

Town of Seymour  
Board of Finance

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DATE: 2/4/16  
TIME: 3:00pm  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes

Budget Deliberations  
Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 7:00pm  
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

**Members Present:** Aileen Baldwin, Jim Cretella, Zani Imetovski, Beverly Kennedy, Heather McDaniel, Bill Sawicki, John Stelma; Richard Demko (alternate)

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Rick Belden, Kristopher Boyle, Mary Sue Feige, Bernadette Hamad, Kristen Harmeling, Jennifer Magri, Roxanne Melaragno, Kurt Miller, Ehlayna Napolitano, David Olechna, Yashu Putorti, Christine Syriac, Virginia Tagliatela, Vonda Tencza, and Doug Thomas

**Item #1 – Call 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 #4 – Deliberation and Discussion of 2016/2017 Budget**

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

- ❖ Board of Education – introduced by Yashu Putorti, presented by Kristen Harmeling – budget is \$32,914,408:
  - BOF Chairman Bill Sawicki asked if there were any public comments – none were offered
  - Kristen Harmeling presented the Board of Education Budget – asking for only a 1% increase from last year's budget.
  - 314 employees; responsible for 2,265 students (including out of town); utilized 32 local businesses (\$154,000)
  - 25% increase of students entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade at reading level since implementing full day kindergarten; many student achievements for our students and many students are in the A/P and college level (UConn) courses
  - 87% of graduates continue their education
  - The changes comprising an ADDITION: part time Spanish teacher changing to full time; replace clerical paraprofessional with secretarial position (for MS Guidance Department); Golf and Debate Club funding; add instructional paraprofessional needed for 1 to 1 special needs student; these comprise the \$70,000 addition.
  - The changes comprising a SAVINGS: 5 teachers accepted Early Retirement deal – resulting in \$170,000 savings – 1 position not being replaced; eliminating 4 teachers due to declining enrollment – savings of \$334,000 (offset by unemployment compensation)
  - "Level Services" budget did not make sense this year with the 5 teachers' early retirement
  - No dramatic changes in any area

- Per Christine Syriac, taking into account both past and future trending, the enrollment is projected to decline over the next 5 to 10 years
- Shared services (with the Town) are used wherever possible to save money – currently I.T. is shared, and facilities services are currently being discussed; also, insurances, W/C, began an internal services fund at the suggestion of the auditors, which is with the Town.
- More employees were converted to the higher deductible health insurance plan
- Over the past 10 years, there has been a 12% decrease in the staffing level and a 13% decrease in the administration level.

**Item #4– Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Submitted by:

***Monica Dimon***

***Recording Secretary***