

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Tuesday, February 2, 2016 – 7:00PM**  
**Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall**

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 2/8/16  
TIME: 1:50pm  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

**Members Present:** W. Kurt Miller, Al Bruno, Annmarie Drugonis, Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Len Greene, Karen Stanek and Stephan Behuniak.

**Others Present:** Town Counsel, Brian LeClerc; Richard Demsik, Kimberly Dulka, Fred Stanek, Michael Flynn, Lianna Staffieri, and Rory Burke.

**ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.**

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:04 PM.

**ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.**

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM #3: Public Comment.**

Kimberly Dulka, 174 South Benham Road, owner of the All American Valley General Store, voiced her concerns with Joe Migani's new project. She inquired as to how the project was passed and why. She inquired about the changes in zoning. She shared her concerns regarding the health and safety seniors living upstairs that are being forced to park farther from their home. They have difficulties walking. She has met with Theresa Conroy regarding her concerns about businesses in downtown Seymour. She stated there are 38 units and only 15 parking spaces. She feels the parking issue needs to be addressed. She inquired about the expansion of The Strand's parking lot. She stated her business needs to relocate. She suggested holding an informative town meeting regarding this project. She

Fred Stanek, 22 North Benham Road, voiced his concerns regarding commercials being run by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM). He stated he is concerned because they appear to be somewhat political. He stated he doesn't understand the purpose of the ads that are using presumably money that the town pays to be a member of CCM. He suggested looking into the purpose and funding of these particular ads. If, in fact, the town's dues are being used to fund those CCM ads, he suggested protesting the use of the towns money for those ads.

**ITEM #4: Approve minutes from January 19, 2016 regular meeting.**

Motion to approve minutes from January 19, 2016 regular meeting.

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

2-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Abstain

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Abstain

**ITEM #5: First Selectman's Report.**

1. Attended the US Conference of Mayors Winter meetings in Washington DC with several other Connecticut Mayors and First Selectman. I found the meetings to be very informative and the panel discussion format that was used to be much more beneficial than other meetings I have attended in the past.
2. Census data for health and dental insurance for the municipal and board of education employees has been provided to Lockton to begin the RFP process. We expect that this RFP will be released to the full market by the end of this week. Carriers will have until February 18<sup>th</sup> to respond. Once this process has taken place, Lockton will compile the results, follow up with each bidder to answer any open questions and prepare a preliminary results presentation for the town which we expect to take place the last week of February. As mentioned previously, we will be looking at the potential of a self-funded model as well.
3. Discussions with Ansonia are ongoing regarding potential shared services. We will discuss this in more detail later on the agenda.
4. After our unanimous vote at our last meeting, I have officially extended an offer to Anthony DiPrimo to become our next Public Works Director. Tony's first day with the Town of Seymour will be Tuesday, February 15, 2016. I look forward to Tony joining our team and filling this very crucial role for the town.

5. I made my 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2015 presentation to the 10 Year Strategic Planning Committee last week. I am proud to say that Seymour has made tremendous progress with the plan over the last year but we still have a great deal of work to do. Primary focus over the next quarter will be to improve the existing communication program the town has in place. In conjunction with the High School Digital Arts students, will be creating a video series on specific topics and issue that face Seymour. Work on this will begin the end of February and we expect to have those videos ready for spring time. We are also in the process of finalizing a formal "open house" type event to be held in April and October of each year. This event that would be open to the public and would have short presentations by major department heads followed by question and answer time followed by one on one time for residents. I will provide more updates as we move along.
6. Discussions regarding the move to town hall being open 5 days a week are ongoing. I reached out and had discussion with representatives from both unions. I am reviewing several options that I think may work and will bring to the board the one that I feel will be best in moving Seymour forward. I will be putting a target date on this move to be for Monday, May 2, 2016. I will provide updates as we moving along and will bring the final decision before the board.
7. Budget process continues to move along with workshops having begun this week. As a reminder, I am scheduled to present my overall budget along with the financial state of the town to the Board of Finance on Thursday February 25<sup>th</sup>. Should anyone have questions or like to discuss the budget in detail, please let me know.

**ITEM #6: Discussion with Community Services Director, Mary McNelis.**

Mary McNelis, Community Services Director stated she has been in the position for 10 months. The initial first few months were spent with establishing policies and procedures along with new program development. She stated most recently they have lost 2 employees and their positions have been filled. She discussed the expanded use of the Senior Center bus. The bus is currently being used on Tuesdays and Thursdays for shopping. They have extended it for doctor's appointments in the afternoons as well as doctor's appointments throughout the week. In addition, as of February 1<sup>st</sup> the Senior Center will introduce two new services which includes transporting to church services on Sunday mornings as well as transporting any individual with any disability who doesn't have the means to drive.

In total we have done 159 different activities since July 1, 2015 which include exercise classes, trips, speaker series, lunch-and-learn series, bingo, yoga, Zumba, seminars, etc. She stated monthly they host in-house luncheons for seniors and bring in entertainment. She gave the board an updated schedule on how the bus will be utilized.

Mary stated the Senior Center has been going to a number of individual day theatre programs. He stated that they seem to work really well for the residents. Recently, they have gone to two UConn games. She discussed a number of various activities going on at the Senior Center.

The calendar is set through July and into the beginning of the fall. The Senior Center will be trying several overnight trips as well as a number of day trips.

Mary stated they will be trying something new with the February and April vacations. They will be offering some camps which will benefit parents who need coverage. A snow tubing trip for middle school students is planned for February 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be two in-house April vacation programs.

She has received a good amount of feedback regarding adult programs. In the next couple of weeks an adult co-ed dodgeball league and an adult golf league will be released. They are looking into releasing an adult volleyball league as well.

Mary stated 1,200 residents are using the online registration program and the number is growing daily. The system is doing well. They are now able to do email blasts to let residents know what the Community Center is doing. She encouraged everyone to sign up for an account.

Anmarie inquired about higher attendance and/or enrollment.

Mary stated she is now tracking it and will be able to tell her next year but she does see increases in various programs. She has noticed an increase in day programs at the Community Center because of all the new programs. She stated the biggest challenge looking forward is maintaining the building.

Nicole inquired about an increase of traffic with the seniors.

Mary stated word is getting out and they are really pushing communication. They have redesigned the Senior Center newsletter. They are collecting email addresses. She has noticed with more people in the building, information is more accessible.

Karen inquired if the Reflections to Italy trip.

Mary stated it is a trip to Europe and costs approximately \$3,500.

Stephan stated he thinks it is great to have more adult leagues. He inquired about the number of people using the Senior Center.

Mary stated she has recently discussed getting a counter to track the number of people. She stated she doesn't have a number but will look into tracking how many seniors use the Senior Center. She stated they have noticed an increase in Beacon Falls, Southbury, Newtown and Oxford residents. She feels that by opening up the programs to valley residents, it is helping the Senior Center with their numbers.

Kurt inquired about the interaction with the Boys & Girls Club and the Food Bank.

Mary stated everything is going well and there is an increase in traffic. She is in constant contact with both the Boys & Girls Club and the Food Bank. She feels that the Community Center is a perfect place for the Food Bank. She stated the Community Center will always have the challenge of space. Every aspect of the Community Center is growing. They have just gotten approval for using the high school pool on Saturday mornings. The plan is to open up Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings for swim lessons and open swim. Mary stated they are in the process of getting the Commission on Aging commission back together and going which should be happening next month.

**ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action regarding Fire Department and Seymour Ambulance tax abatements.**

Motion to accept the tax abatement schedule as presented by Seymour Fire Chief, John Cronin for Citizen's Engine and Great Hill Hose Company.

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

**ITEM #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding infrastructure/budget.**

Motion to table Item #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding infrastructure/budget.

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

**ITEM #9: Discussion and take possible action regarding potential ordinance changes**

Kurt discussed how the Ordinance Committee met and made recommendations for changes to the following ordinances:

**a. Blight**

- a. Section 4-148 – “Ordinary public view shall mean the view from the public property or the public right of way from average grade surrounding the property”
  - i. The committee feels this should be expanded to say “view from the personal property of the person making the complaint.”
- b. Section 4-148(4) – “Missing damaged or boarded windows or doors; damaged or missing gutter; damaged, decayed or missed siding of 100 square feet or more; collapsing or missing walls, roofs or parts of walls or roofs in need of repair”
  - i. This section makes no mention of the painting on the house. The committee feels wording should be added to include painting for houses and that there should be some minimum standard at least established by the ordinance. Kurt stated there are a few homes in Seymour where the paint is looking bleak.
- c. Section 4-148(9) – “Two or more abandoned or unregistered motor vehicles located on the premise (unless the premise is a junkyard licensed by the State of Connecticut)”
  - i. The committee feels the wording should be changed to allow for no more than one abandoned or unregistered motor vehicle.

Kurt stated the Blight Enforcement Officer has been handling Blight in the right way.

Stephan stated he hopes the Blight Enforcement Officer doesn't just hand out fines and keeps doing the right thing.

Al Bruno stated he thinks the ordinance should have some type of guidelines for residents to follow.

Kurt stated that as long as progress is being made the Blight Enforcement Officer has his own discretion. He stated that Mike Marganski, the Blight Enforcement Officer, is very good with working with residents.

Len Greene inquired who oversees the Blight Enforcement Officer. Kurt stated the Board of Selectmen and the First Selectman oversee him.

Len stated it is up to the board at the time to ensure how he/she is doing his/her job. He inquired if there was any sample language with regard to paint. He suggested looking at surrounding communities' Blight Ordinances to get an idea of that language.

Kurt stated he wanted to see if the whole board was in agreement with this. The Ordinance Committee doesn't have any specific language in mind.

Karen Stanek raised an issue regarding equal protection. She stated if you can't see it from the road, it doesn't mean it is not blight. Blight can be seen in someone's backyard. She feels that either way it is going to be subjective.

Kurt stated it goes to the core of the ordinance. He feels that it needs to give the Blight Officer guidelines to make decisions. It is not about collecting fines.

Karen stated a house that needs to be painted can affect property value of the property next door. She feels it is up to the town to protect interest in the property.

**b. Noise**

a) Section 8-48 Definitions

a. Committee reviewed the hours which are currently 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM and considered changes to them as follows:

i. M-F: 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

ii. Sat-Sun and holidays: 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM

The committee reviewed and discussed the ordinance. They determined that improvements can and should be made; they at the time did not know the best way to move forward. They felt strongly about the ordinance being about quality of life and the need to protect an individual's airspace.

Kurt said he included three links to the city of Meriden, Town of Shelton and the city of Trumbull. He included them for reference for future discussions.

Stephan inquired about data on how often noise complaints are called in.

Kurt said he can get some information from the Police Department.

Annamarie inquired if this was just residential.

Kurt stated the decibel levels are included depending on areas in town.

**c. Adult Business**

a. Section 10.5 talks about massage parlors and covers all bases. Kurt stated the concern is section 10.6 – regulation of other adult oriented establishments – “Adult oriented establishments are prohibited from being on a site that is less than 500 feet from a residential zone or on a site that is less than 1,000 feet from an existing adult-oriented establishment. Adult oriented establishment is defined as one offering sexually oriented entertainment.”

The committee felt strongly that they need to expand this section and define it more. They questioned if they should take it further, if so, how much further.

Len discussed a scenario of 2 or 3 adult businesses that suddenly wanted to come to Seymour. He stated he would not like to see multiple sections of town with such establishments.

Kurt stated the committee is not sure how they want to establish boundaries. The committee would like to revisit or include some type of boundaries. He felt that the language of the ordinance does not specify other adult oriented establishments, only massage parlors (page 14).

- Storm water Ordinance is currently being reviewed by the Inland Wetlands Commission.
- Kurt said that with the Driveway Inspector Ordinance, it has been determined that no changes are needed. He stated that this will be handled more by Public Works and the new Director of Public Works.
- The Ordinance Committee is not ready to move the fire hydrant snow removal ordinance forward to public hearing.

The Blight Ordinance, Noise Ordinance and Adult Entertainment Ordinance will be put forward to a public hearing.

**ITEM #10: Set public hearing for February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Norma Drummer Room to discuss ordinances.**

Motion to set public hearing for February 16, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the Norma Drummer Room to discuss the Blight Ordinance, Noise Ordinance and Adult Entertainment Ordinance.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

**ITEM #11: Discussion regarding potential regionalization of services with Ansonia.**

Kurt stated he will be meeting with Ansonia tomorrow and will be attending an Ansonia Board of Alderman meeting. He will have an update at the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ITEM #12: Discussion and take possible action regarding LED Street light conversion.**

Rory stated that the RFP is missing some information but Richard Buturla, Town Counsel, is comfortable with the language. Kurt stated this will be put out for a normal RFP process once Town Counsel has signed off. He will provide updates in future meetings.

**ITEM #13: Executive session.**

None.

**ITEM #14: Appointments.**

Motion to reappoint Paul Tontini to the Western CT Tourism District for a term of three (3) years expiring on January 5, 2019.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes                    0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes  
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes  
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene – Yes  
Karen Stanek – Yes

Motion to appoint Tim Connors to the Inland Wetlands Commission for four (4) years expiring on February 2, 2020.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Len Greene

Vote: 7-Yes                    0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes  
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes  
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene – Yes  
Karen Stanek – Yes

Motion to appoint Nicolas Cass to the Recreation Commission for a term of two (2) years expiring on February 2, 2018.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes                    0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes  
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes  
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene – Yes  
Karen Stanek – Yes

**ITEM #15: Tax Refunds/Abatements.**

Motion to accept January 20, 2016 Tax Refunds/Abatements as presented

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes                    0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes  
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes  
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes  
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene – Yes  
Karen Stanek – Yes

**ITEM #16: Transfers.**

None.

**ITEM #17: Correspondence.**

- Read the following letter from Ron Skurat:

*Dear Mrs. DeBarber*

*Please consider this letter my resignation as Democratic Registrar of voters, effective February 1, 2016. My Deputy*

*Thomas LaPaglia will assume my position.*

*Thank you, Ron Skurat*

Kurt thanked Ron for his many years of service to the town of Seymour.

- Letter from Paul Wetowitz, Chairman of the Inland Wetlands Commission.
- Check register.

**ITEM #18: Public Comment.**

Michael Flynn, 85 Skokorat Street, discussed how another form of blight, nepotism, could become a problem. He suggested including the restriction of nepotism in the blight ordinance. He also suggested having a new survey done of the municipal boundaries. He has spoken with Representative Conroy regarding updating maps with changes in streams, rivers, etc. He stated it is good to know where our municipal boundaries lie.

Kim Dulka suggested looking into funding for those homes that are known for blight. She suggested getting the community together to help people around town. She believes it is important to get residents of Seymour to know about these town meetings. She stated the great thing about the valley community is that we all want to help and listen.

**ITEM #19: Selectmen's Public Comments.**

Stephan Behuniak thanked Ron Skurat for his service to the town. He stated he will be going once a month to different establishments in Seymour for people to ask him questions and have discussions on different topics. He stated a storm drain on the bottom of Skokorat Street has been causing issues.

Kurt said that storm drain is our issue and the bigger issue is how the state reconfigured that intersection. He stated it is a state issue and has been tried by multiple people to get fixed. The state has still done nothing about it, but Kurt will have Public Works take a look at it.

Stephan suggested making Bank Street a one way to offer additional parking. He believes the board should look into ways to increase parking downtown.

Kurt stated Bank Street already has dual side parking. He stated they have been looking at the traffic flow particularly on First Street. He is open to suggestions. Kurt stated Officer Harkins is being very vigilant with Mr. Migani.

Stephan has joined the Livable Communities Committee and they are pleased with the extended Community Service bus services on Sunday.

Karen Stanek gave gratitude to Ron Skurat. She discussed how Ron influenced one of her son's lives. She complimented the Kickoff Club for a job well done at the football banquet on Sunday. She discussed her disappointment regarding the oversight of an invitation to State Representative, Theresa Conroy.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria thanked Ron Skurat for all his years of service to the town. She stated the Seymour High School Football banquet was very nice and she was honored to be there. She commended the football players for the time they put in day in and day out. She didn't know why Theresa Conroy was not invited. She stated she is very happy to see people come out for public comment. She said anyone can call any one of the board members at any time and/or schedule a time to talk to Kurt.

Al Bruno suggested that Miss Dulka call town hall and get answers. He was happy to see people come out to town meetings. He supports Kim Dulka with her concerns. He felt that Public Works did a good job with the snow storm. Al is looking forward to see all of the improvements at Public Works.

Kurt is expecting to see positive changes. Anthony DePrimo is big on performance management. Anthony met with Sean Walsh and Tony Caserta tonight to get a tour of the Department of Public Works.

Annamarie Drugonis thanked everyone for coming to public comment. She stated the board meets every first and third Tuesday of every month. She encouraged residents to contact the board members. She congratulated the Seymour High School Cheerleaders for two 1<sup>st</sup> Place wins two weeks in a row. She stated she serves on the Public Works Board and looks forward to improvements.

**ITEM #20: Adjournment.**

Motion to adjourn at 8:29 PM

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes                      0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Second: Karen Stanek

0-Abstain

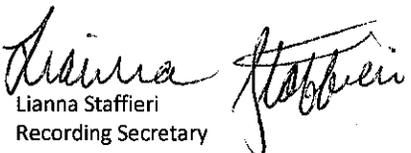
Al Bruno – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

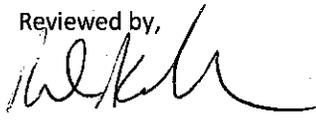
Len Greene – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Submitted by,

  
Lianna Staffieri  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,

  
W. Kurt Miller  
First Selectman