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**MINUTES**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Tuesday, August 18, 2015 – 7:00PM**  
**Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall**

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

**Others Present:** Town Counsel, Richard Buturla (7:15 PM), Rory Burke, Matt Bronson, Joan Gee, Rosalie Averill, Evelyn Roy, Mary Skurat, John Stelma, David Coe, Randy Bruce, and Zani Imetovski.

**ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.**

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:14 P.M.

**ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.**

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM #3: Public Comment.**

Joan Gee, 5 Bassett Road, stated she has been a taxpayer and property owner in Seymour for 30 years and has volunteered many hours to the town. She stated she had served on many committees and commissions over the years. She most notably served on the Commission on Aging when she was treated poorly. She stated that when reading both the article in Voices and the minutes from the previous Board of Selectmen meeting, information was left unclear. She stated there was talk at the meeting about programs and trips through the Recreation Department but nothing for the Senior Center. She stated there were surveys done of senior centers in the area. She stated Oxford Senior Center has over 1,000 seniors involved and more than half are from Seymour. Joan expressed concern with membership at the Seymour Senior Center. She inquired about an internal investigation at the Seymour Police Department.

Michael Flynn, 85 Skokorat Street, stated the guardrails wires aren't tightened up enough going down past the Valley Marine Corps area. He also noticed that the guardrails on Humphreys Street need maintenance. He also questioned whether the fence posts on the guard rails on West Street meet state specifications.

**ITEM #4: Approve minutes from August 4, 2015 regular meeting.**

Motion to approve minutes from August 4, 2015 regular meeting.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

1-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Len Greene, Jr. – Abstain

Paul Roy – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

**ITEM #5: First Selectman's Report.**

Will be discussed during the meeting.

**ITEM #6: Discussion and take possible action regarding presentation of award to Dr. Nanavati.**

W. Kurt Miller read the following letter regarding Dr. Nanavati:

For the past 35 years, Dr. Nanavati has been serving the valley community's veterinary needs. In 1985 he began a house call practice in the valley. His next step was creating a full service veterinary hospital in Seymour where he had worked tirelessly with the Seymour Animal Shelter promoting health and wellbeing of the valley's animals. He also hosted periodic rabies clinics at the St. Michael of the Archangel parish of Derby as well as Seymour United Methodist Church. To ensure our cherished pets have a safe home, he took part in the design of and donated equipment to the Seymour Animal Shelter. Outside of the valley, Dr. Nanavati has also provided support to the Haiti earthquake victims by sending two truckloads of supplies to them. In recognition of his contributions, we would like to present Dr. Nanavati with this plaque to thank him for his 35 years of service and dedication to helping animals and for making a difference in our community.

Kurt read the wording on the plaque:

In recognition of gratitude of 35 years of service in the valley,  
The town of Seymour proudly presents this award to Dr. T. C. Nanavati.

**ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action on Friday Concert for a Cause and Saturday Smoke in the Valley Project.**

Matt Bronson stated in the past 5 years of holding Smoke in the Valley, the organization has funded 4-6 girls travel softball teams each year. Most recently they have helped work on the renovation of the softball field at the high school. They have donated \$20,000 to the Mark Condo project and over \$13,000 to the Poeta fund. He stated the softball raised \$14,000 for Seymour Pink. They have also given over \$3,000 to the little league. They also have an annual coat drive for kids and candy drive for troops. He stated they raised over \$4,000 for the local food bank. He stated this is their second year giving away a scholarship to a graduating senior at Seymour High School.

This year, Matt said that they will be working with the Seymour Police Department to help them fund the purchase of two new K9 units. Friday Night's funds will go to the Seymour Police Department for the K9 units. Saturday is the regular event which starts off with the road race followed by the beer fest and those funds get spread around town.

Matt stated they have gotten rid of the Chili context and have added many food trucks. They are looking to expand the hours on Friday night until 11:00 PM. He said that they get very little sponsorship money. He stated they only receive approximately \$7,000 annually. The event costs close to \$80,000. Matt stated they have great music coming in. He said Friday night's event will start at 4:00 PM with the food truck competition. The music will begin with Seymour High School and Seymour Middle School Glee clubs and four bands will follow.

Annamarie Dragonis inquired about the pickup for the Boys & Girls Club after school programs. Matt stated they will utilize the back exit for the Boys & Girls Club pickups.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria inquired if there was a limit of food trucks and how many will be involved. Matt stated there will be approximately a dozen and will be stationed in between the parking lot and the Community Center field and the goal is to have 15-20 food trucks.

Al Bruno inquired about the bands that will be performing.

Matt stated on Friday after the Glee Club performs, JBM, Shake Down, Max Creek and Bad Fish will be performing. Saturday's lineup include Appalachian Still, Legion of Jerry, and Father Nelson & the Back Sliders on the second stage. On the main stage Hubinger Street, Pimps of Joy Time and John Brown's Body will perform.

Len Greene, Jr. inquired about the number of people that attend the events.

Matt stated the first year they had approximately 1,000 at the gate and gave away 400 tickets. They sold 3,200 last year, including vendors close to 4,000. He stated the road race will have close to 3,000 people. They are anticipating 8,000-10,000 people total. He stated they are seeing a tremendous growth each year.

Matt stated Saturday will begin with the road race in the morning. They are looking to extend the hours to 6:00 PM. They will be shutting the beer off at 4:20 PM, will get bridge reopen and will get everyone onto the streets at once. They will also make sure they shut off River Street. This year they want to suggest a donation of \$5 or canned items to park on River Street.

Motion to approve the request for Friday, Concert for a Cause and Saturday, Smoke in the Valley Project as presented pending all requirements by Town Counsel, Town Operations and Emergency Services.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

**Motion to add to the agenda discussion and possible action regarding 2014 road reconstruction program.**

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Discussion and possible action regarding 2014 road reconstruction program.

Kurt read the letter form Nafis & Young regarding the 2014 Road Reconstruction Program as follows:

Dear Mr. Miller,

Nafis & Young opened bids on the referenced project on Tuesday, August 11, 2015. One bid was received from Guerrera Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$176,450.00.

We have reviewed the bid and find that it is mathematically correct. Therefore, Nafis & Young recommends that the Town of Seymour award the bid for 2014 Road Reconstruction Program, Colony Street Drainage to Guerrera Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$176,450.00.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely, James H. Galligan

Motion to accept recommendation of Town Engineer, James Galligan, and award Colony Street Drainage improvements contract to Guerrera Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$176,450.00

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Kurt read the Road Reconstruction progress report dated for August 18, 2015 as follows:

1. Robin Road – Chicadee Lane area has been reclaimed and repaved. Topsoil and seed backing behind the new curbs has been placed. A shallow drainage pipe was damaged during the reclaiming-repaving process. Investigation revealed that a large rock was placed over the pipe, probably during installation, and the top of the pipe broke during road compaction. The pipe will be repaired with a standard pipe clamp and the area will be repaved.
2. Several roads around Rimmon Street have been reclaimed, graded and drainage installed. Final grading and compaction will be completed by Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> or Friday, August 21, 2015. Paving of these areas will start as soon as compaction is complete. Paving, curbing, aprons and topsoil will take approximately two (2) weeks, with the paving performed first.
3. Grand Street and several roads in the Grand Street area have been reclaimed, graded and had drainage installed. Final grading and compaction will be completed by Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> or Friday, August 21, 2015. Paving of these areas will start as soon as compaction is complete.

Paving, curbing, aprons and topsoil will take approximately two (2) weeks, with the paving performed first.

4. Birchwood Lane is scheduled for reclaim and regarding during the week of August 31, 2015. Paving and curbing will follow once compaction is complete.
5. The Hot-In-Place reclaiming in Contract 1 areas will start within the next two weeks. This process will take 3 to 4 weeks to complete. Overlay paving of these streets will follow.
6. Reclaiming and repaving of the Contract 2 streets will start once the work in the Rimmon Street area is complete.

Kurt stated the expected completion date is the first week in October. He stated the Pot Hole Killer started this week and will be doing work for 4 weeks.

**ITEM #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding tax incentive application for 770B Derby Avenue.**

Motion to table Item #8: Discussion and possible action regarding tax incentive application for 770B Derby Avenue.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis  
Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No

Second: Al Bruno  
0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes  
Paul Roy – Yes  
Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria  
Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes  
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

**ITEM #9: Discussion and take possible action regarding EMS staffing proposal.**

Chief Scott Andrews stated over the last 7 or 8 years Seymour Ambulance Association (SAA) has been experiencing some ups and downs with regard to volunteers. They have seen shortfalls in volunteers. He stated the majority are college students and they see drop off in the summer because they work more than one job. He stated they have approximately 20 active volunteers who are working many hours. SAA has gone through three staffing companies. One company, which they are currently working with, has closed the business with less than a moment's notice. He stated SAA is currently in an agreement with a staffing company that has been unable to serve their needs.

Chief Andrews stated the Seymour Ambulance Association is requesting is to hire a pool of EMT's that could be available to staff Seymour Ambulance at those times when they are unable to staff it any other way. He stated the benefit for Seymour Ambulance is saving \$6/hour for every hour that one of the EMT's work. He stated his proposal to the board is the town continuing to cover staff of EMTs the same as they do the volunteers. By state statute the volunteers are covered through the town's workers compensation carrier. He stated their rating is very low with regard to claims. He stated the town would end up sharing that cost through the Human Resource Department. SAA would reimburse the town for whatever the actual salary cost would be for the staffing of these people. He stated they anticipate the volunteers would still cover the ambulance most of the time and come out for second or third calls if needed.

Len Greene, Jr. inquired how often the shifts are left unfilled or how often do they call mutual aid.

Chief Andrews stated the shifts are never left unfilled and that the town has never been left uncovered. He stated the situation has gotten progressively worse with seeing less volunteer hours.

Len inquired if this would ensure that the town would be adequately covered.

Chief Andrews stated this will increase the odds. He stated if this isn't approved, SAA will have to hire its own staff which will cost a lot of money. He discussed the decline reimbursement rates. He also discussed the fluctuations of volunteers.

Len inquired about these hires being employees of the town and whether they would be involved with the union. Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, stated the town does not have a bargaining unit. He stated he has seen in other municipalities where they have the right to affiliate a bargain. He has seen where it has gone from all volunteer services to part-volunteer services. He stated they could form their own union.

Len stated SAA will have to staff as many volunteers as possible to keep the cost issue at bay. Chief Andrews stated it is not just a cost issue but it becomes a morale issue. SAA is one of the very few organizations that still continually staff with all volunteers the majority of the time. He stated Beacon Falls and Bethany have paid staff during the day. He also stated the goal is to blend it appropriately so they can maintain volunteers.

Paul Roy stated SAA really needs to do this or they will lose their volunteers. Karen Stanek doesn't believe this is an issue of money. She stated the town needs this service. Al Bruno stated it is unclear as to why the town of Seymour would need to hire the personnel. Chief Andrews stated this will help SAA maintain fiscal responsibilities within the organization.

Town Counsel, Richard Buturla stated he has seen this in other communities and it is very difficult to maintain a volunteer service. He stated he believes this is a creative approach and is something to consider.

Motion to approve proposal as written.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr. Second: Karen Stanek

Len Greene, Jr. amended the motion to approve proposal as written to:

Motion to approve the concept and authorize Town Counsel to draft an agreement that would reflect the concept.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr. Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 7-Yes	0-No	0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes	Nicole Klarides-Ditria	Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Paul Roy – Yes	Karen Stanek – Yes	Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes		

**ITEM #10: Discussion and take possible action regarding establishment of Community Services Board.**

Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, stated section 10.12 of the charter provides for the creation of the Recreation Commission of 7 members, Section 10.15 provides for the creation of the Commission on Aging of 5 members. He stated, short of a charter revision, the two boards cannot be eliminated. He stated a pragmatic solution would be to have an interlocking membership. He stated the board could appoint 5 of the same people to serve on both boards and they could hold meetings simultaneously.

The Board of Selectmen will discuss at the September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**ITEM #11: Discussion and take possible action regarding LED street light conversion.**

Rory Burke stated he reached out to the representative from Tanko he has been working with. He stated, due to concerns, Tanko has gotten rid of the non-compete clause. He stated if the town enters into agreement for the audit and decides to go to construction, it will be free. He stated if the town decides to go out to bid, they will have to pay the fee. He stated the purchase price would come from Eversource. He stated if the town does not act within 90 days, they would take more time. The board discussed timelines, the 90-day window with Eversource and discussed whether to take the extra time to go out to bid or enter into contract with Tanko. The board was in agreement that it would be better to keep gathering information and to get more quotes from the other two CCM approved companies. Town Counsel stated the town's competitive bid ordinance requires this to go out to bid.

There will be more information at the September 1, 2015 Board of Selectmen meeting.

**ITEM #12: Discussion and take possible action regarding manufacturer's exemption ordinance.**

Kurt stated through the state the manufacturer's exemption allows manufacturing companies to exempt a substantial amount of their personal property.

Kurt stated there is a new statute 12.81.76 that gives Board of Selectmen with regard to manufacturer's exemption the ability to correct errors within set parameters. The Ordinance Committee will meet next week.

Motion to forward to the Ordinance Committee the potential manufacturers exemption ordinance as presented by the Assessor.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

**Motion to add to the agenda discussion and possible action regarding the Strand parking lot.**

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Paul Roy – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

**Discussion and possible action regarding the strand parking lot.**

Kurt stated the original design would have increased 14 spaces in the strand parking lot. He stated everything was worked out with Eversource to have the poles moved. On Friday, the business manager for the Knights of Columbus informed Eversource that they would not allow them to place a telephone pole on their property. He stated the business manager will not do anything without a contract and was very aware of the project. Kurt, Jim Galligan, Richard Buturla and Mike Horbal came up with a new design.

Kurt stated the new design will decrease the increase of spaces from 14 down to 9 and will eliminate the entrance way off of Main Street and the only entrance/exit will be toward Tony's Diner.

Paul Roy stated the entrance/exit is dangerous.

Kurt stated the business manager is referring to a contract done in 1983 and expired 1984. The town has maintained their spaces for them.

Al Bruno inquired if this business manager is the ultimate decision maker.

Kurt stated the Knights of Columbus are not allowed to own a building by their charter and they have formed a separate entity that owns the building.

Annmarie suggested discussing a contract with the manager before the work begins.

Kurt stated the timing would push this project back to the spring.

The board agreed to have the First Selectman and Town Counsel enter into negotiations with the business manager for the Knights of Columbus and will report back to the board. They would like to make the new design the last resort.

**ITEM #13: Executive session.**

None.

**ITEM #14: Appointments.**

Motion to reappoint Tom Schutte to the EMS Oversight Committee for a term of two (2) years expiring on August 6, 2017.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria  
Vote: 6-Yes                    1-No  
W. Kurt Miller – Yes  
Paul Roy – No  
Al Bruno – Yes

Second: Al Bruno  
0-Abstain  
Nicole Klarides-Ditria  
Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes  
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

**ITEM #15: Tax Refunds/Abatements.**

Motion to approve Tax Refunds/Abatements as read.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes                    0-No

1-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes  
Paul Roy – Yes  
Al Bruno – Abstain

Nicole Klarides-Ditria  
Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes  
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

**ITEM #16: Transfers.**

None.

**ITEM #17: Correspondence.**

- Check registers.
- Letter from DEEP to Kurt regarding the Personal Services Agreement of the Bond Commission for an approval for an additional \$265,000 to be used for lights at softball field at the high school.
- CCM prescription discount card update.
- Resignation letter that was submitted by Melissa Gerard of the Friends of Broad Street Park Committee.

**ITEM #18: Public Comment.**

Rosalie Averill, 38 North Benham Rd, stated she was originally on clean up committee with the mess at Seymour Ambulance Association. She stated she was previously involved with EMSOC. She suggested considering the following in the construction of the contract: reviewing the current contract with the town and Seymour Ambulance, the mutual aid contract with other municipalities, and consider where the employees fall in the organizational chart.

**ITEM #19: Selectmen's Public Comments.**

Nicole Klarides-Ditria stated that the turf will be delivered by August 31<sup>st</sup>. The excavation for the bleachers is completed. The installation of the turf will be completed around September 18<sup>th</sup>. The track company will start the week of September 14<sup>th</sup>. She stated the estimated timeframe is 10 days to 2 weeks.

Al Bruno stated with regard to the issue with the Strand Parking lot and the business manager for the Knights of Columbus, it strikes him as selfish and petty.

Karen Stanek stated she felt personally attacked with the incident that happened at the last Board of Selectmen meeting. She felt compelled to give explanation as to why she abstained and she shouldn't have. She stated she doesn't think the minutes accurately reflect all that was said at the meeting. She felt it was unwarranted. She stated the board came close to violating FOI.

**ITEM #20: Adjournment.**

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 P.M.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis  
Vote: 7-Yes                    0-No  
W. Kurt Miller – Yes  
Paul Roy – Yes  
Al Bruno – Yes

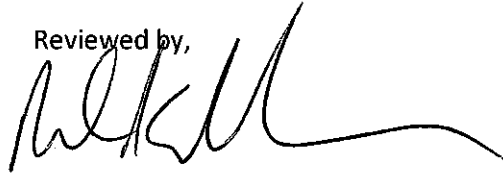
Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria  
0-Abstain  
Nicole Klarides-Ditria                    Len Greene, Jr. – Yes  
Karen Stanek – Yes                    Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Submitted by,



Lianna Staffieri  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller  
First Selectman