

COPY RECEIVED
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MINUTES
Special Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – 7:00 PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Len Greene Jr., Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, W. Kurt Miller, Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Paul Roy, Karen Stanek and Town Counsel Rich Buturla and Warren Holcomb
Others Present: Michael Flynn

Item #1: Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3: Public comment

There was no public comment.

Item #4: Approve minutes from February 17, 2015 regular meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 17th, 2015 regular meeting.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 7-0

Item #5: Action in lieu of recessed special Town meeting from March 3, 2015 at 6:45 PM regarding emergency transfer for snow materials and overtime

WHEREAS, the Winter of 2014-2015 has included numerous snow and ice storms as well as record breaking cold weather; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Seymour budgeted funds sufficient to cover the cost of snow removal for a typical Connecticut winter; and

WHEREAS, the budgeted funds have and/or will be exhausted; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide sufficient funds to remove the snow;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the total sum of \$131,076.96 be transferred from Contingency (\$50,000.00) and the Fund Balance (\$81,076.96) to the following accounts:

Snow Plowing	\$103,122.57
Snow Plowing Overtime	\$23,363.47
Social Security	\$1,787.31
Retirement	\$2,803.62
Total	\$131,076.96

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-0

Item #6: First Selectman's report

Last week, I presented my budget to the Board of Finance. During that time, I gave them a quick state of the town type review to let them know where we stand financially. I wanted to share some of that information with you as well. Overall, the town is in very good financial shape. While our mill rate is still higher than I would like to see, our overall core financials continue to improve. As you know, in April of 2014, S&P raised the town's bond rating to its highest ever level, AA+. That rating puts us just one below the highest bond rating available. In giving us this rating, they mentioned our strong management practices, conservative budgeting approach and our disciplined debt planning. They were also very impressed with the continued growth of our fund balance and the positive changes to our debt ratio from previous years.

Our fund balance current sits at \$4,581,173 which is 8.7% of our general budget. This number is up from the \$2,897,989 or 5.91% we were at just four short years ago. S&P has a desired fund balance level of 10% which we are continuing to work toward. Has I have in my last 4 budget presentation, I have again asked the Board of Finance to increase our town's fund balance minimum. This year I have asked them to raise it from 8% to 8.5%.

Our debt service ratio currently sits at 8.94%..... 7.13% is general obligation debt while 1.81% is WPCA debt. As discussed in previous meetings, our debt ratio will remain flat for the next two budget years and will then start to drop dramatically in FY 2018 when we shed close to \$370,000 in principle and interest payments. This downward trend will continue through the next several years capping off with FY 2021 and the shedding of over \$1.2 million of principle and interest payments.

With this year's budget, our capital plan will now be fully funded. The town will have the ability to purchase \$300,000 worth of capital equipment each year, with no impact to the mill rate each year going forward. Our proactive road program is in place and growing each year which will allow us to start to properly maintain our roads. Successful contract negotiations have been completed with all 4 municipal unions that have moved all town of Seymour employees off of the old and extremely expensive health insurance plans to newer, more cost effective plans. These changes will save the town over \$350,000 year in insurance premium cost.

All of these changes to name a few have had a very positive impact on the town and will allow us to have a tremendous amount of financial flexibility in the years to come. While there is certainly much more work to be done, we have done exactly what we have set out to do which was to rebuild and strengthen this town's financial foundation and to allow us to move forward on the proper financial footing.

Item #7: Discussion and take possible action on Fire Department and Seymour Ambulance Association tax abatements

A motion was made to provide the tax abatements as presented to the qualified members of Citizens Engine Co., Great Hill Hose Co. and Seymour Ambulance Association

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Discussion: Al Bruno: What's the total?

Kurt: About \$70,000

Annmarie: Do they still have to claim it on their taxes?

Kurt: Yes, but I know they're looking at changing it to work more as a recruitment tool.

Vote: 7-0

Item #8: Discussion and take possible action on Building Department fee structure

Kurt: The Building Inspector could not be here so the item will be added to the next agenda.

Item #9: Discussion and take possible action on Greenway Trail design services amendment

Kurt: This is an amendment to the agreement with Milone & MacBroom for the first phase of the Greenway Trail.

Town Counsel: This is a functional document and they made the changes we requested, specifically the judicial dispute resolution mechanism. They made every change we requested to the document.

A motion was made to approve the contract and authorize the First Selectman to sign it on the Town's behalf.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-0

Item #10: Discussion and take possible action regarding engineering contract for Seymour High School athletic complex project

Kurt: We won't be taking any action but Brian LeClerc in the Town Counsel's office has been working with Town Engineer, Jim Galligan, to make the changes we would like to see. Jim says waiting will not affect the timeline and we will take action at our next meeting.

Karen: I know there has been a request to move graduation from the High School to the Middle School to allow work on the field. The kids are very opposed.

Kurt: That is correct.

Paul: The alternative is to have it in the auditorium but then not as many people could attend.

Nicole: We were discussing moving it to the Sponheimer field and moving the bleachers but nothing has been decided. Also every year there is the possibility of inclement weather and having to move it indoors. Our first choice is to keep it as close as possible to the High School and keep it outside if possible.

Item #11: Update from Ordinance Committee

Kurt: I gave a quick update at the last meeting. We worked on the 4 ordinances before us, delinquent tax payers, veterans' tax exemption, the Fire Department membership (§6-21 & 6-22) and an update to the sidewalk ordinances (§14-6). Town Counsel wrote up some ordinances and the next step is to send these to a special Town meeting to get the residents' feedback and then we can make changes as necessary. The veterans' tax exemption we would really like to have in effect for the new fiscal year for tax purposes.

Item #12: Set special Town meeting for Tuesday, April 7th at 6:00 PM regarding ordinance changes

Town Counsel: Please note that according to the Charter, this should be a public hearing rather than a special Town meeting.

A motion was made to set a public hearing for Tuesday, April 7th at 6 PM regarding changes to ordinances regarding delinquent tax payers, the veterans' tax exemption, membership to the Fire Department (§6-21 & 6-22) and the sidewalk ordinances (§14-6).

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Karen Stanek

Vote: 7-0

Item #13: Set special Town meeting for Tuesday April 7th at 6:50 PM regarding settlement agreement and applicable amendments to MSW Agreement presented by BRRFOC

Kurt: There is some legal paperwork that needs to be presented to this Board by Marc Bobman at BRRFOC. Town Counsel has reviewed it and if no public arrives

Town Counsel: State statute requires the notice of a special Town meeting in this circumstance.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 7-0

A motion was made to go out of order to number 15, appointments, to await the arrival of Town Counsel, Warren Holcomb, for executive session.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis **Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-0

Item #14: Executive Session (Police Contract)

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-0

The Board entered into executive session at 8:03 PM. Town Counsel Warren Holcomb and Rich Buturla are invited. Deputy First Selectwoman Nicole Klarides-Ditria recused herself since the subject has a direct financial impact on her.

A motion was made to come out at 8:38 PM noting that no action was taken.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 7-0

A motion was made to accept contract with the Seymour Police Department union.

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Paul Roy

Vote: 6-0-1 (Nicole Klarides-Ditria abstains)

Item #15: Appointments

Michael Flynn – Inland Wetlands Commission – 4 Years – Expires 3/3/19

Motion: Paul Roy **Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-0

Bill Paecht - Parks Commission

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 7-0

Annmarie Drugonis – Board of Public Works – 2 Years – Expires 12/6/15

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria **Second:** Al Bruno
Vote: 6-0-1 (Annmarie Drugonis abstains)

Chris Adamo – Seymour High School Softball Complex Committee – Until Completion

Motion: Paul Roy **Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Vote: 7-0

Ken Pereira – Seymour High School Softball Complex Committee - Until Completion

Motion: Karen Stanek **Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Vote: 7-0

Matt Bronson – Seymour High School Softball Complex Committee - Until Completion

Motion: Al Bruno **Second:** Len Greene Jr.
Vote: 7-0

Robert Finley – Seymour High School Softball Complex Committee - Until Completion

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria **Second:** Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 7-0

Jamie Yakusewich – Seymour High School Softball Complex Committee - Until Completion

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria **Second:** Karen Stanek
Vote: 7-0

Jim Geffert – Seymour High School Softball Complex Committee - Until Completion

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria **Second:** Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 7-0

Robert Lang – Seymour High School Softball Complex Committee - Until Completion

Motion: Paul Roy **Second:** Karen Stanek
Vote: 7-0

Kathy Pagliaro-Rich – Commission on Aging – 2 Years – Expires 4/2/17

Motion: Paul Roy **Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Vote: 6-0-1 (Al Bruno abstains)

Kim Osgood – Culture and Arts Committee – 3 Years – Expires 3/21/18

Motion: Paul Roy **Second:** Len Greene Jr.
Vote: 7-0

Mike Magut – Board of Ethics – 4 Years – Expires 4/6/19

Motion: Paul Roy **Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-0

Kathie Vrluk – 10-Year Strategic Planning Committee – 2 Years – Expires 3/18/17

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis **Second:** Al Bruno

Vote: 7-0

Bruce Baker – 10-Year Strategic Planning Committee – 2 Years – Expires 3/18/17

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 7-0

Jen Magri – 10-Year Strategic Planning Committee – 2 Years – Expires 3/18/17

Motion: Len Greene Jr. **Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-0

Item #16: Tax Refunds/Abatements

A motion was made to approve the tax refunds as presented.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria **Second:** Al Bruno

Vote: 7-0

Item #17: Transfers

There were no transfers before the Board.

Item #18: Correspondence

The minutes to the Ordinance Committee.

A letter from a resident to DPW thanking them for their work.

A letter from Town Counsel regarding the veterans' tax exemption.

A letter from Town Counsel regarding question about the MSW and recycling pickup contract.

A letter from State Rep. Conroy regarding 2014 AARP legislative achievement award. It was canceled due to weather but will be rescheduled.

A letter from State Rep. Conroy regarding HB 5462 regarding putting Seymour on the State Antiques Trail.

A letter from Jay Hatfield resigning from the Conservation Commission.

A letter from Chris Adamo requesting the establishment of the Seymour High School Softball Complex Committee. They are working with State Rep. Conroy to secure funding and I will offer my assistance.

Item #19: Public Comment

Michael Flynn – 85 Skokorat Street – What is the nature of the Fire Department Equipment that is being retired? People from the firemen's museum in Ansonia would be interested in acquiring

it if it has no further use. I would also like to recommend the formation of a regional equipment library with the NVCOG for esoteric pieces of equipment that it doesn't warrant purchasing by individual municipalities.

Item #20: Selectmen's Public Comments

Len: I was watching the news and there was a report detailing the comments from ConnDOT that this is perhaps the worst winter of our lifetimes for roads. Do we have a plan in place to deal with this? I think it will be more substantial than anything we've had to deal with before. There are roads that are so bad that I can't imagine that the pothole killer or DPW could possibly address them. I also want to make it known that there is a substantial ice and snow pack up north that will likely be a serious problem for us in the coming week, particularly if we get the predicted rain this weekend. There will probably be considerable flooding, like we saw in 2011, as a result.

Kurt: The Director of Operations, Town Engineer and I have been out checking the roads to get an inventory. Obviously we don't have nearly enough money to address it. Unfortunately, the \$5 million we set aside will not suffice. Putting cold patch on the roads is more or less a waste of money at this point. Town Engineer is working on a plan to address it and I was discussing with State Rep. Conroy a plan to address Rimmon: to do some of the planned work ahead of time or speed up the timeline. If we could go out to bid sooner, perhaps we could get the road fixed this year. Robin Road is almost irreparable at this point. I cannot say at this point on how we will address it. I spoke with Congresswoman DeLauro today to try and find a way to get Federal funding for road repair. Unfortunately FEMA money from the snowstorms isn't viable. Reaching out via NVCOG to consolidate our requests was also being discussed. It is a longshot because every Town in Connecticut is likely in the same boat. I put \$200,000 in my budget for basic road maintenance. We could spend that much on the Pothole Killer alone and I don't think it would address our concerns. I think we should have a plan together by April, but with the continual freezing and thawing we'll see in the coming weeks, it will likely get worse. The Emergency Management Director is aware of the possibility of flooding and we will be prepared in that eventuality.

Annamarie: I received several messages about the condition of Davis Road from residents there and they are correct. A bus driver was actually injured by one pothole. Public Works has been out addressing it but it needs to be looked at.

Kurt: Davis from Gary Park to 313 is being addressed in the spring. Unfortunately, the laterals are sinking. If the water company has to do work, they do the patching and backfilling. It has been recommended that we ask for money from them and do it ourselves to insure that it is done to our standards.

Annamarie: I know we had a lot of snow this year, but contractors doing driveways often leave piles in the middle of the street. The residents really need to be held responsible if they hire a contractor. There was also a lot of chatter about the sidewalks on social media. Residents need to be aware that it is their responsibility.

Kurt: The ordinance clearly places the responsibility on the resident and the Police Department will enforce the ordinance, but they don't actively search for violations. They rely on residents

reporting the offenders. We are going to meet next year in September to get a more definitive plan in place ahead of winter. We envision something like blight wherein we can place notice on the property and let the residents know it is being addressed.

Annamarie: This is a big concern with foreclosed homes.

Kurt: The Town may have to go out to clean them and the banks will get a lien. It's also important that the Town's sidewalks are done before we go and penalize residents. We have created a comprehensive list of Town sidewalks so now we have a dedicated Public Works employee doing sidewalks going forward. This is especially important with our emphasis on Transit-Oriented Development in the downtown area.

Al: I would just echo the concern about the roads.

Nicole: Again, I'll repeat the concerns about the roads but I know some of the heaving will go away when things warm up. We have to be aware that sidewalks affect schoolchildren who walk to school. The Board of Education needs to ensure that the sidewalks on school grounds are well maintained.

Kurt: We have seen a great return with the consolidation of technology with the Board of Education and I started a conversation with them regarding merging maintenance as well. It isn't definite at this point but the conversations are ongoing.

Paul: I know it's been a tough winter but there are a few spots I'm concerned with. I'm not sure whose responsibility the sidewalk along the railroad tracks is, but it isn't done. I don't know about the sidewalk on River Street either, but it hasn't been done.

Kurt: None of the spots owned by the State have been maintained. I made Public Works do some of them and they weren't very happy, but it's a matter of public safety. At the same time, they cannot do them all. I hope things will improve next year because we should be able to stay on top of it if we go into winter prepared.

Karen: I'm just going to reiterate about the sidewalks, specifically about the sidewalk in front of the former Seymour Lumber property. There is also a huge pothole at the bottom of the High School driveway. Stoddard Street also has a huge pothole and North Benham is terrible as well.

Annamarie: Laurel and Chucta are a disaster.

Kurt: That's the problem. The roads that were in good shape are no longer.

Karen: I also wanted to find out how we are doing on the community garden.

Kurt: We have identified some land near the High School that the Land Trust has said they are willing to give us. We're looking to apply for money from the Matthies Fund. Eventually, we'd like to see a dog park, greenhouse and hopefully a solar array as well.

Karen: Friday night, the High School put on a decades concert that was one of the best I've ever seen in my life. This Friday, there are 3 more concerts starting at 9. I was so proud, they are such talented kids.

A motion was made to return to Item #14, executive session.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria **Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-0

Item #21: Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis **Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-0

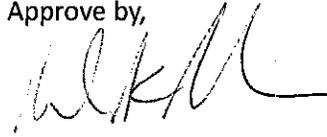
The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Submitted by,



Rory Burke
Recording Secretary

Approve by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman