

Town of Seymour  
Board of Finance

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DATE: 2/17/15  
TIME: 9:45AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes

**Budget Deliberation Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 7:00pm**  
**Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall**

**Members Present:** Rich Grudzias, Beverly Kennedy, Heather McDaniel, Bill Sawicki, John Stelma; Jim Cretella, Jake Holly (alternates)

**Members Absent:** David Bitso, Ed Wasikowski

**Others Present:** Rick Belden, Kristen Harmeling, First Selectman Kurt Miller, Yashu Putorti, Christine Syriac, and Doug Thomas

**Item #1 – Call Meeting to order**

Chairman Bill Sawicki called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item #3 – Deliberation and Discussion of 2015/2016 Budget**

The Board of Finance discussed the following department's budget:

❖ Board of Education

- Kristen Harmeling – 27 Patrick Drive – commented that the BOE would again be doing the webinar through the Valley Independent Sentinel to educate the public on their budget and answer any questions they may have and speaking to the PTA's
- #111 & 112 – Salaries are negotiated at 2.99% but increases are due to additional degrees earned
- #118 – Library Media Specialist left and will not be replaced
- #120 – Para professionals salaries include retro pay due to when contract was signed
- #123 – Added Special Ed para professional due to additional Special Ed students
- #210 – 81% of staff are on HSA's with high deductible
- #260 – Workers Comp up 25.9% due to more injuries
- #330 – For expenses associated with accreditation – required that this money set aside – done every 10 years
- #560 – Tuition for students attending other schools – based on actual numbers
- #622 – Electricity – negotiated good rate – 21% less – utilized Energy Efficiency Program @ no cost due to grant and no-interest loan – savings also on diesel and gas/oil
- Number of special needs students is increasing
- Many items are contractual or mandated by State
- Always are working to save money however possible
- Other ways that savings have been incorporated:
  - Consolidate I.T.Services – and at some point ground maintenance and facilities
  - Eliminate staff and/or move around staff to save money

- Replace regular teacher with special ed teacher instead of just adding position
  - Negotiations with unions – many hours working to keep these numbers as low as possible
  - 2.99% step increase – not 2.99% increase for all salaries
  - 1.4% average increase over 6 years
  - Savings on lighting and energy
  - 81% of staff is on cost savings HSA plans
- This is a fiscally responsible budget; every effort has been made to save money wherever possible and Mr. Putorti asked the BOF to send the budget as is to the taxpayers for their approval.

**Item #4– Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Submitted by:

***Monica Dimon***

***Recording Secretary***