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## MINUTES

### Board of Selectmen

Tuesday, September 15, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Norma Drummer Room – Town Hall

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

**Members Absent:** Paul Roy

**Others Present:** Town Counsel Rich Buturla, Economic Development Director Fred Messore, Consulting Engineer Mike Joyce from Milone & MacBroom, Culture & Arts Chair Judy Simpson, Board of Finance Chair Bill Sawicki, Jamie Brennan and 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 stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**Item #3: Public comment**

Judy Simpson – 5 Walnut St. - I am chairman of the Culture & Arts Committee and in your packet we have a letter regarding a monument about which we spoke to you a few months ago. It was too expensive to install the electrical in at its original location by the train station but Kurt suggested the Broad Street Park instead. We would really like to move forward with the project with the Parks Commission.

Jamie Brennan – 124 Bungay Rd. - I received a letter from the Assessor regarding the current revaluation. I called a local realtor to get an appraisal and it is assessed at 200% of its current value. I spoke to some realtors who informed me there is no ongoing revaluation. It will be effective Oct. 1 but it won't be completed then and people will see it on their January bill. Regarding the transfer for the Worker's Compensation with the Board of Education, I'd like to know whether it was one year or cumulative. I'm concerned about the precedent of an interservice fund.

Michael Flynn – 85 Skokorat St. - I think something has to be done in this town about chimineas. We'll all wind up a bunch of asthmatics. It's like smoking 20 packets of cigarettes inhaling those things. We should consider outlawing them.

**Item #4: Approve minutes from August 18, 2015 regular meeting**

**Motion:** Karen Stanek

**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Vote:** 6-0

**Item #5: Approve minutes from August 31, 2015 ordinance committee meeting**

**Motion:** Karen Stanek

**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

**Item # 6: Approve minutes from September 8, 2015 ordinance committee meeting**

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

**Discussion:** 3 of us met and went through that stack of ordinances. I reached out to Jim Baldwin. We may have to adjust the time of the meeting to accommodate him. I'd like to have something for the first meeting in October.

Vote: 6-0

**Item #7: First Selectman's Report**

- Roadwork is continuing throughout town. In your packets, you will find updates from Jim Galligan for your review. I will read that report now into the record. Should you have questions, please let me or Jim know:

**1. CONTRACT 3**

a. Listed below are roads in Contract 3 where drainage piping and paving is complete.

Bungay Terrace	Clifton Street
Farrell Street	Prospect Street
Martha Street	Robin Road
Glenbrook Drive	Chickadee Lane
Johnson Avenue	Swan Avenue

George Street is being reclaimed this week. Paving of George and final course of pavement on Martha and Farrell will be complete this week. Curbs and Aprons will be done the following week.

**2. CONTRACT 5**

a. Listed below are roads in Contract 3 where paving is complete.

Anne Street	Henry Street
Argyle Circle	Stoddard Street
Grand Street	Third Avenue
Birchwood Road	

b. Curbs and aprons on these roads will be completed this week.

**3. CONTRACT 1**

The Hot-In-Place contractor (Highway Rehab) mobilized his equipment on Thursday, September 3, 2015. Reclaiming started on Tuesday, September 8, 2015. Attached is a listing of the Hot-In-Place roads in working order. This work will take three (3) weeks ± to complete. Changing out new catch basin tops for old tops will follow the Hot-In-Place reclaiming. Final paving by O & G Industries is scheduled for early October 2015.

Botsford, Bungay to Brookfield - **COMPLETED**  
Canfield, Botsford to Mountain - **COMPLETED**

Davis Road, RT 337 to Gary Park Drive - **COMPLETED**

Birchwood Road - Partial - **COMPLETED**

Bunting Road- Partial - **COMPLETED**

Garden Street

Meadow Street

Pershing Street

Oakwood

Woodcrest

Wycliff

Omar

Colony Street

#### **4. CONTRACT 2**

*Drainage pipe installation is complete in the New Street I Hill Street area.*

*Reclaiming on these streets will begin the week of September 21, 2015. No parking will be permitted in this area during construction.*

*This Contractor will move onto Hine Street and Elm Street next week. The drainage and paving on Church Street will start after the 5th of October.*

#### **5. CONTRACT 4**

*Several of these roads (Birchwood, Falbo, Colony & Pershing) have been reassigned to other contracts for expediency due to proximity and are included in their schedule. Colony Street drainage and Patton Avenue Extension drainage will be completed separately this Fall.*

- I have been appointed to the following CCM Policy Committees: Labor Relations, Taxes and Finances and will be vice chair of the Sustainability Committee. These committees help create and shape the CCM legislative agenda for the upcoming session.
- Yesterday I accepted the retirement request of Public Works Director Dennis Rozum. His retirement will become effective on 10/30/2015. I'd like to personally thank Dennis for his many years of dedicated service to the Town of Seymour.
- Work on the draft format for the new town-wide Operations Department is almost complete. With the announcement by Dennis, we need to re-examine a few areas. I expect to make a presentation to the Board at our meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Item #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding reimbursement for Emily Baldwin**

*Dear First Selectman Miller,*

*While compiling the list for tax abatement recipients for the volunteers of Seymour Ambulance Association in 2015, I did not include Emily Baldwin. Emily had not identified for me that she owned any real property on the Grand List of October 1, 2014. She has since indicated this to me. As such, I am requesting that you consider providing the tax abatement afforded to other eligible volunteers of the Seymour Ambulance Association.*

*Emily meets all the requirements set forth under Town of Seymour Ordinances and the SAA points system to receive up to \$1,000 abatement.*

*Please accept my apology for this oversight and consider her name for inclusion on the 2015 tax abatement list.*

*Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.*

*Sincerely,*

*L. Scott Andrews*

*Executive Director*

A motion was made to include Emily Baldwin as a part of the 2015 tax abatement list for the Seymour Ambulance Association abatement list.

**Motion:** Karen Stanek

**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Vote:** 6-0

**Item #9: Discussion and take possible action regarding tax incentive application for 770B Derby Avenue**

Fred Messore: JD Greenwood LLC submitted this application. The rear of the property saw the construction of a 6,000 sq. ft. warehouse facility. The construction completed over the summer. They currently rent it out to a national company. They put in an application for the tax incentive program. Construction costs exceeded \$500,000. I toured the facility a month ago, all the utilities were put underground and there was new paving. It was a pre-fabricated facility. There is a stone façade with earth-tone colors. It fits nicely with the character of the rest of the roadway there. I went through the submitted invoices, not all qualify for reimbursement. It came out to \$481,365. As per our application and the incentive program, it does qualify for 50% abatement for 3 years. That would be my recommendation. We will also be refunding the Town's permit fees.

Kurt: How many jobs are they estimating they'll add?

Fred: I don't have the exact number but somewhere in the neighborhood of 3-5. The good thing is that the company, Jorens of Minnesota, which manufactures medical equipment, was very excited. The tenant signed a long-term lease and the owners are looking to do a phase two because they had a good experience with the town and they were able to lease it so quickly.

Nicole: Fred, what brought them here?

Fred: I think it was the location because of highway access and the quality of the building. I think more new construction on that roadway is a great thing.

A motion was to authorize the Town of Seymour to enter into a tax incentive agreement approve a 50% tax abatement for a period of 3 years for property located at 770b Derby Avenue.

**Motion:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Vote:** 6-0

**Item #10: Discussion with Economic Development Director**

Fred: I apologize; I don't have a full report. At the end of September, my quarterly report will be due so I will have it then. Tonight you're going to hear about the preliminary design for phase 1 of the greenway trail. We went under contract with Milone & MacBroom in March for this project. We received a grant from the State to do the construction of phase one with a 20% contribution from the Town. We've committed to doing the design and we've submitted that part to the State to review. I also included something in your packet tonight. I sit on the Naugatuck Valley Greenway Trail Committee, which has recently hired UConn to do an economic impact study on multi-use trails. I think it's interesting to see what it adds, not only in terms of quality of life, but also in terms of economic growth. I'm hoping once we're done with phase one that we'll build off that success with phase 2 on River Street. We recently completed

a joint venture with Basement Systems. We've had a lot of issue to welcome and directional signage. We've completed the adopt-a-spot signs. Also, the welcome signs have been completed and we're working with Henny Penny to have another sign, at their cost, right at the bottom of exit 22. You should hopefully see that within the next six weeks. In terms of the industrial park signage, there was a complication but we were able to reallocate some money. We worked with Basement Systems to resurrect the old signs that were basically a map of the park. Larry Janesky took the ball and ran with it and the signs were up in weeks. We're doing a contribution toward the signs. That is also complete.

**Item #11: Discussion and take possible action regarding Phase 1 of Greenway Trail**

Fred: This project began several years ago. We wanted to make better use of our waterfront property in Town and began a partnership with the CT Main Street Center in a public/private partnership. We were awarded a grant to create some initial conceptual designs using Milone & MacBroom as our engineer. We were able to secure monies for construction phase one.

Mike: I've been involved with this design since its conception. We talked about making the connection with the Tingue Dam project and Route 67. Fred was able to secure funding from the various transportation programs out there. The trail entrance is located at the Tingue Dam Park and we'd like to really join the two projects together. We decided to move this off the abutment of Route 8. The existing materials under the overpass will be changed with the trail. The existing flat shelf is more or less the path of the trail. There will need to be a short retaining wall at points. We didn't want to touch the embankment for Route 8 because of the complications that creates. There are a few locations with benches to enjoy the vistas. The whole design is based around minimal permitting requirements to get it underway faster. It's a 12 foot-wide path for the majority of it and it will end in an undetermined landscape feature that ends in a sidewalk connection. This connection is tricky because there needs to be a break for pedestrians but it cannot be an attractive entry point for a vehicle. There will be a landscaping treatment that is easy to maintain. We submitted a design to the DOT consultant this summer. We included more information than required so that we can hopefully bypass the semifinal design phase. Depending on where the bids come in and what the contingencies are, we envision a half-million dollars as the construction item cost, with the possibility of it increasing to as high as \$900,000 with contingencies and add-ons. It's funded with an 80-20 Federal/local split. It's about 900 linear feet of trail from the Tingue Dam Park to Route 67. While it's an isolated area, it's not a project that's not being done without considering other future development, including but not limited to the Route 67 improvement projects.

Len: With regards to timing, what are we looking at for groundbreaking?

Mike: This is scheduled for 2016, usually April 1 as a starting date.

Len: Are there any outstanding issues at this time?

Mike: We did a very detailed early outreach to DOT before we started design. We got a viable project endorsement. We're working in the DOT right-of-way but because it's not connected or providing access, we did not need it.

Al: What is the rough idea of the aesthetics?

Mike: It will be similar to parts of the Derby trail.

Annmarie: You said you've looked into environmental concerns?

Mike: Yes.

Kurt: Milone & MacBroom will return in a few weeks to do a full informational session for residents.

Kurt Miller exited the room at 7:50 PM.

**Item #12: Discussion and take possible action regarding First Selectman's salary**

Karen: I have a point of order. I believe this is an FOI violation.

Rich: I respectfully disagree. There's a full resolution included in the packet.

Karen: I don't think the average resident would understand it.

Rich: You could amend the agenda.

Karen: Then amend the agenda.

Al: So you had one person approach you?

Karen: More than one.

Rich: So why don't you amend the agenda?

A motion was made to amend the agenda to change FS to First Selectman

**Motion:** Al Bruno

**Second:** Len Greene Jr.

**Vote 4-0-1 KS**

Bill Sawicki: There's a big push for modernization and professionalism in Seymour's government. One of the areas we discussed was the salary for the First Selectman. The salary, which is now \$72,500, was last changed 10-15 years ago and before that it was another 10-15 years since there was a change. The Board of Finance and Selectmen created a committee to make a recommendation. Seymour was near the bottom of the pack in our population range. We want to look toward the future to try to attract good candidates for someone with relevant skills. We came up with a salary of \$85,000 for whoever wins. If that person gets reelected, they get an addition \$2,500 per reelection, or about 3%. To keep pace with inflation, it shouldn't be a stagnant number. Every 5 years, both the starting salary and the increase should be reviewed. That's what we presented to the Board and then it was turned over to Counsel to create a resolution. We're looking at it from an apolitical perspective because Seymour is not a sleepy little town anymore. This is obviously incumbent on the parties and the voters, but we think it's a good way to make the position attractive.

Karen: You're talking about \$5,000 over how many years?

Bill: The starting salary goes to \$85,000 and then they get \$2,500 for each reelection. If a person has non-contiguous terms, they return to \$85,000.

Len: You reference some of the data. Is \$85,000 a median?

Bill: It's not a hard and fast calculation if that's what you're asking. We took into account municipal budgets, excluding the Boards of Education, and we tried to develop what we thought were fair. Most towns do have elected officials and some have Town Managers. Town Managers were somewhere in the neighborhood of \$120,000-\$180,000. There were some Selectmen in the area of \$90,000-\$100,000 and a few down in the area of \$50,000-\$70,000. I think this number would be a little lower than the 50% range.

Nicole: Where are we now?

Bill: Now you're in the bottom quadrant. There will come a point that no one in the room is still active. You can only hope the people coming in behind you are smart enough and professional enough to do it and do it well.

Len: I think it's a worthy conversation. Given the increases in the budget in the past 20 years or so, the CEO of the Town has not risen commensurately. It's not an easy thing to do and that's why I appreciate that it was a bipartisan effort. I really like the idea of revisiting it every 5 years.

Bill: We thought 5 years is reasonable. You do it before the election in 2020 and assess the numbers. It doesn't necessarily have to go up, but it forces people to look at it. It's ridiculous to have a municipal government where nothing moves.

Nicole: Bill, did you discuss any other options in terms of healthcare or other benefits?

Bill: No, that wasn't our charge. We wanted to focus on salary.

Len: This is something we need to take action on. The bottom line is that we're doing this to attract the best possible candidates and this is the recommendation of the bipartisan commission.

Bill: I think there's only been one bump in 20-25 years.

Karen: Are we comparing Seymour to Bloomfield?

Bill: If they fall within our population range. Nevertheless, we were in the lower quartile. You're free to change it but we're throwing it out there for consideration.

Karen: In comparison to what? Ansonia, Derby, Shelton, how do we compare to them?

Bill: Apologies for not bringing the stats, you're probably higher than Ansonia and Derby but Shelton is 6 figures. The message is not to make sure we're in line with the Valley. We're looking at Seymour as a growing town that's taking steps forward and will continue to do so. There were 26 municipalities in our range.

Karen: Since Kurt has been First Selectman, he has hired lots of assistants. His job is not as rigorous as it was under previous First Selectmen. Now we're going to give him a \$20,000 raise.

Annmarie: Any First Selectman who follows.

Al: More like \$12,500.

Bill: Also, it doesn't impact the overall management burden. The First Selectman has never been a jack-of-all trades. You hire assistants to do specific jobs.

Karen: Since I've been on the Board, we've hired at least 4 people.

Nicole: You're saying Kurt has hired 4 people since he's been in office? He had too many duties to begin with. Who did we hire that assist Kurt specifically?

Karen: Human Resources.

Nicole: Every town should have that.

Karen: I'm not saying we didn't need them.

Annmarie: The First Selectman's job is to run the town and we've hired all these managers. Like the CEO would run the company, he can't be in control of everything himself to ensure it runs smoothly.

Len: Whether you believe the current administration has hired too many people is really irrelevant to this conversation. It's whether the recommendations of this bipartisan committee match the recommendation. Debating what the current administration has done is irrelevant.

Rich: This is not giving Kurt a raise. It doesn't take effect until December 7, 2015 because according to State statute you cannot increase an elected official's salary mid-term.

Nicole: The recommendation was to increase the salary to see if that's the direction we want to go in.

Annmarie: Going back the many terms I've served, I believe the First Selectman is underpaid. It's a 24/7 job.

Karen: That's what you sign up for. My husband has been on the Board of Education for 26 years.

Len: The question is, knowing what you sign up for, when it comes down to it, it's to determine whether we're attracting enough people. Is the salary commensurate with the responsibility? According to the committee, we are not.

Bill: As I said, it's \$12,500 initially with \$2,500 for each reelection thereafter.

Al: We had a handful of meetings about this. We had a great debate and looked at a lot of data. I think what we recommended is very fair and sound.

Bill: The numbers were unanimous. Beverly Kennedy and I from the Board of Finance and Al Bruno and Paul Roy formed the committee.

RESOLUTION REGARDING COMPENSATION FOR THE POSITION OF FIRST SELECTMAN  
COMMENCING DECEMBER 7, 2015  
(Pursuant to Section 3.7 of the Seymour Town Charter)

WHEREAS, the First Selectman of the Town of Seymour serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Town;  
and

WHEREAS, the First Selectman has extensive duties and responsibilities as set forth in Chapter 8 of the Seymour Town Charter; and

WHEREAS, both the Connecticut Constitution and well established case law require the compensation for the position of First Selectman to be "set at the beginning of such official's term of office," see Article 11, Section 2 of the Connecticut Constitution of 1965; and

WHEREAS, the First Selectman Salary Committee has recommended changes to the level of compensation;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

First Selectman's Salary. Commencing December 7, 2015, the base salary for the First Selectman shall be set at \$85,000. Thereafter, the First Selectmen's salary shall be increased \$2,500 each time the First Selectman is re-elected. However, any newly elected First Selectman commencing his/her first term shall be paid a salary of \$85,000 per annum during the first term; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as follows:

Salary Review. A committee shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen in 2020 for the purpose of reviewing the base salary of the First Selectman and the additional salary increments for those individuals serving more than one term. In such event, the salary shall not be decreased, but it may be increased in accordance with state law upon the recommendation of the committee and the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

Thereafter, in successive five-year periods, a duly appointed committee shall review the total compensation paid to the First Selectman and make such adjustments; provided, however, such proposed adjustments shall not reduce the compensation paid to the First Selectman.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the First Selectman's Salary Committee and pass the resolution as read.

**Motion:** Len Greene Jr.

**Second:** Karen Stanek

**Vote:** 5-0

Kurt Miller returned to the room at 8:24 PM.

Karen: I would like to make a motion to add to the agenda discussion and take possible action on the request of the Culture & Arts Committee to move the monument to the Broad Street Park from the Train Station.

**Motion:** Karen Stanek

**Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Vote:** 6-0

**Item #13: Discussion and take possible action on the request of the Culture & Arts Committee to move the monument from the train station to Broad Street Park.**

Motion to move the monument from the train station to the Broad Street Park.

**Motion:** Karen Stanek

**Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Vote:** 6-0

**Item #14: Discussion and take possible action regarding EMS staffing proposal**

Rich: You have in your packet an agreement that has been reviewed by Seymour Ambulance Director Scott Andrews and me. I think this agreement represents what was put forth in the document you received a few weeks ago.

Kurt: There are a few small changes but they were approved.

A motion was made to have the Town enter into the agreement and authorize the First Selectman to execute it on the Town's behalf.

**Motion:** Len Greene Jr.

**Second:** Karen Stanek

**Vote:** 6-0

**Item #15: Discussion and take possible action regarding library grant resolution**

Kurt: The folks at the Library missed a step, so no action is needed.

**Item #16: Discussion and take possible action regarding awarding of bid for 1979 Dodge pumper truck**

Kurt: In your packets you have 2 bids. One is for \$3,500 by Scott Trembley and one for \$3,159 by Mark Ziello. At this point the Board selects a bid and moves forward.

A motion was made to accept Scott Trembley's bid of \$3,500 for the 1979 Dodge Pumper Truck

**Motion:** Al Bruno

**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Vote:** 6-0

**Item #17: Discussion and take possible action regarding establishment of Community Services Board**

Kurt: This is something we discussed earlier but we took some time to think about what direction we wanted to take. We have the Recreation Commission and the Commission on Aging and with the Community Services Department overseeing both, it was thought we should combine them.

Annmarie: I think we should combine them.

Nicole: Is it correct that they haven't met this year?

Kurt: That is correct.

Karen: Are we soliciting them?

Kurt: Are you volunteering?

Karen: Sure.

Kurt: So then when we establish the charter revision commission, we will make this recommendation?

Karen: I was told the charter can't be revised for 10 years.

Rich: No, not to my knowledge. You can have multiple charter revision commissions in a short period of time. Derby and Stratford have both done consecutive revisions. I'll take a look.

Karen: Under the Constitution, no one in Congress can be arrested going to and from a session. I want that in our charter.

Rich: I don't think we can do that because of the supremacy clause.

Kurt: So we're looking to combine these two boards in the charter revision. When the boards were created they were two separate entities but we're moving away from that.

Rich: You go through the normal charter revision process.

**Item #18: Discussion and take possible action regarding LED street light conversion**

Rich: If you recall when Tanko gave their presentation, we asked where else they had done it in the State. I reached out to New London's Town Attorney, who I know, who provided me with a copy of their contract with Tanko for the audit. He had some of the same concerns that I did. In New London, they waived the requirement. He had some other concerns. Rory is getting a copy of the audit contract.

Karen: I thought we already moved forward with this?

Kurt: We decided generally that we wanted to move forward but not specifically how. We're still in a holding pattern. We probably wouldn't get started until the spring.

**Item #19: Discussion and take possible action regarding manufacturers' exemption ordinance**

Kurt: The Ordinance Committee reviewed the manufacturer's exemption ordinance and made a few small changes. We should hopefully have this through by November, which would offer any companies time to utilize it. If there are no issues, I'd like to move it forward to public hearing.

**Item #20: Set public hearing for manufacturer's exemption ordinance for October 6, 2015 at 6:45 PM in the Norma Drummer Room**

A motion was made to set a public hearing for manufacturer's exemption ordinance for October 6, 2015 at 6:45 PM in the Norma Drummer Room

**Motion:** Karen Stanek

**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Vote:** 6-0

**Item #21: Executive session**

There was no executive session.

**Item #22: Appointments**

A motion was made to reappoint Beth Carson to the Downtown Committee for a 1-year appointment expiring September 4, 2016.

**Motion:** Al Bruno

**Second:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Patty Macko to the Downtown Committee for a 1-year appointment expiring September 4, 2016.

**Motion:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Second:** Karen Stanek

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Jon Szuch to the Downtown Committee for a 1-year appointment expiring September 4, 2016.

**Motion:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Second** Al Bruno

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Dave Bitso to the Downtown Committee for a 1-year appointment expiring September 4, 2016.

**Motion:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Second:** Al Bruno

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Alexander to the Friends of the Broad Street Park Committee for a 2-year appointment expiring September 1, 2017.

**Motion:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Second:** Al Bruno

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Tom Jensen to the Communications Commission for a 3-year term expiring September 3, 2018.

**Motion:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Second:** Al Bruno

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Mike Marganski as Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer for a 2-year term expiring September 15, 2017.

**Motion:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Second:** Al Bruno

**Discussion:** Mike and Bill will be splitting the position, contributing to our new Code Enforcement model.

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Bill Paecht as Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer for a 2-year term expiring September 15, 2017.

**Motion:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Second:** Al Bruno

**Discussion:** Bill and Mike both received their certifications.

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Karen Stanek to the Commission on Aging for a 1-year term expiring September 15, 2016.

**Motion:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Vote:** 5-0-1 Karen

### **Item #23: Tax Refunds/Abatements**

A motion was made to accept the tax refunds/abatements dated August 27, 2015 as presented.

**Motion:** Al Bruno

**Second:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Vote:** 6-0

A motion was made to accept the tax refunds/abatements dated September 10, 2015 as presented.

**Motion:** Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Second:** Karen Stanek

**Vote:** 6-0

**Item #24: Transfers**

There were no transfers before the Board.

**Item #25: Correspondence**

Letter from Culture & Arts Committee regarding the obelisk at Broad Street Park

Letter of retirement of Director of Public Works Dennis Rozum

Letter of resignation from Liz Conrad from the Downtown Committee

A letter from HUD regarding the issues at the Seymour Housing Authority in response to my letter. I spoke with Director Dave Keyser and he applied to have elderly-only housing with HUD.

Sept. 1, 2015 progress report on the road program.

Check register

**Item #26: Public Comment**

Jamie Brennan – 124 Bungay Road – I would like to comment on the First Selectman's salary. It's not the amount, but if you're looking to attract better candidates it's that someone has to leave a good job to have maybe only a two-year term. I would also like to urge this Board as long as you're revisiting the charter, to have the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetland Commission to update their regulations. If my calculations are correct, the Town is on the hook for \$180,000 for the Greenway Trail. Is that paid up front?

Sean Walsh – 126 Pearl Street – These LED lights have been used a lot down south. There's been a lot of problem with blowing snow and may block out the light. I would just like to ensure that we avoid this issue. I just want to ensure that we have cameras on the Greenway since other communities have all had issues with their secluded locations. I've been on the Public Works Board for a long time and I'd like to thank him for his service, he has been a great guy to work with.

**Item #27: Selectmen's Public Comments**

Karen: I'd like to thank you guys for voting for the Culture & Arts Commission. They spent an awful lot of money and time on that statue and a lot of thought regarding the history of Seymour. I don't think anyone has a right to tell them where they can put it.

Kurt: I met with Al yesterday. His only concern, and Bill Paecht, was that the waterfall was not blocked. I had conversation with Mrs. Bellevance and Mrs. Simpson and they were fine with that. It's not Al Yagovane's Park. The Parks Commission runs it.

Karen: Months ago, I asked if we could name that park after someone, as opposed to calling it by its address.

Nicole: I'd like to congratulate Dennis on his retirement and thank him for his many years of service. The bleachers are being installed and the turf is just about done. They'll start doing the rest of the construction tomorrow and we're on-schedule.

Al: I'm looking forward to the Pumpkin Festival this weekend. I think the field looks great, kudos to Nicole and that committee.

Annmarie: I received an email from a resident on First Ave. regarding the responsibility for the sidewalk in front of their home since the road is being done.

Kurt: It's on the resident but we will reimburse 1/3 of any work they elect to do. We did replace some that were necessary due to other aspects of the construction, but the Engineer only would know the exact reasons.

Annmarie: Congratulations to Dennis and good work to Nicole and the Committee on the turf field.

Len: Congratulations to Dennis, he was always good when I worked with him on the Board. My issue this week is with the letter we received from HUD. This is an ongoing issue and has been for some time. Quite a lot of it has to be dealt with at the Federal level. I don't believe that the Housing Authority can resolve this but I think it's getting worse every year. I was very unhappy to see that HUD included in their letter that their agency plan is now 4 months overdue. HUD points out that this is essential in preventing these issues. I think that's a cop out, but I think the Housing Authority should be on top of everything if they expect resolution and I'm disappointed.

Karen: When my dad ran the Housing Authority, you had to be a certain age and have certain qualifications to be allowed but they have changed the standards. I'm not sure that's a good idea. I understand it's a Federal civil rights issue, but the point is if you're going to mix different cultures it makes things very tense.

Kurt: I had some discussions with Dave Keyser as to how we can approach it but we need to have a plan and there are a lot of moving parts. I don't know if there's one easy solution.

Karen: If you're going to mix that population, you're going to have a problem.

Kurt: The law is what the law is and they have to do what it dictates to them. With regards to revaluation, we do it every few years according to State statute. When it's done, it is for Oct. 1, 2015 and they go into effect July 1, 2016. It follows the normal process and residents will still have the same ability to challenge their assessment. With regards to worker's compensation, Rich is working out the last details. We've had some conversations with the Board of Education and I can't speak with 100 percent accuracy as to how the situation arose. I can assure you it wasn't just dropped into our lap, they were aware as soon as November 2014. They had significant claims for which you can't plan. Do I think they intentionally underfunded? No. Did they put in as much as they should have? Apparently not. On the municipal side we had a larger surplus to help absorb the losses and we'll have to dip into fund balance or some other mechanism. The interservice fund is the best route to go with. We have been able to build up a reserve. This was recommended to us by the auditors and it was being discussed even before this issue arose. Regarding the Greenway, we had put in about \$225,000 in our debt service projections. There will be no additional spikes.

#### **Item #28: Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion:** Annmarie Drugonis

**Second:** Karen Stanek

**Vote:** 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Submitted by,



Rory Burke

Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller

First Selectman