

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, January 6, 2015 – 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: W. Kurt Miller, Karen Stanek, Paul Roy, Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, and Len Greene, Jr.

Members Not Present: Nicole Klarides-Ditria.

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; Lianna Staffieri, Rory Burke, Tom Eighmie, Chief Tomasheski, Paul Satkowski, and members of the fire department.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:03 PM

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

None.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from December 17, 2014 regular meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from December 17, 2014 regular meeting.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

1-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Abstain

ITEM #5: First Selectman's Report.

- The comprehensive annual audit is done.
 - There were two deficiencies that were corrected. One has nothing to do with the Finance Department.
 - We increased our fund balance again. We had a surplus of \$219,355.00 which brings our surplus up to \$4,611,309.00 which is 8.4%.
- I put my preliminary budget together. The final phase is being checked by Doug Thomas. My goal is to present a budget of zero. With the budget of zero, I will be presenting a list of initiatives on not only the town side but the Board of Education side as well. On the town side I am presenting \$549,000.00 worth of initiatives. The majority of that is \$110,000.00 for Public Works equipment, \$250,000.00 for road work, and \$80,000.00 for road repair.
 - If the Board of Finance approves my budget, the town can function without a problem.
 - With my budget, there is still \$382,576.00 estimate of revenue over expenses.
 - I plan to present last to the Board of Finance.
- I will also be back to this board with capital some time at the end of February.

Motion to table Item #6: discussion with Economic Development director Fred Messore

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action on Seymour Fire Department surplus equipment request.

Kurt stated at the last meeting they surplused two pieces of apparatus from the Fire Department. They also had a request from Emergency Management to make use of one of the trucks which is the 1979 Dodge truck.

Richard Buturla, Town Counsel, stated that 2-281 of the Seymour Town Code sets forth the process and procedures for dealing with surplus property that is going to be disposed of. In the first instance there has to be a determination of value. If it is less than \$200.00, advertising shall consist of a notice on town bulletin board. If it is more than \$200.00 advertising shall consist of a notice in a paper of general circulation. Finally, there are sealed bids where the valuation is set by the department head in consultation with the First Selectman. If other departments desire to purchase or acquire the property, a department can purchase it or the First Selectman in his sole and absolute discretion may transfer the property to a department without payment.

Len Greene, Jr. inquired about cost of usage and maintenance. He spoke with the Emergency Management Director and the numbers are not prepared yet.

Motion to table Seymour Fire Department surplus equipment request to the January 20, 2015 meeting.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Absatin

W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes

Motion to go out of order and go back to Item #6: Discussion with Economic Development Director Fred Messoro.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #6: Discussion with Economic Development Director Fred Messoro.

Fred Messoro discussed last quarter's goals. He stated that all three were achieved. One goal was to move the master plan for the Greenway Trail forward. He stated that he was successful in presenting this to VCOG and receiving grants and funding. He discussed the cost and the next steps for the Greenway Trail project. The second goal was to obtain final zoning approval for the purchase of the 29 Maple Street property. He stated that they have finalized a contract. The Primrose Company received approvals for 42 units. He stated that Seymour Lumber is now down and the project is finished. The back taxes have been paid in full on that property. There is a realtor who is working with the property. Installations of the Adopt-a-Spot signs have begun. He briefly discussed the hold up on the installation. He explained that he reached out to the people who already had spots to see if they wanted to renew. He explained that the placards will be installed throughout the winter. He discussed the meeting he had with C.E.R.C. He explained that CERC provides services to municipalities and perform analysis. They discussed three specific areas of town: Derby Avenue up to Tri Town, properties in downtown, and land that is 200 acres plus behind Stop & Shop. He stated that the town will be receiving a proposal from them. The analysis will be performed within 30 to 90 days. He stated that Tri-Town has finally hired a professional commercial realtor marketing firm to market the site.

Len Greene, Jr. inquired about the Housatonic Wire property.

Fred stated that his office was successful in receiving the Brownfields Grant worth \$500,000.00. The owners of the property hired a real estate firm and have been marketing. He stated that there was a time frame that the money needed to be utilized. He worked with the Brownfields grant department to

extend the grant. He doesn't know how long they can keep extending. He explained that his office has done everything they could to make sure the town doesn't lose that money. He stressed the importance of marketing the Housatonic Wire and the Seymour Lumber properties as a mixed use property.

Karen Stanek inquired if Rte. 67 would collapse if Seymour Lumber's foundation was removed. Fred stated that it was just recommended to leave the foundation. There was no structure analysis done.

Karen inquired when the Fish Bypass will be opening.

Fred stated that it will not be opened until spring time.

Kurt stated that when the state has completed its work, the bypass will be closed during the winter months. Kurt explained safety issues with that.

Karen inquired about the status of the rotary project on Great Hill Road.

Kurt explained that it will be a project for 2017.

Karen inquired about structural damage and vermin in the buildings at the Tri-Town Plaza.

Fred stated that any building left vacant for a long period of time is hard to market. He stated the best thing they could do was to hire a professional commercial real estate firm. The name of the firm is Aferston & Associates out of Trumbull. He stated he cannot give an exact time frame.

Paul Roy suggested getting signage on Rte. 8 for the Fish Bypass to attract visitors.

ITEM #8: Discussion and take possible action on dissolution of Technology Committee.

Kurt read the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen established a Seymour Technology Committee for the purpose of coordinating a redesign of the Town website; and

WHEREAS, the Technology Committee did successfully establish a new website design as well as implement other technological improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Technology Committee has completed the tasks assigned to it.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Technology Committee is hereby dissolved.

Motion to accept the resolution as read.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #9: Discussion and take possible action on dissolutions of Energy Committee.

Kurt read the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, the Energy Committee was established for the purpose of coordinating an energy related grant; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Committee has performed all of the tasks assigned to it.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Energy Committee is hereby dissolved.

Motion to approve resolution as read.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

1-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Abstain

Kurt stated that the Energy Committee will be replaced by the Standing Building Committee that the 10-Year Strategic Planning Committee recommended.

ITEM #10: Discussion and take possible action on Fire Department ordinance change.

Kurt stated at the last meeting the board received a letter from the Board of Fire Commissioners with regard to making a change to ordinance 6-22.

Motion to forward the request from the Board of Fire Commissioners regarding ordinance 6-22 to the Ordinance Committee.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #11: Discussion and take possible action on sidewalk ordinance change.

Kurt discusses a letter from Town Counsel regarding Section 14-6 Removal of Ice, Snow from Sidewalk.

Motion to forward the sidewalk ordinance change recommendation to the Ordinance Committee.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #12: Discussion and take possible action on delinquent tax ordinance change.

Letter from town counsel to Dana Flach, Tax Collector, with regard to delinquent tax payment procedures.

Motion to forward recommended delinquent tax ordinance change to the Ordinance Committee.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #13: Discussion and take possible action on veterans tax exemption.

Motion to forward creation of veteran's tax exemption to the Ordinance Committee.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #14: Discussion and take possible action on 29 Maple Street tax abatement agreement.

Kurt stated that The Primrose Companies could potentially be closing at the end of January or the beginning of February. They will be investing \$3,000,000.00, at minimum, into the project. They are asking for a fixed assessment period, covering 5 consecutive fiscal years; commencing with the Fiscal Year October 1, 2015. Their assessment will be fixed at \$1,000,000.00 dollars.

Motion to approve tax assessment agreement and authorize the First Selectman to enter into agreement as allowed by 12-65b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #15: Discussion and take possible action on tax abatement for VEMS.

Kurt excused himself because he is a member.

Richard Buturla, Town Counsel, stated that the Assessor is charged statutorily with determining whether or not tax payers who claim exemptions under section 12-81 of the general state statutes should be granted those exemptions. VEMS sought to be classified as exempt. The Assessor determined that, in

his view, VEMS did not meet all of those factors related to section 12-81 of the general state statutes and should not be classified as exempt. He stated that VEMS reached out to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of reaching tax abatement. He explained that the Board of Selectmen has no statutory authority to reach such abatements. He discussed statute 12-65b and other statutes that allow abatements. No statute allows the legislative body of the town to have such authority. VEMS will need to go before the Board of Assessment Appeals. They will have to go through the board of assessment appeal process.

ITEM #16: Discussion and take possible action on tax abatement for SONCCA.

The Board of Selectmen has no authority and SONCCA will need to file an appeal with the Board of Assessment Appeals.

ITEM #17: Discussion and take possible action on removal of Inland Wetland Commission members.

Kurt read Letter from Steve Plotkin as follows:

Dear Mr. Miller,

According to the Charter of the Town of Seymour, Section 9.3, an appointed member of a Town Board of Commission may be removed if that person has missed three (3) or more consecutive, regularly scheduled meetings. Kevin Stenis and Dave McAndrew, both appointed Commissioners of the Inland Wetlands Commission, have missed three or more such meetings. The Inland Wetlands Commission requests that these Commissioners be removed from the Commission and their seats be declared vacant by the Board of Selectmen.

Sincerely yours, Steve Plotkin, Chairman Inland Wetlands Commission.

Richard Buturla, Town Counsel, pointed out that the section of the Charter Chairman Plotkin mentioned is a typo and should read section 9.4. Connecticut General State Statute 22a-42c states that a municipality, by ordinance, can establish a method of selection and removal on the manner of filling vacancies of boards and commissions in connection with the Inland Wetland agencies. The Town of Seymour Charter includes a process for removal in section 9.4. He stated that it provides that if a member misses 3 meetings, but you have to give the individual an opportunity to hear and be heard at a hearing before the Board of Selectmen. With respect to the individuals that are cited in the letter, it would be incumbent upon the board, to give them notice and invite them to show cause as to why they should not be removed. Town Counsel suggested sending invitations to the address that they reside. If an individual has moved out of state, then there is probably a vacancy. The board agreed on inviting them to the February 3rd meeting.

ITEM #18: Discussion and take possible action on confirming resolution for ConnDOT Rimmon Street Project.

Kurt read letter to Mr. Hugh Hayward as follows:

Mr. Hayward,

This letter is to inform you that there was a public informational meeting held on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Norma Drummer Room at Seymour Town Hall regarding State Project 124-0169. There was no opposition to the project nor was any received in the 2 week comment period that followed. Furthermore, at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on January 6, 2015, the Board of Selectmen passed the attached resolution in support of the project and is requesting the project be allowed to proceed to the final design phase. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you, W. Kurt Miller

Vote: 6-Yes
W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

0-No

0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes

Motion to appoint Jake Holly to the Board of Finance (Alternate) for a term of eleven (11) months expiring on November 3, 2015.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes
W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

0-No

0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes

Motion to reappoint John Hatfield to the Conservation Commission for a term of three (3) years expiring on December 31, 2018.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes
W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

0-No

0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #21: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to approve Tax Refunds/Abatements as read.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes
W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

0-No

0-Abstain
Al Bruno – Yes
Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes

ITEM #22: Transfers.

None.

ITEM #23: Correspondence.

- Seymour Culture & Arts schedule of Events.
- Letter from the Fire Marshal regarding Fire Prevention Week.
- Check registers.

ITEM #24: Public Comment.

Michael Flynn, 85 Skokorat Street, suggested taking a good look at our public high schools in the valley. He stated that high schools don't seem to interest all the population. He suggested considering setting into motion career high schools for those who want to get into industrial arts.

ITEM #25: Selectmen's Public Comments.

Karen Stanek wished everyone a Happy New Year. She went to the swearing in ceremony for Cliff Hoyle and noted the many dignitaries in attendance. She inquired about the progress on the Adopt-A-Spot signs.

Kurt stated that they wanted to get the signs in before the frost. New Age will be working to get placards installed.

Karen inquired about the opening of the Fish Bypass. She discussed her understanding of the ruling with regard to the Blight Officer. She stated that she understands it as the Blight Officer doesn't have the discretion to enforce the ordinance or not.

Richard Buturla, Town Counsel, stated that the discretion comes in as to when the citation is issued and he starts fining them. Once the fines start to accrue, he has no discretion as to when to stop or waive them but the Board of Selectmen does. He also discussed a hypothetical example.

Karen discussed a property on 34 that has no mailbox. She was told that because the owner was connected he will not be blighted. The property was a residence at one time, the windows are broken and no one is living in the building.

Kurt stated that if you put a formal request in, it shouldn't be an issue.

Board discussed a few properties on 34 that should be blighted.

Karen inquired about the progress on the issue of the crosswalk to the Broad Street Park.

Kurt stated that it is being worked on in conjunction with getting a crosswalk Rita Tottenham's to the bridge.

Pau Roy stated his concerns with the opening of the Fish Bypass. He attended the Great Hill Hose Christmas party and thanked them for the invitation.

Al Bruno wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Annamarie Drugonis wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Len Greene, Jr. wished everyone a Happy New Year.

ITEM #26: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Second: Karen Stanek

0-Abstain

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

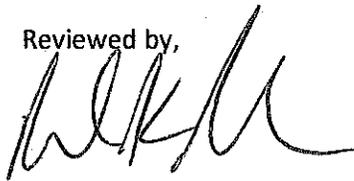
Paul Roy – Yes

Submitted by,



Lianna Staffieri
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman