

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, August 4, 2015 – 7:00 PM
Norma Drummer Room – Town Hall

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 8/11/15
TIME: 3:46 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Members Present: Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, W. Kurt Miller, Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Paul Roy and Karen Stanek

Members Absent: Len Greene Jr.

Others Present: Town Counsel Brian LeClerc, Michael Flynn

Item #1: Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

All present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3: Public comment

Michael Flynn – 85 Skokorat St. - The rail fences beneath the cemetery were fixed but the cables need to be tightened. Also, the fence on Humphrey Street needs to be repaired.

Item #4: Approve minutes from July 21, 2015 regular meeting

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

Item #5: First Selectman's Report

Kurt: As part of your handouts tonight, you will see a quick report from the Blight Enforcement Officer regarding activity over the last few months. I will read the report now into the record

Selectman Miller:

During the spring and mid-summer, 50 inquiries and inspections have been conducted related to blighted properties. Owners have been receptive to remediation with average resolution occurring within 1-2 weeks. Several properties, due to the scope of remediation, require more time to complete. Those owners and locations are monitored regularly. Currently, only 1 location is being pursued through litigation with our corporation counsel.

Michael Marganski

Blight Enforcement Officer

Should you have additional questions, please let me know and I will have those addressed for you.

Also as a part of your packets, I have attached the historical budget vs. actual for the Workers Comp Insurance for the Board of Ed dating back to FY 2009. This is for informational purposes only at this point. Discussions on how we will move forward with one inter-service fund are still ongoing. I expect to have a final recommendation to give to this board at the second September meeting.

We continue to work on the close out of the FY 2015 budget. At this point, we are still looking at strong surplus overall of about \$140,000. That amount will be offset by the projected \$321,000 deficit in the Workers Comp line for

the Board of Education. We have a very good understanding of how we will be addressing this situation and I expect to present that to this board at our Aug 18th meeting.

In response to the concerns of our Animal Control Officer regarding lack of space and in an effort to provide the proper care and shelter for the number of recuse animals we house each day, I have completed a review of our direction going forward. After in-depth discussions with several other communities I have determined that for now, it doesn't make financial sense for the town to consider a regional approach with regards to our Animal Shelter. Due to buy-in costs and other factors, there is no short-term or long-term benefit for Seymour to make this move at this point. With that be said, we have begun to take steps to make upgrades to allow the current shelter to remain in place for the next 3-5 years. Over the last two weeks, we have invested a bit under \$6,000 in upgrades and will continue to make improvements over the next several weeks. I expect the overall process to take about 2-3 months. During this 3-5 year time frame, we will begin the process of creating a formal plan to provide for the needs of this community over the long term. Those plans could range from an expansion of the current facility, to building a new facility for just Seymour or to partnering with another community on a new joint facility. As of now, the plans are in the initial stages and have not yet been completed. Later in the fall, I will be putting together a group of residents to take part in the process and to provide feedback to the Board of Selectmen. Please be assured that in the interim, we will do all we can to provide for the needs of the community.

Karen – I don't think the Town should be assuming the Board of Education's liability. I don't think it's right and I think it's a bad precedent. I've gotten a few calls about the roads not being repaired and I wonder what the status is.

Kurt – Everything is moving as we had projected with the roads. There are 43 roads total, Robin Road and Bungay Terrace are done, several are in the process of being reclaimed. They're about to start the heat-in-place process and drainage work is done elsewhere in preparation as well.

Karen – I got two calls asking as to the status.

Kurt – They're being repaired the correct way, repairing the drainage to make sure it lasts. Martha Street is a very visible example.

Item#6: Discussion with Director of Community Services Mary McNelis

Mary – The last three months have been extremely busy. The focus has been on program development and improved communication with the residents. We have released an online registration system. It's a place residents can go to view all our programs and activities from the library to trips to activities. Residents can sign up online or register in-person. The response has been great. We have about 200 people who have used the system at home. We have another 100 or so who have done this in-house. Our second project is the release of the Community Services Facebook page. This went live mid-June and we have close to 1,500 followers. We had about 1,000 people in the last week "like" our posts. Our effort is to reach out to people about 10 times per week. The frequency will depend on the volume and variety of programming. In terms of program development, we've incorporated a number of new trips and activities. We had a sold-out Mets game, a trip to Lancaster, PA to the outlets, a Christmas spectacular show, etc. There are a lot of requests for day trips and activities in the Community Center. We're doing a lunch and learn series that we're bringing in AARP for as well as a livability seminar. By the end of the year, we'll have a full communications plan in place. We'll have a full calendar in Voices as well as a monthly newsletter.

Anmarie – Have you seen more people come in since you started?

Mary - I'd say definitely but I think that may also be because we have more programming. But also, there are more people there now because we're there all the time. We're also getting a lot of requests from the

community that want to use our space.

Karen – Besides Lancaster, is the only other trip you have planned to New York in the fall?

Mary – We had a trip planned to Saratoga but we may have to reschedule. We also had the Mets trip. We've had requests for local fairs. We're doing Bethlehem. For the spring, we have tickets to the Schubert for Annie and Jersey Boys. We're exploring some larger trips as well – Italy and DC for example. We've gotten requests but the challenge is to get enough people to make it worthwhile. We may have to team up with another town for the larger trips.

Kurt – One thing we're doing differently is planning well in advance.

Nicole – Hopefully once this gets going we can get these big trips planned annually.

Kurt – We're looking to tie in their communications plan with our own.

Paul – From the senior end, how does someone register?

Mary – They can either come in or register online. Someone is always available to help them.

Paul – Is there a dues structure?

Mary – We haven't changed it, it's still \$5 or free over 85.

Paul – Are you doing anything with the Skate Park for programming like training? It would be a good way to get the older kids involved. I had some shirts made up for the Skate Park in case anyone wanted them down there.

Mary – I will put on our list for exploration for programming.

Kurt – When would we like to see Mary back for an update?

Paul – Quarterly would be good.

Kurt – Feel free to call Mary if you have any questions.

Item #7: Discussion and take possible action regarding presentation of award to Dr. Nanavati

Dear Mr. Miller:

This is my 35th anniversary of practicing veterinary medicine in Connecticut. I have been helping the dog pound of Seymour since then. I am on the verge of retirement. This is probably the last citation I might get. The last Selectman honored me with a plaque about 5 years ago. I am enclosing a copy of the plaque for your reference in case you decide to honor me this time.

Thank you,

Dr. T. C. Nanavati

Kurt – The plaque has not been prepared yet so I will ask to table this.

Motion: Anmarie Drugonis **Second:** AB

Vote: 6-0

Item #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding establishment of Community Services Board

Kurt – This is something we're still in the process of working on. Rich has been doing some research but I'd like to table this to give it some more time. I thought it would dovetail nicely with Mary's presentation. We need to figure out what direction we want to take with having 3 separate Community Services boards

A motion was made to table this item.

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

Vote: 6-0

Item #9: Discussion and take possible action regarding motion to authorize the First Selectmen to execute letter of concurrence for center line rumble strips

Kurt - In your packet there is a letter from DOT. We didn't think this needed to go to the Board but we figured it would be good for public information. They'll be doing rumble strips on State roads throughout Town.

A motion was made to authorize the First Selectman to execute the letter of concurrence for center line rumble strips with ConnDOT.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

Item #10: Discussion and take possible action regarding execution of CT State Library LSTA Grant Program

Kurt: In your packets you have a letter from the Connecticut State Library to Suzanne Garvey, our Head Librarian. There are some specifics on the grant as well.

Dear Suzanne,

I am pleased to inform you that the Connecticut State Library Board voted approval of your application and revisions for a grant in the category "Programs for Older Adults" in the amount of \$4,935 at the end of their June 8, 2015, meeting. Your grant period will begin July 1, 2015, and end on June 30, 2016.

You will be receiving your grant contract and other material under separate cover. In the meantime, let me congratulate you on your award. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Maria Berier, LSTA Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Dawn La Valle

Director, Division of Library Development

RESOLVED, that W. Kurt Miller, the duly appointed First Selectman is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this organization a certain contract with the Connecticut State Library, State of Connecticut, for an LSTA grant in the category "Programs for Older Adults."

A motion was made to approve the resolution as presented.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

Item #11: Discussion and take possible action regarding awarding of bid for 1979 Dodge Power Wagon Custom 400 Mini Pumper

Kurt: As you know, we surplussed two of our mini pumpers. One is currently being used by Emergency Management and the other went out to bid. We followed the charter and received no bids. Since that is the case, we will be reaching out to Chief Cronin to reach out to people with whom he had had informal conversations prior to the bid process.

Item #12: Discussion and take possible action regarding LED street light conversion

Kurt: Rich is still working through this so he will have a full report at our next meeting.

A motion was made to table the item.

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

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to add to the agenda: Discussion and take possible action regarding the 2015-16 WPCA budget

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

Vote: 6-0

Discussion and take possible action regarding the 2015-16 WPCA budget

Kurt: We received a note from the WPCA:

*Notice of Motion made at WPCA Board meeting on August 3rd, 2015
Annmarie Drugonis made a motion, Tom Kuzia 2nd, to submit for FY 2015-2016 the WPCA budget
that was passed in 2014.*

Kurt: The WPCA is requesting that we accept a budget that is the same as the prior fiscal year. That would hold the rate per unit at \$4.10 or lower depending on usage. I will entertain a motion to accept the WPCA budget as submitted:

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

Discussion: Paul: Why do we have two budgets?

Kurt: This is the budget as prepared by the Operations Department. This one takes into account depreciation. The charter, if you recall, doesn't address the level of depreciation it must take into account. This budget should be before us at the May meeting but they were outside the norm. There was some miscommunication and it was just never sent to us.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Annmarie Drugonis abstains)

A motion was made to reconsider the motion to reject all bids presented to the Seymour High School Athletic Field Committee for the rubberized asphalt track at Seymour High School

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

Vote: 6-0

Brian: You voted to reconsider so you have the original motion, which was to reject all bids that should be discussed and voted on.

The motion at hand is to reject all bids presented to the Turf Committee for the rubberized track at Seymour High School.

Vote: 0-5-1 (Karen Stanek abstains)

A motion was made to add to the agenda: Discussion and possible action regarding rubberized asphalt track at Seymour High School.

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

Vote: 6-0

Discussion and possible action regarding rubberized asphalt track at Seymour High School.

Mr. Miller:

Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc. opened bids for the repair and resurfacing of the existing track surface at Seymour High School on July 1, 2015. The low bidder was Dalton Track and Tennis from Cheshire, Connecticut. Their original bid was \$229,000.00 The bid price was above the project budget allotted for this work.

Nafis & Young revised the scope of the work and received a credit in the amount of \$61,000.00, therefore reducing the cost of the project of \$168,000.00. The Seymour High School Field Committee voted at their July 27, 2015 meeting to approve the revised price and directed Nafis & Young to issue a Change Order reducing the cost of this work down to \$168,000.00.

Therefore, Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc. recommends execution of the attached Change Order and award the reference project to Dalton Track and Tennis from Cheshire, Connecticut in the amount of \$168,000.00.

Sincerely,

James H. Galligan, P.E.

Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc.

A motion was made to award the bid to Dalton Track and Tennis, as modified by change order recommended by Nafis & Young to reduce the cost to \$168,000.

Motion: Paul Roy

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

Item #13: Executive session

There was no executive session.

Item #14: Appointments

A motion was made to appoint Pete Wols as Fire Commissioner until the term expires on December 4, 2016.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Discussion: This is to correct a term error made at the last meeting.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Rory Burke to the 10-Year Strategic Planning Committee for a 2-year term expiring July 30, 2017

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Joe LaRovera to the Recreation Commission for a 2-year appointment expiring August, 3, 2017

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Paul Roy

Vote: 6-0

Item #15: Tax Refunds/Abatements

A motion was made to approve the tax refunds and abatements as presented:

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

Item #16: Transfers

There were no transfers before the Board.

Item #17: Correspondence

Check Register

Item #18: Public Comment

Michael Flynn – 85 Skokorat St. - Karen brought up about the condition of roads in Town. I don't think it's a bandaid approach to patch streets. The bottom of 3rd Street is in sorry shape. It's being completely redone. Another thing for NVCOG, I think we should investigate the rain line that runs up through the Housatonic River Valley. There's a switch down on Derby junction up to Danbury. There is another line the goes up to Hartford.

Item #19: Selectmen's Public Comments

Karen – I've gotten a couple phone calls regarding the community services board catering to children as opposed to senior citizens. In comparison to Oxford and Derby that run more trips.

Kurt – I agree with you but I think we need to give them a chance since we're only 3 months in. They're reinventing the wheel down there. Once communication is improved, I think we'll see more seniors getting involved in the programming.

Paul – I just want to know what's going on at the Housing Authority with the incidents up there. I hope with the Community Officer, some of these problems can be resolved.

Kurt – I met with Dave Keyser and some other people from the Housing Authority and had a good discussion. We ran our police numbers low and now we're back up to the full complement so now we have an officer who is half Community and half SRO. He is not, however, a dedicated officer for the Housing Authority.

Nicole – I think Mary's doing a great job for having been here for a short period of time. She's bringing good programming into the Town. I think it will take time. If you get a constituent with concerns, I think we should forward it to other people.

Al – I think Mary is doing a fantastic job and there's marked difference in how the word about programs is getting out as well as different programming. I love the ideas she's coming up with and I hope she keeps up the good work. I don't think it's necessary for her to be back next month. Town Hall looks great, the landscaping looks wonderful and I'm glad the interior is improving as well.

Annmarie – It's nice to see the Recreation website is up and a better diversity of programming. I'm glad to see the Dog Pound is finally being put to bed. I left our last meeting puzzled thinking about the discussion of the parks and the discussion we had. A lot of the stuff is missing from the minutes. We all agreed that the overlook at French Park should be named for the Jachimowski's. When we vote, we vote yea or nay. When we abstain, it should be because we have a conflict of interest or we don't have enough information. If you're going to have a strong opinion about something I think you should vote decidedly.

Karen – I abstained because my husband is legally involved with the person on whom we were voting. I didn't feel it was right for me to vote yes or no.

Kurt – Should a person who abstains abstain from the discussion?

Brian – I think that's a personal responsibility based on their responsibilities under the charter and their ethical responsibilities.

Paul – I was under the impression that you would stand to gain personally. I think that's a good guideline.

Brian – That's usually good advice. It depends on the nature of the abstention. Abstention is not to be used to avoid voting, it's because you have a conflict.

Kurt – NVCOG has made the Waterbury branch line a priority and the Governor has put aside some money for it. I will look into Danbury to see if we can do anything.

Item #20: Adjournment

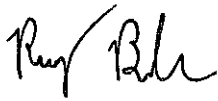
A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Paul Roy

Vote: 6-0

Submitted by,



Rory Burke
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman