

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

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

Members Not Present: Nicole Klarides-Ditria.

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, Jim Galligan, Tony Caserta, Rory Burke and Michael Flynn.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:01 PM.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

Michael Flynn, 85 Skokorat Street, parts of the guardrail is not fixed by the municipal cemetery.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from June 16, 2015 regular meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from June 16, 2015 regular meeting.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

1-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Al Bruno – ABSTAIN

Karen Stanek – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Paul Roy - Yes

ITEM #5: Approve minutes from June 16, 2015 special meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from June 16, 2015 special meeting.

Motion: len Second: annmarie

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

1-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Al Bruno – ABSTAIN

Karen Stanek – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Paul Roy - Yes

ITEM #6: First Selectman's Report.

1. Proud to announce the Town of Seymour received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report. This certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. I want to thank our Finance Director Doug Thomas and his staff for their hard work and dedication over the last year to obtain this great recognition on behalf of the town.
2. We are in the process of finalizing fiscal year 2015 and are working on closing out the year. I expect we may have some clean up transfers for our July 21st which is standard practice. As it stands today, unaudited, we are showing a surplus of \$69,930. Our current revenue shortfall is \$183,895. It consists of \$81,077 snow plowing transfer from fund balance, \$77,061 state grant shortfall, \$34,708 education grant shortfall and remaining miscellaneous plus/minus. Current projected expenditure surplus is \$253,825. It consists of police department \$134,905 surplus, \$25,810 trash hauling surplus, recreation and elderly service \$66,814 surplus and miscellaneous \$26,296 department surplus. This surplus does not take into account the projected \$300,000 short fall from the Board of Education with regards to Works Comp claims.

3. I will be appointing a Charter Revision Committee in August to begin to prepare for potential charter changes for the 2016 Election. If anyone is interested in being a part of the committee or know of anyone, please let Rory or myself know.
4. The town's records are have never been very well organized, so to correct this, we are looking into digitizing the files of the First Selectman's Office and the Building Department as a pilot prior to looking at other town departments. This will allow us the option to keep paper documents when required, but allow us the ability to make record retrieval quicker and more efficient because of the files will be fully indexed and searchable. Costs of the project are being paid for by encumbered money from FY 2015 and the project will allow us to also have full integration with the Building Department's permitting system.
5. Finally, this morning I received word from Standard and Poor's that they are reaffirmed the town's AA+ long term rating. This rating reflects their positive opinion of the following factors for the town which include:
 - a. Strong Management with good financial policies and practices
 - b. Strong Budgetary performance with balanced operating results
 - c. Strong Budgetary flexibility and very strong liquidity from our vastly improved fund balance
 - d. Strong debt and contingent liability position because of our vastly improved and organized debt service plan
 - e. A very strong institutional framework score for Connecticut

The stable outlook on the long term ratings reflects their opinion that Seymour will like maintain its strong budgetary flexibility due to its conservative budgeting approach and strong financial management practices. Over time, we could consider a higher rating if budgetary flexibility continues to improve and the town maintains its strong budgetary performance.

Motion to add to the agenda discussion and possible action regarding the use of LoCIP funds for line painting for Public Works.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis	Second: Karen Stanek	
Vote: 6-Yes 0-No	0-Abstain	
W. Kurt Miller – Yes	Len Greene, Jr. – Yes	Karen Stanek – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes	Al Bruno – Yes	Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Discussion and possible action regarding the use of LoCIP funds for line painting for Public Works. Kurt read letter from the Director of Public Works, Dennis Rozum as follows:

The Department of Public Works is requesting the Board of Selectmen to authorize \$9,000.00 in Local Capital Investment Program (LoCIP) money to do street lining approximately 30 miles of roads. Work will be performed by Atlantic Line Painting.

Regards,
Dennis Rozum

Motion to approve the request to spend \$9,000.00 in LoCIP funds to do approximately 30 miles of road line painting as well as line painting in the downtown area.

Motion: Karen Stanek	Second: Len Greene, Jr.	
Vote: 6-Yes 0-No	0-Abstain	
W. Kurt Miller – Yes	Len Greene, Jr. – Yes	Karen Stanek – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes	Al Bruno – Yes	Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action on track bids.

Jim Galligan stated the Seymour High School Athletic Field Committee is making a recommendation to award the bid for the rubberized asphalt for the high school track to Cape and Island Track and Tennis in the amount of \$198,252.00. They bid on the project unseen and after looking at the site they offered a reduction of approximately \$20,000.00 for removal of the existing rubberized asphalt.

Kurt inquired if this fits within budget.

Jim stated that is correct.

Kurt inquired about the time frame for completion of the project.
Jim stated that they will be able to do the surface sometime in beginning of September. He stated it takes approximately 2-2 and a half weeks. He stated this will be a black surface and is the least expensive. Jim stated they are based out of Rhode Island and have done the track surface in Oxford.

Len Greene, Jr. inquired about the life span of the rubberized asphalt.
Jim stated the lifespan is at least 10 years and, depending on the use it could be as much as 15. He stated the track that is there now is a latex track and the new track surface will be a polyurethane track which is much more durable. This will be a solid material and will have a much longer life. He stated that the only maintenance needed are the lines if they blur out.

Karen inquired what the maintenance would be aside from the lines.
Jim stated that at some point the surface will need to be augmented a few years down the road. He stated the track requires very low maintenance. He stated they plan on encouraging walkers to use lanes 3 and 4 because lanes 1 and 2 are used the most.
Kurt inquired if the turf and the track have a similar lifespan.
Jim stated that the turf will get about 12 years and the turf material is top of the line.

Motion to accept Jim Galligan's recommendation to award the bid for the rubberized asphalt track to Cape and Island Track and Tennis in the amount of \$198, 252.00

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.	Second: Paul Roy	
Vote: 6-Yes	0-No	0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes	Len Greene, Jr. – Yes	Karen Stanek – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes	Al Bruno – Yes	Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

ITEM #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding road contract bids.

Jim Galligan stated that Nafis & Young opened the bids for Contract 2 on Friday. The two bidders were Cocchiola Paving, Inc. and A&J Construction. Cocchiola was the low bidder at \$868,140.00, therefore, Nafis & Young is making the recommendation to award the bid to Cocchiola.

Kurt inquired about the timeframe on Contract 2.
Jim stated that the first contract that Cocchiola has for Contract 3 has a duration of 60 days and the contract for Contract 2 has a duration of 45 days. He stated they are not in series and will be done concurrently. Cocchiola has already upped their personnel requirements on the job. He stated Cocchiola recognizes they have bid on two projects that have to be done parallel.
Kurt inquired if there will be reimbursement from the water company for costs they would normally incur.
Jim stated yes but they have not finalized a number with them.
Kurt inquired if money will go into the overall fund balance which could be used to extend other roads. Jim will find out what the reimbursement money will be within 2 weeks. He stated that these projects have a shorter duration because of the winter weather. They have shortened up the durations of contract. He stated that the bond issue was \$5,000,000 and now they are at \$3,590,000 which puts them at 1.4 million dollars below the cost. He stated that all projects to date have been in similar dollar amount range and is predicting a good finish on this project.

Kurt inquired about a timeframe for Contract 4.
Jim stated that the goal is to separate Contract 4 into two parts: one being a drainage contract as well as a reclaiming and repaving contract.

ITEM #11: Discussion and take possible action regarding LED streetlight conversion.

Kurt stated he has been looking into ways to reduce costs with regard to utilities and in conjunction with CCM and was starting to look at conversion of street lights.

Rory Burke stated in 2014, CCM started an RFQ process to find qualified vendors for LED streetlight conversion. He discussed the preliminary proposal from Tanko Lighting. They are proposing “turn key services.” He stated the town along with Tanka would work with Eversource and would purchase our streetlights from Eversource. The maintenance responsibilities would be on the town. He stated the benefit would be to switch from rate 116 (\$8 per fixture per month) to rate 117 (\$.56 per fixture per month). The other benefit is the town will be saving money on energy services. He stated Tanko Lighting is a qualified energy service company designated by US Department of Energy. They are a qualified vendor of CCM and are one of three that were selected.

He discussed the benefits of LED fixtures as follows:

- Higher initial costs, failure rate is significantly lower.
- Lifespan is significantly longer.
- The light is more direct, less ambient light pollution.
- Brighter light.

Rory stated the process will be broken up into two phases. The first step with Tanko Lighting would be a comprehensive audit which would take one month. He stated the analysis would take 2 months before the town receives the results. He stated the rough quote estimate for the audit is \$11,000. If the town proceeds with the second step with Tanko, the town will not be charged. If the town decides not to proceed to the second step, they will charge the town. There is a non-compete clause so the town would not be able to use that data from the audit with another company or at another period of time.

Rory stated the town would own the street lights, but the poles would be owned by Eversource and there will be a fee charged to access their poles. The town would not pay for initial transition to access. He stated a representative from Tanko will be coming to the July 21st meeting to answer questions. He stated he is proposing to approve the audit portion for the time being because the town cannot get an accurate quote until they know what they are working with.

He discussed the retrofitting with Tanko as follows:

- Variety of fixtures.
- Work to create customized plan.
- Check for eligibility for rebates and grants. Potentially the price would be lower if the town is eligible for funding.
- Procure the materials.
- Handle logistics during transition.
- Work with police to develop traffic control plans.
- Handle waste disposal.
- Project schedule.
- Use local contractors.
- Based in San Francisco and have worked with Rocky Hill and New London, and several communities in Massachusetts.
- Total project duration is approximately 2-3 months.

He stated the original total project cost was based on the information the town provided them and would change once the audit is completed. He stated the payback period is 3 years in which the town will stay cash positive. He stated the savings that the town gets from the energy would be used to pay for the financing. He stated after installation is complete the town will be purchasing poles from

Eversource. He stated the town can enter into a maintenance contract with Tanko (\$12 per fixture per year= \$13,000). He stated Tanko is projecting savings on annual basis of \$150,000 per year.

Karen inquired if Tanko maintains the lights or if they hire local contractors.

Rory stated they hire local contractors. They do a monthly night time patrol and will drive around to find fixtures that are out.

Karen inquired where the responsibility lies if a local contractor cannot get to a light that goes out for two or three days.

Rory stated they guarantee a response time.

Paul inquired about the ownership of the rest of the equipment if Eversource owns the poles.

Rory stated the town owns the fixture and the arm. He stated part of the negotiation includes the town not having to pay a rent to use space on the pole.

Paul inquired if it is the town's responsibility to fix the fixture or arm if it breaks.

Rory stated it is the town's responsibility.

The board continued to discuss the maintenance responsibilities.

Len Greene, Jr. stated the cost savings is very impressive but is wondering what the assumptions are based on. He stated one can't project what the rate will be in 2 years let alone 20.

Rory stated that part of it was starting with a base line of our current utility bill. He stated that it is a question for the representative.

Len inquired if they guarantee cost savings when it comes to contract.

Rory sent sample contracts

Town Counsel, Richard Buturla stated he has many questions and figured he would wait and see what the consensus is from the board.

Len inquired who would be responsible of administration of the program.

Rory stated that hasn't been discussed yet and there will need to be a contact person with Tanko.

Kurt stated that the proposed operations structure would be something Tony would take care of.

Len inquired how the company came to be a CCM vendor and what the process was.

Rory stated they had an RFQ process.

The board discussed the audit process with Town Counsel. They will come up with questions to ask the representative from Tanko at the next meeting.

ITEM #13: Discussion and possible action regarding Haynes sign.

Kurt stated that Haynes has a new facility behind Stop n' Shop. They have approached Planning & Zoning with regard to putting a sign up. The sign will be put across from Stop n' Shop. Kurt stated that the sign itself will follow the same scheme as the current town signs. The sign will conform to all regulations. The Zoning Enforcement Officer and the Building Inspector tentatively signed off on it. The sign would be put on town property. Brian Lema is in the process of working out a licensing agreement. Kurt stated that at the Board of Selectmen meeting on July 21st the board will be giving a formal approval.

ITEM #14: Executive session (Pending Claim - Litigation strategy and Collective bargaining. Legal - Chatfield-LoPresti School snowmelt system).

Motion to add to enter into executive session at 8:29 PM with representatives from Berchem, Moses and Devlin.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller - Yes

Len Greene, Jr. - Yes

Karen Stanek - Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Motion to exit executive session at 9:10 PM with no motions or actions made.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

ITEM #15: Discussion and take possible action regarding snowmelt system at Chatfield-LoPresti School.

No action necessary.

ITEM #16: Appointments

Motion to appoint Phil Wilhelmy to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term of four (4) year term expiring on July 7, 2019.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Paul Roy

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Motion to appoint Christine Aliman as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals for a four (4) year term expiring on July 7, 2019.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Motion to appoint Jamie Yakusewich as an alternate on the Seymour High School Athletic Field Committee until completion.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

ITEM #17: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

None.

ITEM #18: Transfers.

None.

ITEM #19: Correspondence.

- Kurt read letter from the Parks Commission as follows:

- Dear Mr. Miller,

At the June 22nd meeting of the Seymour Parks Commission, the Board voted to honor two individuals who have made significant contributions to improve the quality of life in Seymour. We are recommending the Board of Selectmen name the flagpole overlook at French Park in honor of Stanley Jachimowski and name the gazebo at Broad Street Park in honor of Al Yagovane. We would like to commemorate their instrumental contributions to these projects by installing plaques at these locations as a gesture of gratitude.

We hope the Board of Selectmen would approve this well-deserved recognition for the efforts of these two individuals.

Yours truly,
Bill Paecht, Chairman

- Letter to Kurt from Andrew Zehal who is doing a food drive this month at Stop and Shop. Kurt stated he challenged him and will match his goal.
- Kurt read letter to Dave Kaiser with regard to an event that occurred at the Seymour Housing Authority as follows:

Mr. Keyser:

An event that occurred in a Seymour Housing Authority facility was recently brought to my attention by a resident of that facility. I am told an elderly resident was assaulted and sustained substantial injuries and that the assailant was a young disabled resident with whom she shares the facilities.

Any time a person is assaulted in Seymour, it is a cause for great concern. When that person is elderly, that concern is even greater. When that elderly person is assaulted in a publicly-funded facility, it warrants intense scrutiny.

The Town of Seymour's oversight power over the Seymour Housing Authority is nominal. That being said, residents frequently express their concerns to my office because they rely on many municipal services.

Although this incident is the gravest concern my office has been informed of, it is by no means the only. Residents of your facilities have reached out to us on several occasions expressing their serious concerns about the close proximity in which the elderly and young disabled residents of Seymour Housing Authority's facilities live.

I would ask that you seriously investigate the possibility of separating these two groups to the extent possible in an effort to concentrate services and protect the residents. As your organization operates several facilities, perhaps they could be dedicated or at the very least be organized into dedicated floors.

I know that this incident is far from commonplace in your facilities, but all the same, residents' security is paramount and I implore you to do all in your power to ensure it.

Thank you,
W. Kurt Miller

- Letter of opinion from Town Counsel with regard to the roles of the Board of Fire Commissioners and Board of Fire Chiefs as well as the Seymour Fire Department.
- Letter from Richard Kearns, Director of Security of Seymour Public Schools.
- Thank you letter from Pastor Russell Lesiw with regard to the National Day of Prayer.
- Letter from GFOA with regard to the town's certificate of achievement.
- Letter from the ice cream vendors, the Wallace family.
- On Wednesday August 19th the City of Ansonia will host ceremony remembering the Great Flood of the Naugatuck Valley.

ITEM #20: Public Comment.

None.

ITEM #21: Selectmen's Public Comments.

Karen Stanek stated that she would like to volunteer to be on the Charter Revision Commission. She inquired about the status of repair of Rimmon Road.

Kurt stated that they are aiming towards the Spring of 2016. He stated that the state is sticking to a timeline. He stated that the project is being monitored by himself, Jim Galligan and Tony Caserta. They will be going out to bid at the end of October or beginning of November.

Karen inquired about the status of the crosswalk between the Community Center and Broad Street Park.

Kurt stated that the town needs to install the curb cuts before DOT will put the crosswalk there.

Karen inquired about a Senior Citizens Calendar of Events.

Kurt stated that he met with Lucy, Melissa, and Mary and they are working on inserts for the newspapers and something online.

Karen inquired about the status of the community garden project.

Kurt stated that he still working on that. State Representative Theresa Conroy is working on finding the town money. He stated they are looking to expand the garden to a greenhouse to have more of an educational aspect. He stated the earliest they can start is next spring and the other issue is finding the land.

Karen stated that last week Town Hall was closed Thursday and Friday. She stated that it is a nightmare for lawyers. She stated she believes Town Hall should be open on Friday.

Kurt stated that Town Hall was closed Thursday because the holiday was on Saturday and got kicked back to Thursday. He stated that they are getting to the final point with the Administrators contract. It will say that within 30 days' notice the Board of Selectmen can make changes to town hall's schedule in every contract.

Karen stated she read the letter from Seymour Housing Authority, and is wondering if there is an enhanced penalty for someone attacking someone over the age of 65. She inquired about any charges being made.

Kurt stated that there is an ongoing investigation. He stated that putting our elderly in with our young disabled is not a good idea.

Paul Roy stated that some towns have applied for community garden or greenhouse types of grants and there is a good possibility Seymour could too. He suggested having a community police officer present at the Senior Center and the Housing Authority.

Kurt stated the Police Commissioners voted to put someone in as a community police officer. He stated the position will be a joint community police officer and secondary SRO.

Paul inquired if the seasonal public work employees have started. He has heard complaints about weeds on Maple Street.

Kurt stated that Public Works was supposed to prepare the downtown attendants truck and something went awry.

Paul stated the James Street walkway is really overgrown

Kurt stated that he and Tony have a list. The downtown attendant's responsibility is the town buildings.

Paul inquired if the Director of Community Center Services can come to a meeting.

Kurt stated he will reach out to her and ask to have her come to a meeting in August.

Al Bruno inquired if there was a Connecticut State Statute on the Auto tax mil rate and if it is capped at 29.

Town Counsel, Richard Buturla stated he will look into it.

Al inquired about the status update on the Adopt-a-Spot program.

Kurt stated spots are full and they are trying to find more locations. There are currently 10 companies in line to take over Adopt-a-spot.

Al thanked Public Works for lining and cutting the field.

Anmarie stated it is great news about the AA+ rating. She stated that she is hopeful that Eversource will be a little quicker if we have another storm in the fall.

Kurt stated a woman had a concern about why Chatfield-LoPrestri School didn't have a sign up. It is because the school is located on a state road and a sign cannot be put up.

ITEM #22: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 9:39 PM.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

0-Abstain

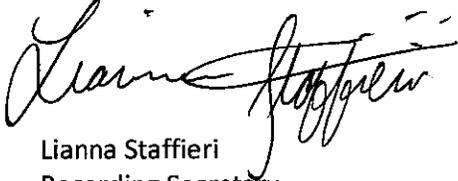
Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

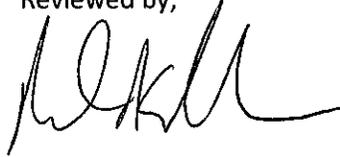
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Submitted by,



Lianna Staffieri
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman

