

Town of Seymour  
Board of Finance

Minutes

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 3/10/15  
TIME: 5:10pm  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Budget Deliberation Meeting  
Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:00pm  
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Rick Belden, Kurt Miller, and Doug Thomas

**Item #1 – Call Meeting to order**

Chairman Bill Sawicki called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

**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 2015/2016 Budget:

- Bill Sawicki said that the Board of Education budget will be discussed on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Heather McDaniel commented that the Town budget looked good as is
- Rich Grudzias asked about the \$3,500 for new air conditioning at the ambulance building – this should not be part of the budget, but should be in Capital
- Bill Sawicki reminded Doug Thomas that the \$225,000 refund on the Middle School claim should be in the Revenues
- Sanitation Revenue – number for Recycling Revenue is not listed – should be about \$15,000
- WPCA administration fees revenue (under Town Clerk) - can we get \$20,000 from the WPCA for administrative fees? Kurt Miller said he would ask Town Counsel.
- Supplemental car taxes – increase from \$350 to \$425
- "Zoning/State Permits" line – should be deleted
- Beverly Kennedy: Cars cut out of PD line except for the extras – about \$26,000 – they will be getting two new cars and the third will be replacement of one from the river which will be paid by insurance (except \$13,000 which is Transfer #4)
- Bill Sawicki: Finance Department Meetings & Seminars – is for CPE Training (Doug) and training @HR Consulting for Lorrie and Natalie – will the \$2,000 be enough? Yes. For now.
- Bill Sawicki: Legal Settlement line item – should we take out the \$110,000 now since it will be coming out of Fund Balance? No. Otherwise will need to get 3 or 4 board approvals and a town meeting to get the money
- Beverly Kennedy: Public Works – Snowplowing Materials – is the \$100,000 enough? This number is only an estimate. Would rather not have the number higher and not use it. We can pull the money from Contingency if needed.

- So far the discussions have resulted in a net increase in Revenues of \$115,000
- The Tax Collector budget will be decreased by \$2,900 due to detailed items attached.
- Bill Sawicki: the Board of Education budget is too high as is; need to lower; can we look at actual numbers for the outside tuition; maybe we can use the confirmed # of students and if there are additional needs could maybe use Fund Balance?
- Rick Belden: suggested that we look at the "road map" provided with the BOE budget to identify additional costs/re-allocated money
- Rick Belden: statutory grants have been taken into account with current budget; minimum budgetary requirements – require an increase of at least \$200,000 for the budget
- Ed Wasikowski: asked if we could possibly expect another \$100,000 credit coming in insurance money like last year? Not likely due to the changing of healthcare plans.
- Heather McDaniel: our job shouldn't be to FIND cuts, but to assess the numbers to see if they are responsible; if so, change shouldn't be mandatory to the proposed budgets
- Kurt Miller: recommended presenting the Board of Education budget as is to the Town; this way we can judge from the response what the general feeling is.
- Bill Sawicki: asked Doug Thomas to add \$500 EACH to the budget for Little League, Babe Ruth League, Memorial Day Parade, and Pop Warner
- Bill Sawicki & Kurt Miller: over the next 10 years or so we will need to start thinking about raising the salary for whoever is in charge of the Town; we could form a joint committee from the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen to discuss the possibility of a Town Manager as opposed to First Selectman. But regardless, in order to entice the proper quality person, the salary will need to be attractive. Kurt Miller asked Bill Sawicki to draft up a letter to this effect and send to the Selectmen.

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**Item #4– Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Submitted by:

***Monica Dimon***

***Recording Secretary***