

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 – 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

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

Members Absent: Al Bruno.

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; Richard Demko, Lianna Staffieri, Lisa Lowe, Rory Burke, Gayle Bannon, Fred Dlugokenski, Sean Walsh, Michele and David Foster.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:00 PM.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

None.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from January 26, 2016 Ordinance Committee meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from January 26, 2016 Ordinance Committee meeting.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

ITEM #5: Approve minutes from February 2, 2016 regular meeting

Motion to approve minutes from February 2, 2016 regular meeting.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Len emailed changes to Rory. The word 'she' needs to be removed from the end of the public comment section on the first page.

ITEM #6: First Selectman's Report.

1. Attended the Governor's Economic Development Forum with Fred Messoro. I found the meeting very informative as did Fred.
2. Attended CCM's Legislative committee meeting as well as the Executive Board meeting last week. During these meeting we finalized our Legislative agenda for the upcoming session. I will be reviewing these items with our state delegation over the next two week and ask that they support these initiatives that will benefit not only Seymour, but all of the towns and cities in CT.
3. I have been reappointed and have attended the first meeting of the year for CCM's Sustainability Task Force. As a part of this group, I expect to gain valuable knowledge that will benefit Seymour and assist in our push for more sustainable projects.

4. As an update, carriers have until the end of this week to respond to the RFP that was put out regarding the town health insurance coverage. I am still expecting preliminary results by the end of the month from Lockton.
5. Discussions with Ansonia are ongoing regarding potential shared services. We will discuss this in more detail later on the agenda.
6. Tony DiPrimo started today as the new Director of Public Works. I introduced him to the men this afternoon. He did come in a few days last week to meet some people and to familiarize himself with our operation which will allow him to hit the ground running with the men tomorrow. I, like all of you, have very high expectations for Tony.
7. 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 as well as the full staff. 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 expect to have something for the board to discuss and potentially vote on at our second meeting in March.
8. The Budget process continues to move along with workshops on going. As an update, I am scheduled to present my overall budget along with the financial state of the town to the Board of Finance on a new date.....Thursday March 3rd. The change is being driven by the need to finalize the income side of the budget as we will not have all of the needed numbers in by the original presentation date.
9. Finally, I am happy to announce that the lawsuit filed by former Det. Seg. Ronald Goodmaster vs. the Town of Seymour, the Board of Selectmen, Lucy McConologue, Michael Metzler and I has been won by the town. The judge granted summary judgement in favor of all of the defendants and the town. Going forward, the town will take all legal action available to it to recoup any and all costs associated with this frivolous suit.

ITEM #7: Presentation form SolarCity.

Motion to table Item #7: Presentation from SolarCity to next meeting on March 1, 2016.

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

ITEM #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding Seymour High School softball field lights bid.

Kurt read the following letter from Nafis & Young regarding the Softball field lighting:

Dear Mr. Miller:

Nafis and Young Engineers, Inc. opened the Bids for the above-referenced project on January 20, 2016. There were two (2) bidders:

Shock Electrical Contractors, Inc.	\$141,540.00
Paramount Electric	\$173,800.00

The Seymour Softball Committee voted to forward a recommendation of approval of the Bid by Shock Electrical Contractors, Inc. to the Board of Selectmen.

Please accept this letter as a request by the Committee to approve the Bid by Shock Electrical Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$141,540.00 for the Field Lighting at the Softball Field at Seymour High School.
Sincerely, James H. Galligan

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Seymour High School Softball Field Lights Committee and Nafis & Young Engineer Jim Galligan and award the project to Shock Electrical Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$141,540.00

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes
W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

0-No

0-Abstain
Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene – Yes

ITEM #9: Discussion and take possible action regarding Small Cities consultant RFQ.

Kurt opened the RFQ by Lisa Lowe & Assoc.

Motion to pass the RFQ's along to the Town Manager for Operations and Grants, Deirdre Caruso, to review with Town Counsel to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-Yes
W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

0-No

0-Abstain
Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene – Yes

ITEM #10: Discussion and take possible action regarding Small Cities resolution.

Kurt read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing pursuant to Public Law 93 -3 83, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Seymour make application to the State for \$400,000 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement, therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,
2. That the filing of an application by the Town of Seymour in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 is hereby approved, and that W. Kurt Miller, the First Selectman of the Town of Seymour, is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Seymour.

Motion to accept the resolution as presented.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Len Greene

Vote: 6-Yes
W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

0-No

0-Abstain
Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene – Yes

ITEM #11: Discussion and take possible action regarding NVCOG Regional Performance Initiative resolution.

Kurt stated for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 NVCOG decided to pursue two OPM Regional Performance Incentive Grants benefitting all 19 towns. He stated when the town was in the Valley COG they worked very hard to have all 4 towns to be very similar. The two issues at hand are a regional approach to how we do revaluations and Wastewater Regionalization Feasibility study. The wastewater regionalization feasibility study was initially only going to be done with Ansonia and Derby, but Derby backed out and Seymour stepped in. At a recent COG meeting, it was announced that Beacon Falls, Naugatuck and Derby are in.

Kurt read the following Resolution of Endorsement and Authorization:

Regional Performance Incentive Program proposals listed below, referenced in Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-124s, (2014 Supplement).

- 1.) Implement Regional Municipal Property Revaluation & CAMA Procurement Program, Standardize & Centralize Parcel Data Management and Hosting
- 2.) Wastewater Regionalization Feasibility Study – Including primary demonstration project feasibility study of consolidating the Ansonia/Derby/Seymour Water Pollution Control Facilities and a secondary demonstration project feasibility study to include the Beacon Falls and Naugatuck Wastewater Treatment Facilities in regional consolidation

In addition, the Legislative Body has authorized W. Kurt Miller, First Selectman, to act on this endorsement by signing all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions related to this proposal to enter into a binding agreement with the Office of Policy and Management according to terms of the RPI grant program.

Motion to accept the resolution as presented.

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Anmarie Drugonis – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

ITEM #12: Discussion and possible action regarding Girl Scouts Proclamation.

Kurt read the following resolution:

A Proclamation Celebrating 104 years of Girl Scouting

WHEREAS, March 12, 2016, marks the 104th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, which began in 1912 when Savannah, GA native Juliette Gordon Low gathered 18 girls to provide them the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually;

WHEREAS, 1912 was also the year in which Girl Scouting started in the state of Connecticut;

WHEREAS, for more than 100 years, Girl Scouting has helped build millions of girls and women of courage, confidence, and character who act to make the world a better place; and,

WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience helps girls discover themselves and their values, connect with others, and take action to make the world a better place; and,

WHEREAS, through the dedication, time, and talent of volunteers of different backgrounds, abilities, and areas of expertise, Girl Scouts of Connecticut offers the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to more than 35,000 girls in grades K-12 across the state of Connecticut; and,

WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, celebrating its 100th year, requires girls to make a measurable and sustainable difference in their community, assess a need and design a solution, find the resources and support to make it happen, and complete the project;

WHEREAS, core programs around environmental stewardship, anti-bullying techniques, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), and healthy living, help girls develop a solid foundation in leadership; and,

WHEREAS, today, more than 59 million American women are Girl Scout alumnae and 2.7 million girls and adult volunteers are active members;
NOW, THEREFORE, I, W. Kurt Miller, by virtue of the authority vested in me as First Selectman of Town of Seymour do hereby applaud the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for more than 100 years of leadership and expertise as the voice for and of girls, proudly proclaim March 12, 2016, as Girl Scout Day.

Motion to accept the proclamation as read.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene – Yes

ITEM #13: Discussion and take possible action regarding Seymour Ambulance tax abatements.

Kurt read the following letter:

Dear Kurt,
Enclosed please find the list of tax abatement recipients for 2016.
You will see that there are seven (7) members who are Seymour residents that qualify for the tax abatement.
Also please note, Emily Baldwin and Amanda Skellington currently lease their vehicles and do not pay tax directly to the town. Last year, consideration was given for this by the Board of Selectmen and the town agreed to reimburse them for their tax expenses. I request the same consideration be given again this year.
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Thank you for your time and support to the Seymour Ambulance Association.
Sincerely, Jonathan Lovisolo, Board of Directors – President

Motion to accept the Seymour Ambulance Association tax abatement recipients for 2016 list as requested and as presented.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Len Greene

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene – Yes

ITEM #14: Discussion and take possible action regarding potential ordinance changes

a. Blight:

Len questioned as to whether or not the suggested wording is the way to go. He stated he is intrigued in the recommendations that have been taken out in previous years and suggested going back to find out why. He suggested taking a look at the debate back in 2009 and why certain things were removed.

Stephan suggested seriously looking into a program that will help people with blighted properties and people in the community.

Kurt stated the issue has always been cost. Now that the town has received \$60,000 from a blight case, the money can be used for blight related issues. He stated the town's blight ordinance is designed more for people to have an opportunity to improve their property. He stated the current blight officer is really good at working with people. The ordinance is about getting properties cleaned up and benefiting community. He stated they can't narrow the scope of this too much.

Stephan suggested giving high schoolers a chance to clean up properties.

Kurt discussed the Seymour Pride Committee that has died out. He stated it is something that can be looked into. Basement Systems and Thule have always said they will pick a day where they do something to benefit the community.

Len suggested using interns to help pick up trash for credit.

Stephan suggested creating a program for individuals about to enter college, community service, or an intern program for college credit. He stated there could be many scenarios where people can benefit on both ends.

Kurt stated the Blight Officer wanted to buy trailer and fill it with landscaping/clean up equipment for anyone to use to clean up the community, such as volunteers.

b. Noise:

Len stated he has had an issue with neighbors and fireworks. He suggested taking the Town of Meriden's noise ordinance into consideration.

Kurt stated the issue with Mr. Buckwalter's scenario with regard to the enforcement. He stated Mr. Buckwalter's issue is a quality of life one.

Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, stated the major enforcement issue is the measuring decibel level. The last time he looked at noise ordinances in great depth, most police departments didn't have the proper equipment to measure decibel levels. Most towns have had health department's measure decibel. Noise ordinances present major enforcement issues. He stated he will take a look at this and will refresh his research.

Kurt stated the ordinance committee can look into tweaking the hours as well and possibly making later hours on weekends.

Richard Buturla stated it is not something that a police officer is used to dealing with.

Len stated changing the hours is a good step to many people but there are many people who work 2nd or 3rd shifts that might get upset.

Kurt stated the issue is enforcement in general. Many times sound is not there anymore when the police officer shows up.

Len suggested tweaking the enforcement aspect of the noise ordinance.

Richard Buturla stated in his experience everyone was handicapped by lack of tools and training.

Kurt discussed a situation with a resident who lives by Bungay Terrace and Bungay Court.

Richard Buturla stated it is hard to apply the noise ordinance to motor vehicles.

c. Adult Business:

Karen suggested studying this ordinance more.

Kurt stated right now the town's Adult Business Ordinance talks primarily about massage parlors.

Richard Buturla suggested regulating in accordance of the law. He will look into Milford's Ordinance which he is familiar with. He stated with respect to specific parts that are challenge, it is a good ordinance to build off of. Milford's ordinance is very comprehensive.

Once the Ordinance Committee meets and outlines recommended changes to each ordinance, Town Counsel will draw something up and it will be brought to second meeting in March.

ITEM #15: Discussion regarding potential regionalization of services with Ansonia.

Kurt stated the Building Inspector and the Engineering departments have been addressed regarding regionalization of services with Ansonia. He stated Seymour and Ansonia will be utilizing the same individuals. Seymour will pay its own share and Ansonia will do the same. The Building Inspector, Jim Baldwin, will work 25 hours a week for Seymour and 20 hours a week for Ansonia. This will give both towns an opportunity to study and to see if it makes sense and if he is able to get the work done that is necessary. They are going to be looking into the overlapping of Jim being in the office in the afternoon and Nick Behun, Ansonia’s Building Inspector, being in the office in the morning. If a Seymour resident needs a building permit they can go to Ansonia to get signed off and vice versa. They will be doing the same with the Engineering Department. Ansonia will be appointing Brian Nesteriak as Town Engineer for roads and drainage and Don Smith as Town Engineer for buildings and special projects.

Ansonia wants to discuss potentially regionalizing ambulance services. Kurt stated the two companies Seymour Ambulance and ARMS will be discussing this with each other first.

The last piece of regionalization is Animal Control. They are looking at feasibility. Ansonia has a full time employee and a part time employee. Seymour has two part time employees. They are looking into how everything will work and maintain coverage as well as having one animal shelter. Kurt stated between the two towns they have \$100,000 in the fiscal year 2016 that could be budgeted for a facility of some type. The Animal Control Officer in Ansonia is an employee of the town and the Animal Control Officer in Seymour is an appointed position.

Len inquired about issues with PSA for the ambulances.

Kurt doesn’t believe there will be an issue. He stated it might be something they would have to apply to the state for that. Seymour Ambulance is a separate organization for Seymour and is run by volunteers and do have professional staff. ARMS members are employees of the Ansonia. Seymour Ambulance is looking at model for a part time Executive Director to give more flexibility for down the road.

Kurt will be meeting next week with Tony Caserta, Rick Belden and Christine Syriak regarding joint operations departments for the town.

ITEM #16: Discussion and take possible action regarding LED street light conversion.

Rory Burke stated he has been waiting for numbers from Eversource and they finally came in. He stated they have to get a count of all of the lights in the parks and parking lots on municipal property. He stated he has been waiting for good weather to get that done. After that, it will be a matter of getting the RFP to them.

Kurt stated he expects the RFP to be out by mid-March.

ITEM #17: Executive session.

None.

ITEM #18: Appointments.

None.

ITEM #19: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to accept the February 11, 2016 Tax Refunds/Abatements as presented.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Anmarie Drugonis – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

ITEM #20: Transfers.

None.

ITEM #21: Correspondence.

- Check Register

ITEM #22: Public Comment.

Sean Walsh, 126 Pearl Street, thanked the board for discussing how to help people fix their properties. He stated he has all of the minutes, notes, articles, etc. from the 2009 ordinance meetings if they need it.

ITEM #23: Selectmen’s Public Comments.

Stephan Behuniak stated his monthly dinner out will be next Wednesday, February 24th at 7:00 PM at Pub 67 and invited anyone in the town to come out and voice his concerns.

Karen Stanek stated that the town’s website says ‘Board of SelectMAN’ and should say ‘Board of SelectMEN.’

Kurt sated Rory will look into it.

Karen thanked the Town of Seymour for flying all the flags at half-staff for Judge Antonin Scalia.

Kurt stated the town makes a donation to American Legion to maintain the flags in town.

Karen complimented and thanked Public Works for a job well done on her road the past few snow storms. She heard about Theodora resigning from the Board of Education and wished the Klarides family all the best.

Annamarie thought Public Works did a great job on the roads. She stated the flag at French Park is ripped.

Kurt stated he will have it repaired.

Annamarie congratulated the Seymour High School Cheerleaders for taking first place over he weekend.

ITEM #24: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 7:59 PM

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Second: Karen Stanek

0-Abstain

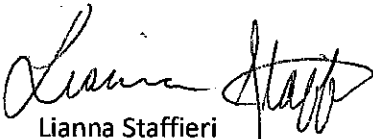
Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes


Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Submitted by,


 Lianna Staffieri
 Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


 W. Kurt Miller
 First Selectman