

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 6/3/15  
TIME: 7:50pm  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes  
Board of Selectmen  
Tuesday, June 2, 2015 – 7:00 PM  
Norma Drummer Room – Town Hall

**Members Present:** Len Greene Jr., Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, Nicole Klarides-Ditria (absent 7:48-7:50 PM), W. Kurt Miller, Paul Roy and Karen Stanek

**Others Present:** Emergency Management Director Tom Eighmie, Paul Haluschak

**Item #1: Call meeting to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 May 19, 2015 regular meeting**

A motion was made to approve the minutes.

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

**Vote:** 6-0-1 (Len Greene Jr. abstains)

**Item #5: Approve minutes from May 19, 2015 special Town meeting**

A motion was made to approve the minutes.

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

**Vote:** 6-0-1 (Len Greene Jr. abstains)

**Item #6: First Selectman's Report**

1. Last Friday evening, the town celebrated the dedication of the new flag and flag pole on the over look at French Memorial Park. This 80 foot pole with its 20 by 30 foot flag will fly year round to honor our veterans. I'd like to again personal thank Stanley and Phyllis Jachimowski for their very generous donation to our town. It is my understanding that the parks commission will be considering asking the Board of Selectmen to consider rename the lookout after the Jachimowski's, which is something I would very strongly support.

2. Held second joint DPW meeting with Oxford, Derby and Beacon Falls regarding the sharing of equipment and services. We are continuing to look at ways to save money on a regional basis. We have determined that we will not be moving forward with a shared vacuum truck due to concerns with maintenance and wear and tear. Instead, we will be looking at bidding out the catch basin cleaning as one large job. Estimates project a savings of about 25% compared to what we currently pay.

3. Met with several local leaders and the senior management staff of St. Mary's Hospital to review their financial condition and direction going forward. The hospital seems to be in a strong financial position and will be looking to have a steady, very controlled expansion over the next 10 years. This is certainly a good sign for the greater Waterbury region.
4. Through the NVCOG staff, the region has applied for a federal Tiger Grant to improve the TOD districts of several of the towns. Requests include improvements to greenway areas and travels modes and most specifically for Seymour, roughly \$10 million dollars for the completion of the RT 67/42 connector. If this grant were to go through and the road were built, it would open close to 240 developable acres between Seymour and Beacon Falls. I have asked all of our local state officials to write letters of support which they have. While this will be a very competitive grant process, we feel very strongly in its merits and the impact it will have on the area.
5. I meet last night with the Board of Education to discuss the initial steps in creating a joint Grounds and Maintenance Department similar to the new Technology Department that has been created. The board was very open and receptive to the idea. I will be working on putting more specific plans in place over the next month or two that will bring together the strengths of the municipal side and the Board of Education side to create a department that works for the best interests of Seymour overall. I will provide updates as I move forward.
6. Finally, tonight you were handed out the sample packet for the Seymour Sweeps program. This should give you the basic idea of where we stand. Work will be ongoing over the next few weeks as we continue to compile more information and data. From this, we will put very specific plans of action in place in preparation for the 2017 fiscal year and beyond. Rory expects the resident interaction piece of the website to be live by July 1.

**Item #7: Presentation from Tom Eighmie**

Board of Selectmen:

The Communications Commission has presented their final stage in a decade-long process to enhance and improve public safety communications in this town.

Their final phase involves the use of simulcast communications, additional radio receiver sites and the enhanced use of both dark fiber and microwave point-to-point connections to achieve these goals, thus enhancing our communications system toward an IP-based control accessible via smart phones/tablets for a quick check or review of the operating system.

As department heads, we support the conceptual presentation and embrace the practical applications it will deliver.

Sincerely,

Chief Michael Metzler  
Seymour Police

Chief John Cronin Jr  
Seymour Fire

Chief L. Scott Andrews  
Seymour EMS

Thomas J Eighmie  
Communications Chairman  
Director, OEM

Robert Dyer  
System-wide Technology Coordinator

Tom Eighmie – We started back in 1998 with our first high-band license. We've done several demos in several areas and improved our technologies. We had one repeater site that covered the Town except for 34. That was fine until we were busy. We went to a second site with steering. That works on a system with less use but there are some problems. Money wasn't available so we made due. SimulCast brings several transmitting bases simultaneously with the signal with multiple receivers. This will eliminate dead spots and bad reception. You flood the Town with signal and there's no fighting, so to speak. Microwave will be good for 15 years. Fiber is good indefinitely. Fiber seldom goes down and the technology to repair it is much faster. In the packet there's a description of SimulCast, an article going into further detail, coverage maps with current technology, maps of SimulCast's coverage and then a map of the equipment and how it works. All the equipment comes off the State bid list for this project.

Annamarie – I understand what we're trying to do, but my concern is the Route 34 corridor. Wasn't there an incident there with a problem with police communication?

Paul Haluschak – That incident was while our transmitter was out of service. The communication line between the tower on Progress and there was out of service because AT & T got rid of the service and turned it over to Frontier. After 10 days, we found out there was a mouse that had chewed through the wire in Oxford. Frontier's equipment has no guarantee that there will be no similar problems again. We're not very satisfied with Frontier's customer service.

Annamarie – I just want to make sure the First Responders are properly protected.

Tom – The study we did this time was with reception 3 feet from the ground and reception improves with height.

Len – I was going to ask about Frontier's growing infamy in the state. Will this change address some of that problem?

Tom – Yes, because we're going fiber. We may include this in the Town's fiber network that's being created. The Police Department is a great entity to connect because the State's 9-1-1 network is all fiber.

Kurt - That's why I wanted Rob Dyer to be involved with this as well. Tom, can you go over the costs?

Tom – The costs were in the area of \$435,000. It's all on the State bid list so we're comfortable with that. That's all-inclusive.

Annamarie – Could you describe the State bid list for the public?

Tom – The State approaches vendors on behalf of municipalities and asks them for best pricing. The list is usually in the area of 10-20% savings. That allows the Towns to avoid the bid process, which can drive prices up.

AI – What's the estimated timeline?

Tom – Once we get everything in place, if we start the process by the end of July, we hope to have it up by the end of September. Last time it took about 6 weeks for delivery and it was installed within a week of arrival.

**Item #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding proclamation honoring Fr. Edward Jaksina  
PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS,** The Town of Seymour wishes to recognize Father Edward Jaksina of Seymour's Church of the Good Shepherd on this, the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the Catholic priesthood, and

**WHEREAS,** He has served in various capacities at the Church of the Good Shepherd including as the parish's pastor since 1995, and

**WHEREAS,** In these capacities, Father Jaksina has become a great source of guidance and wisdom to his parishioners and a pillar of the community both spiritually and socially, and

**WHEREAS,** The Town of Seymour wishes, therefore, to thank him for his many years of valued service and to wish him many more years dedicated to the people of his parish and the community, now be it therefore

**RESOLVED,** That I, W. Kurt Miller, First Selectman of Seymour, Connecticut do hereby proclaim Saturday, June 6, 2015 to be a day of thanks and recognition for Father Edward Jaksina.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and this 3rd day of June, 2015 caused this seal to be affixed.

W. Kurt Miller  
First Selectman

A motion was made to approve the proclamation as read.

**Motion:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Vote:** 7-0

**Item #9: Discussion and take possible action regarding 2015 Town Homeowners Program**

To W. Kurt Miller:

This is to inform you that we have 265 applicants eligible for the Town Homeowners Program. The Town has approved a line item of \$50,000 for the program. The recommendation of this office is that the applicants be granted a benefit of \$185 for those that have 100% ownership or have life use of the property. Those having ownership of less than 100% will have the benefit prorated by their percent of ownership.

Please advise this office of the decision of the Board of Selectmen regarding the granting of the benefit.

Thank you,  
Priscilla Altorelli  
Assistant Assessor

A motion was made to appropriate \$185 per applicant with 100% owned homes and prorated amounts for partially owned homes.

**Motion:** Karen Stanek

**Second:** Len Greene Jr.

**Vote:** 7-0

**Item #10: Discussion and take possible action regarding formation of the Permanent Building Committee**

Kurt – If you recall in the Efficient/Effective Local Government portion of the Strategic Plan, there is a goal to establish a Committee to address the condition of Town buildings and structures. We have a mix of engineers, contractors, our Fire Marshal, etc. We took pains to ensure that these were qualified people. We'll appoint them later in the meeting as an advisory committee and we can make them more permanent later. Rich, what action needs to be taken.

Rich – A motion to create an advisory Permanent Building Committee to the Board of Selectmen would be fine.

Paul – So they will be required to report back to us as other boards do?

Kurt – Yes, we'll ask them to do, among other things, budget projections for how much work will need to be done. This will go hand-in-hand with the new Grounds & Maintenance initiative.

A motion was made to create and report quarterly

**Motion:** Paul Roy

**Second:** Al Bruno

**Vote:** 7-0

**Item #11: Discussion and take possible action regarding Maiden Lane**

Kurt – As Jim is going through the bid packages, they are coming in lower than expected so we should have some money for Maiden Lane. We should at least be able to do some of the basic stuff to make the road passable by the fall.

A motion was made to table this item.

**Motion:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Vote:** 7-0

**Item #12: Discussion and take possible action regarding capital plan**

Kurt – Before you are my recommendations for the 2015-16 capital plan. I won't ask for any action tonight but I will ask you to be prepared by the meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>. We ask for recommendations and Tony and I vet them to see what we think is the most urgent.

Len – I see there's a line for dog park but there's no dollar amount.

Kurt – We had discussed it but we will be looking for grant money. Also, all the potential locations were on wetlands. We are looking to have that and the community garden in the same location.

Annmarie – That's the garden that Brooke Riley from Chatfield suggested?

Kurt – Yes, and we're looking to include a greenhouse to be used year-round and for educational purposes, but greenhouses are not cheap to build or maintain. Also, this is the last year that

we'll be adding \$100,000 to the capital plan so we will be fully funded at \$300,000 going forward. This also gives Deidre Caruso something to work with when we're looking for grants. Al – Under Parks, I see a lot of good things being done at French Park and elsewhere. I'd ask that we make a priority of Gary Park's parking lot because it's a disaster.

Kurt – If that's the decision of this Board on the 16<sup>th</sup>, so be it. I would imagine Gary Park gets more use. If you look under Public Works, we had a dump truck in there for \$160,000. We found we didn't have enough money for a proper bucket truck but we found out we could have a dump truck refurbished with FEMA money and purchase a bucket truck instead. We're going to continue putting money into the oil tank removal fund and we need a reserve for that. We have \$75,000 currently for SimulCast, but we may need to increase that slightly depending on the funding mechanism, or we can extend it out one year. One choice would be paying on initial delivery or paying on year after. I'm working with Doug Thomas and Dick Thieverage to find the best course of action.

**Item #13: Set special Town meeting for Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 6:45 PM regarding appropriating \$2,000,000 for design and construct of an artificial turf athletic field and grandstand at Seymour High School (AKA Project CSAP 2015-17) and related improvements and amenities to be funded in part by an estimated \$1,895,000 in grants from the State of Connecticut DEEP**

A motion was made to set the meeting as proposed.

**Discussion:** Kurt – The Waterbury Republican held publication so we will need to redo this.

Karen – I want to know where the money is coming from to rent the bleachers for the softball field. I think it's a shame we're interrupting graduation. I think it's a shame it won't be done for the first football game.

Nicole – The target has always been October 1.

Kurt – I would like to reiterate that I strongly encourage the committee to not exceed the State funding.

Karen – Does that include the track?

Nicole – We're going to see how the bids come in but we're going to try to do something with it.

Karen – Will you have information by the next meeting?

Nicole – Yes, hopefully.

Kurt – It would potentially have to come back to us, the Board of Finance and the Board of Education.

Paul – We believe there will be enough money but it's just a matter of how much. It's basically how we resurface it.

**Motion:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria                      **Second:** Karen Stanek

**Vote:** 7-0

**Item #14: Discussion and take possible action regarding potential damage reimbursement for Vincent Melissano**

To: The Right of Board of Selectmen [sic]

I Vincent Melissano wish to be reimbursed for damages done to me [sic] tire. I wish to be added to the next agenda at the board of Selectmens [sic] meeting!

Vincent Melissano

Kurt – He has submitted a claim from March 15<sup>th</sup> from an incident with a pothole on West Church Street. Rory will reach out to the resident to get the necessary information for action on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Item #15: Executive session**

There was no executive session.

**Item #16: Appointments**

A motion was made to reappoint Bonnie Wilkes as Municipal Aide for a 1-year term ending June 1, 2016.

**Motion:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Vote:** 7-0

A motion was made to appoint Jim Baldwin to the Permanent Building Committee for a 2-year term ending June 2, 2017.

**Motion:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Vote:** 7-0

A motion was made to appoint Paul Wetowitz to the Permanent Building Committee for a 2-year term ending June 2, 2017.

**Motion:** Paul Roy

**Second:** Len Greene Jr.

**Vote:** 7-0

A motion was made to appoint John Conroy to the Permanent Building Committee for a 2-year term ending June 2, 2017.

**Motion:** Paul Roy

**Second:** Karen Stanek

**Vote:** 7-0

A motion was made to appoint Wayne Natzel to the Permanent Building Committee for a 2-year term ending June 2, 2017.

**Motion:** Paul Roy

**Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Alex Danko to the Permanent Building Committee for a 2-year term ending June 2, 2017.

**Motion:** Al Bruno

**Second:** Paul Roy

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Stanley Jachimowski to the Permanent Building Committee for a 2-year term ending June 2, 2017.

**Motion:** Paul Roy

**Second:** Karen Stanek

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Mike Marcinek to the Permanent Building Committee for a 2-year term ending June 2, 2017.

**Motion:** Len Greene Jr.

**Second:** Al Bruno

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Tim Connors as an alternate to the Inland Wetlands Commission for a 2-year term ending June 2, 2017.

**Motion:** Paul Roy

**Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Vote:** 7-0

**Item #17: Tax Refunds/Abatements**

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

**Motion:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Vote:** 7-0

**Item #18: Transfers**

There were no transfers before the Board.

**Item #19: Correspondence**

Check register

A letter from John Conroy Sr. resigning from the Inland Wetlands Committee after more than 20 years

2 jeopardy tax collection notices from the Tax Collector

**Item #20: Selectmen's Public Comments**

Karen – I attended the dedication of the new flagpole at French Park and I want to compliment the Jachimowski's for their patriotism and their generosity. We made several appointments tonight and I've received several phone calls regarding openings on several commissions. The Commission on Aging hasn't had a meeting in 2 years. The Livable Communities Committee has 4 openings.

Kurt – If you have any recommendations, I would welcome them. Rory put out a list of vacancies today on Facebook.

Karen – The other call I got was about the new Director of Community Services. The woman was promised there would be a new webpage and the Rec. Department has no new trips.

Kurt – I've asked them all to provide me with calendars that look 12 months into the future.

Mary has been really pushing them so I would expect to see great changes in the next two months. MyRecWare will allow residents to pay online for programming. That should hopefully be here by July 1. They reconfigured the old Town of Seymour Facebook page as the Community Services page. If six months from now they have the same complaints I would be surprised.

Once Communities Services is up and running, maybe we can combine some of the supervisory boards.

Karen – This same caller said we she was told someone was getting \$20,000 per year to drive the bus.

Kurt – The driver gets paid \$14.75 an hour to drive 22 hours per week. One of the Livable Communities Commission's recommendations was to use a car instead. Any Town employee can drive the cars; you need a CDL to drive the bus. If someone wanted to drive the car, a church for example, we would be open to that.

Karen – I don't know what control we have over this but I think there's going to be sinkhole at the Bank of America ATM. The road is all damaged.

Kurt – I'll have the boys look at it tomorrow.

Paul – I also attended the ceremony for the new flag and I was quite touched. We were just hoping to get lights there when I was First Selectman. Quite frequently I walk at the bypass and I noted there were several cigarette butts on the ground. I would like to see if we could designate that as a no-smoking area.

Rich – I'll be happy to look into it.

Nicole – I attended the Memorial Day Parade and that was great as always. We had the pleasure of hearing from Gen. Patton's grandson. That being said, I would like to look into combining our parade with some local towns because it is small. I also attended the Memorial Day ceremonies and they were great. I attended the flagpole dedication and French Park is looking beautiful. It was so nice of the Jachimowski's to do that.

Al – I just want to echo Nicole's comments about the Memorial Day Parade. Attendance has decreased so maybe we could combine with another Valley community.

Annamarie – In speaking about the Memorial Day Parade, Ansonia had theirs the same day and only with an hour's difference. That may have been a reason attendance was down. If we do combine, we could maybe alternate. I was speaking with a gentleman at the flagpole dedication about how there used to be a little grove beneath the lookout and that people would go to it after the Memorial Day Parade. I have to say, though, that French Park is looking beautiful. Thank you to the Jachimowski's for everything.

**Item #21: Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Second:** Karen Stanek

**Vote:** 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Submitted by,



Rory Burke

Recording Secretary