

Town of Seymour
Board of Finance

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DATE: 3/18/15
TIME: 3:00PM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes

Budget Deliberation Meeting
Monday, March 17, 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, Kristen Harmeling, Jen Magri, Michael Metzler, Kurt Miller, Yashu Putorti, Dennis Rozum, 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 – Public Comment

Yashu Putorti – 9 Greenwood Circle – Last year had requested 3.5% and was reduced to level services; then after the first vote reduced by \$108,000 due to insurance monies realized; this year 34 of 73 line items are at 0% increase or a decrease; the salaries are set by union contracts

Kristen Harmeling – 27 Patrick Drive – Last year there were no large cuts from initial request; no initiatives were lost there – this year if there are cuts it will affect services. Last year 555 people voted YES on the first vote (5/1) and an additional 274 people voted YES on the second vote (5/15). In December 2014, the unemployment was 5.3% down from previous months. Also, the state average is 14.5% of senior citizens – Seymour is at 12.62%; also, 22.65% is under 18.

Item #4 - Deliberation and Discussion of 2015/2016 Budget

The Board of Finance discussed the 2015/2016 Budget:

- Police Department – Training – this will be used up by the end of the year – all of this is needed
- Police Department – Overtime – Budgeted last year \$150,000; this year requested \$175,000. 2010/2011 used \$301,000; 2011/2012 used \$341,000; 2012/2013 used \$280,000; 2013/2014 used \$297,000. We were thinking of cutting to \$125,000. At least \$150,000 is needed; that is VERY low compared to previous year's usage and other towns. We will keep as is.
- Police Department – Dispatcher position – this was only an alternative possibility – maybe use down the road – not included in this budget.
- Public Works – F550 Truck Purchase – the \$90,000 would allow us to get a new truck; there are 6 trucks – 2 have been on the road since 1998 (17 years old); this winter we couldn't service one truck because it was needed on the road; one truck is 11 years old – has a drive train issue; one truck is 29 years old – barely hanging on; these trucks are used EVERY DAY in every season; would like to start a program where we can turn the trucks over sooner – if we do that, we may not need to spend as much per truck

Item #5– Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Submitted by:

Monica Dimon

Recording Secretary