Seymour over Seymour Ambulance Association over the past few years and putting the EMSOC Committee together and EMSOC has been in force for about 19 months and just reading their report 2 (A) it shows that the working relationship between EMSOC and the Seymour Ambulance Corp isn't working out. EMSOC can't get the information in a timely manner. Each EMSOC board member wrote about their feelings about how EMSOC is succeeding or not succeeding. The First Selectman's concern is there is a member who is fairly new to EMSOC and that every member sees the same thing. Even though the new member has only been on EMSOC for a few months and has the same feelings as those members who have been on the EMSOC Committee for 18/19 months then this must truly be happening and that is my concern, how do we work together? The First Selectman asked for copies of the Management letter from SAA and had to do it under the F.O.I. We help fund Seymour Ambulance Corp and this is public information under F.O.I. I also asked for copies of the IRS 990 Forms I received a letter from the Seymour Ambulance Director requesting I pay \$ 26.50 for this, these are financial statements and reports. Why would we have to pay for these? The Town of Seymour gave SAA \$27,500.00 this year and SAA wants to charge us for reports that EMSOC should be given. Through the help of others I was able to find a Web Site to get the 990 Forms so we didn't have to pay for those. This is alarming since the State paid \$500,000.00 and the Town of Seymour paid \$200,000.00 of Taxpayers money to put into that building. The First Selectman asked each of the Board of Selectman to ask any questions or express any concerns regarding 2 (a) 2 (b) and 2 (c). The Auditor, John M. Roller for the Seymour Ambulance is here and if you have any questions concerning the Audit or Management letter I'm sure he would be willing to address those concerns.

Selectman, John Conroy, Jr. first on the EMSOC letter/report there seems to be a common theme this is a bipartisan board and some members have been here since the beginning and some members are relatively new, EMSOC Chairman, Irene Jecusco speaks the Board of Selectmen and she did email all the members of EMSOC and asked them to just write a paragraph this is their feeling verbatim what they wrote and nobody saw the other persons comments. Selectman, John Conroy, Jr. the common theme throughout the report I detected nothing at all about the quality of service by the Seymour Ambulance to the public many of you said it was fine in fact very good. It was all about a) lack of financial information, timeliness the same thing we have heard for months now, lots of open questions, lots of I'll get back to you when you asked questions and after nearly almost over two years now since we went through the crisis that ensued over Seymour Ambulance. I am disappointed that we are still at this level. I was willing to give you time over the last year I knew you had to dig out from quite a mess but now I think you are getting to a point where it's not satisfactory. I sat on that task force as some other folks did in the audience it was a mess to deal with I respect anyone who came into that and try to work their way through it but we are two years beyond that now so we should be in a much better place. I also detect comments from Newspapers and letters back to the First Selectman almost animus not wanting to respond or feeling it not necessary to respond to questions to a Town that's providing funding operating budget and the capital budget and I think that is wrong. I guess my question would be why is it still this way do you have any opinions as EMSOC Committee as to why this has continued for so many months now? EMSOC Chairman,

Irene Jecusco I think part of it is a sense of animosity that they don't have to give us the information or answer our questions or address our concerns I also think this whole issue of bad numbers to begin with two years ago that they were still carrying numbers from the previous administration and that automatically precludes them having to give us financials because we have heard along too, well the numbers to begin with weren't any good so how could any of the numbers be good so that has been said over and over again. When EMSOC questioned certain line items sometimes we would get certain answers and sometimes we wouldn't get an answer. What we were told well we have to get back to you on that or this at every meeting. My feeling is that if you are in charge of an organization in business you should know where you are financially and you should be able to explain your finances and I don't see that happening.

John Conroy, Jr. Board of Selectman said just to that point the contract we did with Seymour Ambulance was a legally binding contract with both sides and does call for financial monthly reports among many other things to be provided. It also calls for a report 60 days after the fiscal year ends. The management report internally prepared not the outside lender report be provided to the EMSOC committee for the year just ended, has that report been provided in either of the last two years? No.

Rosalie Averill, EMSOC Committee after two years of sitting on EMSOC Committee said some things as important as the financials and that is that is really the issue and that should be the priority and I can honestly say I don't understand the financials anymore than I did two years ago. The Auditor of the management letter picked out some of the things EMSOC picked up. EMSOC feels that the type of Service that SAA provides is great. Rosalie said she can't report to the Board of Selectman that they don't have the same problem going on.

Robert J. Koskelowski, First Selectman had concerns regarding the management letter and these were original concerns way back with the Seymour Ambulance Corp and it seems that they continue with some of these same practices.

- 1) Why are debit cards still out there?
- 2) Why don't the 990 forms match the Audit?
- 3) They don't know how much the billing agency has in collectables.
- 4) Why is the Town of Seymour being asked to pay for this information?

John Putorti, Selectman expressed his concern that nothing had changed after reading the management letter and hearing the EMSOC report.

SAA Director, Scott Andrews addressed some of the concerns the Board of Selectman had and the EMSOC Committee.

No Action Taken.

ITEM # 3 - Bids for Cherry Street retaining wall project.

Four bids were received by the First Selectman's Office and opened at the August 14, 2007 meeting and were referred to the Town Engineer for review. The Town Engineer has chosen the low bidder who was Cisco, LLC of New Haven, CT for \$47,640.00.

Motion to award the Cherry Street Retaining Wall project to Cisco, LLC of New Haven, CT for \$47,640.00 per Town Engineer's recommendation contingent upon financing.

Motion: John Putorti Second: Roberta King

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

ITEM # 4 - Fire Alarm service contract for the Community Center.

The Fire Alarm Contractor that the Town used to have for the Community Center went out of business. The system that is in place at the Community Center is very old and there are only two certified contractors in the State of Connecticut. The Fire Marshall has been in touch with both and asked for quotes for the maintenance contract. The two companies are FSI, Inc. at \$2,050 per year and SIEMENS who are \$1,700 per year. The recommendation is SIEMENS, whose quote is lower at \$1,700.00 per year.

Motion to award the maintenance contract for the fire alarm system at the Seymour Community Center to SIEMENS for \$1,700.00 per year contingent upon review by Town Counsel.

Motion: John Putorti Second: Paul Roy

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

ITEM # 5 - Waive bids for 16 sets of Globe Extreme Fire Gear for the Fire Department.

Motion to waive to bidding for 16 sets of Globe Extreme Fire Gear for the Fire Department.

Motion: Frank Conroy Second: John Conroy

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

ITEM # 6 - Award purchase of 16 sets of Globe Extreme Fire Gear to Industrial Safety & Supply Company of West Hartford, CT for \$29,760, who is on the State Bid list.

Motion to award purchase of 16 sets of Globe Extreme Fire Gear to Industrial Safety & Supply Company of West Hartford, CT for \$29,760, who is on the State Bid list for the Fire Department.

Motion: Frank Conroy Second: John Conroy

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

ITEM # 7 - Waive bids on a Hurst Mini Power Unit w/ Combo Tool for Fire Department.

Motion to waive bids on a Hurst Mini Power Unit w/ Combo Tool for Fire Department.

Motion: Roberta King Second: Paul Roy

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

ITEM # 8 - Award purchase of Hurst Mini Power Unit w/ Combo Tool to Firematic Supply Company of Rocky Hill, CT for \$9,834.95, who is on the State Bid list.

Motion to award purchase of Hurst Mini Power Unit w/ Combo Tool to Firematic Supply Company of Rocky Hill, CT for \$9,834.95, who is on the State Bid list for the Fire Department.

Motion: John Putorti Second: Roberta King

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

ITEM # 9 - Go out to bid for the purchase of a Rescue Truck to be stationed at Great Hill Hose Company with bids due by October 2, 2007 @ 4:00PM in the First Selectman's Office.

Motion to go out to bid for the purchase of a Rescue Truck to be stationed at Great Hill Hose Company with bids due by October 2, 2007 @ 4:00PM in the First Selectman's Office. This will replace Rescue Truck # 17.

Motion: Frank Conroy

Second: Clifford Strumello

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 10 - Resolution for Senior Safety Day by the Seymour Police Department on October 3, 2007.

Motion to accept the Resolution for Senior Safety Day by the Seymour Police Department to be on October 3, 2007.

Motion: Paul Roy

Second: Roberta King

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 11 - Approve sale of old lever voting machines.

Motion to authorize the First Selectman to sell or dispose of the old voting machines and keep one for the historical society.

Motion: Clifford Strumello

Second: John Conroy

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 12 - EDC Director Position discussion and take action.

The First Selectman's Office has received four applications for the EDC Director Position. The First Selectman, who is the Personnel Director, Selectman John Conroy Jr., and Rosalie Averill, from the EDC Commission will be conducting interviews within the next couple of weeks.

No Action Taken.

ITEM # 13 - Transfers.

Motion to transfer \$550.00 for Planning & Zoning from the Contingency acct # 10014101950530872 and \$500.00 into Regular Salary acct # 10014101110410110 and \$50.00 into Social Security acct # 10014101550410220 to cover salary increase of 2.99% for Art Baldwin who is non-union. To be referred to the Board of Finance.

Motion: John Putorti

Second: Clifford Strumello

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Motion to transfer \$1,891.00 for the Office of Compliance from the Contingency acct # 10014101950530872 and \$1,015.00 into Salary Director acct # 10014202400565101 and \$740.00 into Salary Regular acct # 10014202400565110 and \$136.00 in Social Security acct # 10014101550565220 to cover 2.99% salary increase for Joseph Raiola and Walter Woods who are non-union. To be referred to the Board of Finance.

Motion: John Putorti

Second: Clifford Strumello

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Motion to transfer \$1,631.00 for Elderly Services from the Contingency acct # 10014101950530872 and \$1,515.00 into Salary Part-time acct # 10014404432615120 and \$116.00 into Social Security acct # 10014101550615220 to cover a \$1.00 per hour raise for the part-time bus driver. To be referred to the Board of Finance.

Motion: Roberta King Second: John Conroy

Vote: 6-Yes (John Conroy, Roberta King, John Putorti, Clifford Strumello, Paul Roy, Frank Conroy) 0-No 0-Abstain 1-Disqualify (Robert J. Koskelowski)

Motion to transfer for the Board of Finance \$200.00 from Contingency acct # 10014101950530872 into Board Secretary Fees acct # 10014101120415125 to correct budgeted secretary fees. To be referred to the Board of Finance.

Motion: John Putorti Second: Clifford Strumello

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

Motion to transfer \$10,940.00 from the Contingency acct # 10014101950530872 into Cherry Street Retaining Wall acct # 10014101950530861 to cover excess cost of awarded contractor bid price and cost of engineering expense and inspection fees for the Cherry Street Retaining Wall project. To be referred to the Board of Finance.

Motion: Paul Roy Second: Clifford Strumello

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

The First Selectman excuses himself from the meeting for the evening.

ITEM # 14 - Appointments.

Motion to appoint Lucy McConologue to the EMS Oversight Commission to replace a regular member for remainder of a 3-year term expiring 12/3/08.

Motion: Clifford Strumello Second: Roberta King

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

Motion to appoint Thomas Eighmie to the Northwest Public Safety Advisory Board for a 1-year term expiring 9/4/08.

Motion: Roberta King Second: Paul Roy

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

Motion to re-appoint Joseph LaRovera to the Recreation Commission for a 2-year term expiring 8/3/09.

Motion: John Conroy Second: Clifford Strumello

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

ITEM # 15 - Tax Refunds/ Abatements.

Motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,604.94.

Motion: Paul Roy Second: John Conroy

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

ITEM # 16 - Correspondence.

16a - Check Registers.

16b - Copy of the second FOI request to Seymour Ambulance Board of Directors for the Management Letter and Tax Returns.

16c - Thank you letter from the Castles in the Park Revitalization Committee.

ITEM # 17 - Other Business.

Selectman Frank Conroy would like the Town/Police Department to purchase a Noise Meter to be able to enforce the Noise Ordinance. Would like the Town to research costs.

ITEM # 18 - Public Comment.

No Action Taken.

ITEM # 19 - Executive Session (Personnel, Contract Negotiations, Pending Litigation)

None at this time.

ITEM # 20 - Selectmen's Public Comments.

None.

ITEM # 21 - Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 PM.

Motion: Clifford Strumello

Second: John Conroy

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Respectfully Submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Denise Powell,
Recording Secretary

Robert J. Koskelwoski,
First Selectman