

Town of Seymour  
Board of Finance

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Minutes

Budget Deliberations  
Wednesday, March 9, 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:** Stephen Behuniak, Doug Thomas, and Sean Walsh

**Item #1 – Call to order**

Chairman Bill Sawicki called the deliberations 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 2016/2017 Budget**

The Board of Finance discussed the budget; answered questions raised at last deliberations:

- Registrar of Voters – the First Selectman didn't agree with the number of elections/referendums/primaries that the Registrar put forth; we should keep the original #. He also didn't realize that the training costs requested are for mandatory training. This money should be kept also.
- Public Works – The actual cost of the dump truck was only \$73,000 instead of the \$90,000 budgeted because they actually got a different truck than planned. They were going to get a mason dump truck but ended up getting a flat body dump truck. This year, will get the mason truck.
- Economic Development Committee – the First Selectman felt that the \$1,500 budgeted for the website upgrade should be deleted because the town computer person could handle this.
- Fire Department – **Communication/Telephone – lease renewal was deleted. WHY? Still need answer.** Machinery & Equipment – pagers – they DEFINITELY NEED 24 new pagers; they are more expensive because they have necessary enhanced abilities. Regarding the \$30,000 for air tanks needed – this is also a DEFINITELY NEEDED expense – they need to replace 25 this year. No evaluation will be done. The 25 that need replacement expire this year.
- Tax Collector – costs for computers were removed; they are included in the Capital Plan
- Town Buildings - \$20,000 was cut from the Repairs & Maintenance line item but there is a line item in the Contingency for \$150,000 for Town Buildings Repairs & Maintenance. The extra money is here.
- Police – the First Selectman changed his number in the car category to the original #. They definitely need the additional money for uniformed officers and training.
- Building Compliance – Directors Salary includes a cost of living increase; the Assistant Directors Salary line item includes a cost of living increase plus \$5,000 for specialists and/or any extra hours that the director needs to put in; money that was deleted from the First Selectman's budget for training can be

added back – he didn't realize this was REQUIRED training; computer costs deleted from Machinery & Equipment & Computer Services can be added back to his budget as well.

- Highway Wages & Maintenance – Snow insurance cost would be about \$60 – 80,000; Sean Walsh spoke to several people who did not feel that this was a necessary cost – we would be wasting our money.
- Waste Collection Revenues – we get \$10/ton – year to date revenues are \$6,840.30 Sean Walsh said that the transfer station could be more of a money maker for the town; he will be working on developing ideas; we need another person at the transfer station to monitor the weighing of the recyclable tonnage. **Will public works be putting in for another person?** Sean Walsh said that there is a public works meeting on Monday night where he can bring this up. **Bill Sawicki asked if Doug Thomas could put together a cost estimate for a laborer vs. cost of a regular, experienced person – including the salary and benefit information.** This way we can have the number to work with. The Board of Selectmen still need to approve any hiring. History has shown that having a person there checking residency was not worth it.
- Dog Warden – increase of 21% - was for extra hours needed
- Recreation Commission – the ratio of 1:16 is not needed, but recommended; these are estimates of enrollment. What happens if the number of kids isn't that many? **Is the Friday Night including just Boys & Girls Club or does it include recreation?** \$160,245 Proposed Revenue breakdown sheet was attached.
- Town Contingency – what is the "MSW" line item?
- Revenue #'s – Doug will e-mail to the Board
- We need to get rid of the work "Stipend" on any line item. **Can we get a list of STIPEND departments and contracted departments?**
- We need to set a time and day for the Town Hearing so we can get this information in the paper.
- There is a state statute that we cannot lower the Board of Education budget lower than last year's number. The First Selectman lowered their budget by the \$300,000 due to the insurance.

#### **Item #4– Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted by:

**Monica Dimon**

**Recording Secretary**