

COPY RECEIVED
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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

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

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

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; Richard Demko, Al Yagovane, Bob Koskelowski, Kathy Gargulio, Elma Hughes, Joan Thomas, Wendy Camp, James Thomas, Tina Santiago, Stacey Eva and Norberto (Jovanni) Ortiz.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:01 PM.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

Kathy Gargulio, 95 Mountain Road, questioned why the town is trying to get rid of the animal shelter. She stated they have helped her with many things in addition to making sure they place these animals in proper homes. She suggested having the taxpayers vote on this matter.

Elma Hughes, 5 Ansmour Road, discussed her displeasure with not having a say in what happens to the animal shelter.

Joan Thomas, 22 George Street, stated it is unfair that the board members can go into executive session to make decisions that concern the people of this town. She stated the town has a good shelter and the volunteers give their all into it.

Wendy Camp, 12 Emma Street, stated she and her daughter volunteer every weekend at the animal shelter. Her daughter attends Nonnewaug High School and has dreams of being veterinarian. She gets SAE hours there. The Seymour Animal Shelter is the only place that will give her those hours. She stated they get animals that have problems and after a stay there, they are transformed. The animals get love, attention and behavior modification.

James Thomas, 22 George Street, suggested holding a referendum on this so that the people can decide.

Bob Keselowski, Pearl Street, stated that much of the town's history is being taken away. He discussed the chain that was in front of Town Hall and encouraged putting it back up. He also discussed Broad Street Park and how Al Yagovane started it in 2004. He also discussed other veteran memorials in town. He stated if it wasn't for Al Yagovane, there would be no honoring the veterans and those that lost their lives in the Korean War and Vietnam War. He suggested keeping the park the way it is. Bob discussed his displeasure with Public Works cleaning up areas where the State should be cleaning. He stated the sign on top of Maple Street cannot be read because the printing is very small. He stated the animal shelter was built in 2005 and was built to save taxpayers money.

Mathew Rightbart, stated he is a barber in this town and discussed his support of the animal shelter. He believes it is important for the town to have an animal shelter.

Jovanni Ortiz, 26 George Street, member of Seymour Lions Club, discussed his support of the animal shelter. He stated the Lions Club would love the opportunity to see the animal shelter grow and give the residents the opportunity to decide what happens; this goes deeper for people who are involved. He feels that Ms. Ice has

been very active in the community and they appreciate the work that she does. He also inquired about removing graffiti when you get off the exit.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from May 17, 2016 regular meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from May 17, 2016 regular meeting.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

ITEM #5: First Selectman's Report.

- Kurt stated two weeks ago he made a presentation to S&P in Boston. They reaffirmed the town's AA+ rating. The report will go out tomorrow. Kurt discussed highlights of the report briefly.
- He stated the first portion of bond issues has been closed. He stated we have refunded and reorganized a good portion of dept. Kurt stated that by doing so, it has saved the town \$600,000 this year and \$500,000 next year.

ITEM #6: Discussion and take possible action regarding Janesky Trust tax abatement application for 50 Cogwheel Lane and 33 Progress Avenue.

Fred Messore discussed the applications for new construction happening at 33 Progress Road and 63 Silvermine Road aka 60 Cogwheel Lane. He discussed the size of the buildings. The building at 33 Progress Road will be moving 170 employees from the main building to that property. The estimated investment is \$11,224,870. He stated they are expecting more growth and employment with this property. He stated with this expansion, Basement Systems will be expanding departments in building 1. Over the last couple years they have increased their employment.

The property at 63 Silvermine Road aka 60 Cogwheel Lane will house 10 new employees. The estimated investment is \$4,861,529. Fred stated Mr. Janesky has been a great corporate citizen.

Fred Messore and the board discussed progress with the construction. They do not expect any delays.

Motion to approve the recommendation of Economic Development Director, Fred Messore, and award a tax abatement to the Janesky Trust for property at 33 Progress Avenue and 63 Silvermine Road in the amount of 100% for 7 years.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action on capital plan.

Kurt discussed the following recommendations:

- Road reconstruction - \$150,000
- Building Repair - \$150,000
- Replace a full size dump truck - \$205,000
- potential auxiliary building for Public Works - \$50,000
- Fire equipment for fire trucks - \$9,347
- Technology – back up appliance - \$12,500
- Town Hall rewiring - \$5,000
- Overall PC replacement program - \$5,000

- Key Fog and Camera system for Town Buildings - \$20,000
 - Total expenditure \$309,347

This will be discussed at the next meeting on June 21, 2016.

ITEM #8: Executive session (Personnel).

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter involving a non-Seymour employee at 7:31 PM with Town Counsel, Richard Buturla and Administrative Officer for Woodbridge, Tony Genevieve.

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes Al Bruno – Yes
Len Greene – Yes Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Motion to exit executive session with no motions or actions taken at 7:44 PM.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes Al Bruno – Yes
Len Greene – Yes Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #9: Discussion and take possible action regarding animal control contract with the Town of Woodbridge.

Richard Buturla discussed the draft of the contract with Woodbridge. He discussed the statute that encourages the regionalization of common services. The town will be entering into a 1 year contract with the Town of Woodbridge. Either party can elect to withdraw from this agreement with 6 months' notice. There will be three communities involved in this service including Seymour, Woodbridge and Bethany. The animal shelter is located on Bradley Road in Woodbridge. The Chief of Police has appointed ACO's (Animal Control Officer) and assistants as deemed necessary. The contract will end June 30, 2017. The facility on Bradley Road will be open 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. He discussed the animal services they will handle. For performing these services on behalf of Town of Seymour, Seymour will pay the annual sum of \$70,000 to Woodbridge during the course of this agreement. It is automatically renewable upon a yearly basis.

Tony Genevieve stated the shelter is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There are two full time ACOs and they stagger days. Woodbridge is a No Kill Shelter. They always place and adopt animals regardless of how long that takes. They have 24/7 coverage should there be an emergency at night. ACO's are always on call. There is a cat room specifically for cats. There are also indoor and outdoor runs; equal number of indoor runs to outdoor runs. He stated the regional approach to animal control has worked well in the past and present. They have been improving the facility with a new roof and are actively applying for grants to do major improvements to the shelter.

Tony stated residents are welcome any time the shelter is open. They have two kennel keepers that will clean the runs and help care for them. Their time is staggered also. He stated the main number goes right to shelter Monday – Saturday 10am-3pm. After 3:00 PM and before 10:00 AM residents can call Woodbridge Police Department and an ACO is always on call. The surrounding town's police departments will know who is on call every day and will also be able to help. They are not overwhelmed with crowding.

Karen inquired about veterinary services and Tony stated they have relationships with various veterinarians in the area that can and will help with emergencies.

Annmarie inquired if vet care and various expenses are included in the sum paid to Woodbridge each year. Tony stated that all expenses will be taken care of. Town Counsel Richard Buturla discussed the opt-out clause of the contract. He discussed a section of the contract.

Len inquired about the cost of operating the current Seymour Animal Shelter. Kurt stated it costs \$20-\$25,000 to operate the building, veterinary costs, food etc. Len inquired about the cost to repair and/or replace the building. Kurt stated replacement would be difficult because there is not enough space where it is located now. He stated initial estimates to upgrade that building is \$200-\$250,000.

They discussed issues of space at the Seymour Animal Shelter and Woodbridge having plenty of space for the animals.

Annmarie suggested reviewing this at 3 months, 6 months and 9 months. Town Counsel stated they are contractually obligated to stick to the contract for a year.

The board members discussed the process to build a new animal shelter (funds, time period and land acquisition, grants, etc.). They also discussed the State's push for regionalizing services.

Annmarie inquired if Woodbridge would allow the student in veterinary services to get her hours that she needed. Tony stated he wouldn't have a problem and would refer her to the ACO.

The board discussed with Town Counsel a possibility of a referendum. Town Counsel stated this is a town department and would not be able to. They discussed the original idea of regionalizing and where it came from. Kurt stated the current ACO for Seymour suggested regionalizing with Woodbridge a few years ago.

Len inquired if the town is getting a deal by regionalizing with the Town of Woodbridge. Kurt stated this would be a savings of \$60,000 per year. He stated the current set up is not adequate for services to the town. With regionalizing with Woodbridge there will be a better level of coverage, current setup is not adequate for services of the town. The care of the animals is most important. Woodbridge would be taking care of all costs. Kurt stated if the town was not to move forward, we will have additional budgetary costs each year. He discussed Shelton's new facility.

Kurt had a conversation with the ACO from Woodbridge, Terry Montana regarding a proposal to turn the current Seymour Animal Shelter into a Rescue and have the volunteer group run the building as a rescue. This will still give the residents in Seymour the opportunity to volunteer and to care for the animals. He discussed various situations where the rescue would be able to take an animal.

Len stated this is an improvement in the level of coverage and the facility's much more adequate for the animals. He stated it is best for the community as a whole and is best for the animals.

Kurt stated if the town immediately decided to break the contract, we would be able to come back into the shelter.

Motion to accept contract as proposed and authorize the First Selectman to execute it on behalf of the Town of Seymour.

Motion: Len Greene Second: Stephan Behuniak

Town Counsel stated the following sentence from Section 6 of the agreement will be deleted:

"Seymour shall pay to Woodbridge upon the signing of this agreement the sum of \$7,983.88 which payment is for services under this agreement May 18, 2016 through June 30, 2016."

The date will change in Section 4 will be from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016.

Motion to accept amendments as presented.

Motion: Len Greene Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Motion to add to the agenda discussion and possible action regarding lease and agreement with Cares aka Coco's Animal Rescue Effort of Seymour.

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Discussion and possible action regarding lease and agreement with Cares aka Coco's Animal Rescue Effort of Seymour.

Motion to authorize the First Selectman and Town Counsel to enter into negotiations and utilize their best efforts to bring back an agreement which would permit Cares to operate the existing animal control facility as a rescue shelter.

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Karen Stanek

Motion to amend motion to say lease or license agreement.

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 7-yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #10: Appointments.

None.

ITEM #11: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to accept June 2, 2016 Tax Refunds/Abatements as presented in the amount of \$3,753.80.

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #12: Transfers.

None.

ITEM #13: Correspondence.

- Check register.

ITEM #14: Public Comment.

Elma Hughes, 5 Ansmour Road, stated her displeasure with the board's decision to regionalize with Woodbridge.

Bob Koskelowski, Pearl Street, discussed his displeasure with Public Works working on state property. He discussed intersections that need work. He stated the curbing on Pearl Street is falling apart. He discussed his disappointment with the board making a decision on regionalizing animal control tonight.

Joan Thomas, 22 George Street, discussed a bear siting on Roberts Street last night. She inquired about the chain in front of Town Hall.

Jovanni Ortiz, 26 George Street, discussed financials for the animal shelter. He stated the animal shelter was put there years ago. He stated animal overcrowding was an issue but the ACO somehow finds a way to get the animals in good homes. He discussed his displeasure of the board's decision to regionalize with Woodbridge.

Al Yagovane, 25 Elaine Drive, thanked those who came to the Memorial Day Parade. He briefly discussed the history of it. He discussed the devastation when a military member passes away. He stated the curbing on Pearl Street is bad. He stated the curbing and sidewalk is dangerous at the VFW memorial on Day Street.

ITEM #15: Selectmen's Public Comments.

Stephan Behuniak thanked everyone who came to the meeting and spoke. He urged everyone to have an open mind on the animal shelter situation. He stated he understands the passion and thinks it is great. He stated that he and the board members put a lot of time and effort into making this decision and kept the interest of the animals in mind. He thanked Al Yagovane for inviting him to the Memorial Day Parade. He inquired about when the road work will be completed.

Kurt stated the road work was started on Tuesday. The Code Red went out to the residents on the four streets that were left. He stated depending on how much money is left they will work on Bungay Road. Stephan inquired about a list of new roads to be completed.

Kurt stated he will have the list for the July meeting. The Permanent Building Committee will be giving a report at the next meeting.

Karen Stanek stated that yesterday was D-Day which should make us all proud. She stated the parade was wonderful. She stated they are trying to do what is best for the animals. She inquired about a status of finding out where Gary Park got its name.

Kurt stated they are still trying to figure it out. Rory will look into more.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria thanked everyone who came to the meeting and voiced their concerns about the animal shelter. She stated they are concerned about the animals and want to make sure they have the best care and best home. She stated they have discussed this for a while and it seems like best option. She encouraged people to call Kurt at any time and voice concerns; his door is always open. She thanked Al Yagovane for 30 years of service and running the Memorial Day Parade. She thought the parade was great. She congratulated Karen Stanek for her honor of becoming Seymour High School's distinguished alumni.

Al Bruno thanked Al Yagovane and the Memorial Day Parade Committee. He stated it was great to be there and to pay tribute to Veterans and those who lost their lives serving our country. He congratulated the Seymour High School Softball team for making State Finals. He thanked everyone for coming out and voicing opinions on the animal shelter. He stated their concerns were heard.

Annmarie Drugonis thanked Al Yagovane for all that he does for the Memorial Day Parade. She congratulated Karen on her accomplishment. She stated she was honored to speak at a Memorial Day Service. She stated the scholarship award ceremony for Junior and Seniors at the high school was great. She thanked everyone who came out and voiced their opinions regarding the animal shelter. She stated

she has been there on several occasions. She has two dogs and two cats that are rescues. She stated it is about what is best for animals and their future.

Nicole congratulated the Seymour High School Softball team for making State Finals. She also congratulated the Seymour High School boys and girls track teams. The boys track team won NVL's and came in 2nd in states. She stated next week the track student-athletes will be heading to Greensboro, North Carolina to compete.

Len Greene stated that although he disagreed with the course of action recommended by members of the public, he voted in favor of the regionalization. This does not mean the board members are animal haters. He said there was just a disagreement of opinion. He agreed with removing graffiti from number of areas in town. He agreed that although Public Works should not be doing state jobs, the state is not is not quick to respond or to get things done. He stated Public Works is doing a great job maintaining and does not want to see downtown looking like garbage.

Kurt stated Public Works Department has a strong group of workers that are able to take on extra work. He stated with regard to state property, the residents of Seymour deserve in a nice and clean town. People deserve to have swept streets and clean roads.

Len congratulated Karen on her great achievement.

Annmarie stated there is a Public Works meeting on June 13th at the Public Works facility. She stated she will mention all issues that were brought up and encouraged all to come down and voice concerns during public comment.

Kurt stated Seymour Police were looking through areas and could not find a bear. The bear is still at large.

ITEM #16: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 9:01 PM

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

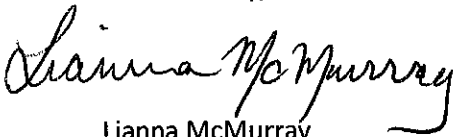
Second: Karen Stanek

0-Abstain

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes
Len Greene – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Submitted by,



Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman