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MINUTES

Special Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday, January 3, 2017 – 7:00 PM
Norma Drummer Room – Town Hall

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

Members Absent: Karen Stanek

Others Present: Town Counsel Rich Buturla, Community Services Director Mary McNelis, Rory Burke and Rich Demko

Item #1: Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3: Public comment

There was no public comment.

Item #4: Approve minutes from December 21, 2016 regular meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

Item #5: First Selectman's Report

1. The budget process is taking shape. Workshops are being set up for the month of February with the different departments. I am tentatively scheduled to present my budget to the Board of Finance on Wednesday, March 1.
2. We received notice from the CT Office of Policy and Management that the Town will have its Education Cost Sharing funding cut by roughly \$87,000 for Fiscal Year 2017. Every town and city in CT also received some kind of cut. I will be working with the Board of Education and the Board of Finance to absorb this cut with no impact to the residents or services.
3. We also received word that we will not receive our Fiscal Year 2017 Local Capital Improvement payment. While this will take away some opportunity to continue to improve our infrastructure, it will not have any impact on our budget as we have matching numbers on the revenue and expense side.

Item #6: Discussion with Community Services Director

Mary McNelis handed out a packet to the Selectmen.

Mary: All numbers are based on July 2016 to December 2016. Total registrations amount to 2,700 in 81 programs. Who are we really serving? 1,400 are seniors 55 and older. The 18-29 demographic is very small. We have started to reach out to them including a dodgeball tournament and an under-30

basketball league. I think there's room for growth there. 22% of registrations are in adult sports including our 5 morning exercise classes (yoga, Zumba, tai chi, etc.). 18% are day- and overnight trips including our monthly casino trips as well as Radio City, Mets games, Nelson Hall, Westchester dinner theater and Stormville flea market. Youth totals 788 registrations, or over 30%, including summer camps, vacation programs, CT Sports Center trips, basketball, Zumba for kids, tennis, summer football camp and a number of basketball camps. 13% is senior luncheons and it has grown. We received a grant from the Matthies Foundation that allows us to do a catered meal with entertainment and we're averaging 55-60 people. We charge 8 dollars and the entertainment and food are great. That also includes the monthly lunch bunch where we travel to a local restaurant. 11% is our aquatics program. We're using the pool at the high school more. We now have it Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings as well as Saturday afternoons, up from one night a week. Just this Fall, we had 129 children's swim lessons in what is usually a slow time of year for programming. We have 230 pool memberships where residents can use the pool. We're introducing a Masters Swim Club which is 6-6:45 AM Monday and Wednesday mornings. Residents have asked for it so we're going to try it. 4-6% is health and wellness education. That includes things like our diabetes workshop. We got it for free through a grant to Griffin Hospital. A nurse practitioner ran it for 6-8 weeks an hour and a half per week on how to manage diabetes. We just found another one called A Matter of Balance that can accommodate 16 people, free to residents. It's through Valley Community Health, who will run this 6-week program. We've introduced a lot of new programming just in the past 6 months. Men's over-40 basketball, church transportation, Zumba adult, dodgeball tournament, tai chi, swim lessons, summer football, Essex Steam Train trip, 9/11 Memorial trip and others are all new. For the next 6 months, new programs include a new fitness center through a Matthies grant with a treadmill, free weights, stationary bike, benches and others, water exercise class, Zumba toning, adult karate, theater programs, a chess club at Chatfield School, Yankees game, bocce court and a Pacific Coast cruise for which we have 28 registrants already. In terms of the Library, we've had over 24,000 patrons in the past 6 months. Unfortunately we can't isolate unique users. Circulation is at about 32,000, which is on par with local communities with the same population, such as Wolcott and New Canaan. EBooks is included and we see that growing. In terms of programming, the Library is doing great. Their children's programming has always done well but Suzanne Garvey, our Head Librarian, has done a great job on adult programming. They've had over 23 programs in the past 6 months. Ghost Hunting brought in over 70 people, Birds of Prey brought in 60, Pets First Aid 30 or 35 people. There were 952 attendees for children's programs. We ran 72 programs, all free, with 1,700 attendees at just the Library. For 2017, the biggest challenge is staffing. We have a lot of momentum, and the staff goes above and beyond, but as we grow our programs staffing will continue to be a concern. As facility usage and programming increases, the need for additional custodial staff and upkeep and maintenance will increase. We have something there 5 nights a week. Lastly, communication is always an issue. We're doing a good job, but there's always room for improvement. We're using Facebook, email blasts and the Voices insert. We need to find new, creative way to spread the message.

Annmarie: I think you're doing a great job growing the Community Center and it's great to see residents using our facilities. Keep up the good work.

Stephan: I think these numbers are great. Do you have comparative data?

Mary: I don't have the stats. It's taken us about a year to get our registration system fully implemented but we'll have it for next year.

Stephan: I think it's great you're emphasizing the 18-29 demographic. I'm on the Livable Communities Commission and we found that that group is underserved and there is a great desire for programming.

Mary: Zach Phillipas, who is our Recreation Manager, just opened a Twitter account because we feel that will help better reach that group.

Stephan: Have you looked at what is the most effective communication medium?

Mary: Email blasts and the Voices insert. Voices was best for parents and older people. As our system gets more users, email will become more effective.

Stephan: Can you elaborate on the flag football program?

Mary: We're waiting on approval. It would be at the high school and there would be an adult and high school league. We haven't priced it out until we get approval.

Stephan: I told a lot of my friends and there was interest. Do you think we can get enough people if we break it up like that?

Mary: We decided to separate it with the understanding that we can always join them together. Our dodgeball tournament was a mix of about 18-35 and that worked very well. There's a great video on YouTube and the Community Services Facebook page. We opened it up to Valley residents and it did very well. I think next year we'll have a number of teams from Seymour.

Stephan: Have you seen the senior lunches steadily growing? Livable Communities identified that as something other communities did very well.

Mary: I think it's growing and for a number of reasons. The price is great and the entertainment is a big draw.

Stephan: You think that will help keep Seymour people in Seymour?

Mary: Yes, we make sure to tell them about other programs when they're there. We also have a senior newsletter.

Kurt: The Superintendent has been very supportive and accommodating in helping to expand the use of school facilities. There are security concerns but we've made it work. Also, Zach is right in the 18-29 demographic so he's got insight into how we can attract them. The Community Center was once an empty building but now with Community Services, the Boys & Girls Club and the Food Bank, it's constantly full. That will require some investment in the facility.

Nicole: Keep up the good work. I'm floored by the participation rates.

Item #7: Discussion and take possible action regarding Siemens building monitoring contract

Selectmen:

We currently use Siemens to monitor 3 of our Town buildings. By adding the two firehouses and entering into a Town-wide contract, we will save approximately \$1,000 per year. The five-year term gives us a price certainty and creates budgetary consistency. The cost for the full term of the contract for fire alarm testing and inspection is \$5,588 with a 3% increase in year 3. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Anthony Caserta, Director of Operations

Kurt: We've been looking for efficiencies as contracts expire. This is another example of that.

A motion was made to enter into a contract with Siemens for building monitoring.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Discussion: Len: What does this replace?

Kurt: We're just bringing this all into one place.

Al: Have we already discussed this?

Rory: This is the second phase of consolidation.

Vote: 6-0

Item #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding awarding of roadway patching bid award

Kurt: The low bidder has withdrawn their bid. The Town Engineer reached out to review their numbers and they decided to withdraw. At this point, the Engineers is having discussions with the second low bidder and I expect us to be prepared for the next meeting.

Len: Is this going to impact the timeline?

Kurt: No, this work won't begin until the spring because the asphalt plants are closing.

Item #9: Executive Session (Personnel – Police Chief Contract; Legal Claim – Rybczyk settlement)

A motion was made to enter executive session at 7:35 PM inviting Town Counsel Rich Buturla to join.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to exit executive session at 7:58 PM noting that no action was taken.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

Item #10: Discussion and take possible action regarding Police Chief contract

No action was taken.

Item #11: Discussion and take possible action regarding Rybczyk settlement

No action was taken.

Item #12: Appointments

A motion was made to reappoint Joyce Koslowski to the Board of Ethics for a 4-year term expiring January 3, 2021.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Jim Forsyth to the Permanent Building Committee for a 2-year term expiring January 3, 2019.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to appoint Peter Kubik to the Permanent Building Committee for a 2-year term expiring January 3, 2019.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 6-0

Item #13: Tax Refunds/Abatements

A motion was made to approve the tax refunds and abatements as presented.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

Item #14: Transfers

There were no transfers before the Board.

Item #15: Correspondence

- Check registers.
- A report of a favorable vote by the Planning & Zoning Commission for the 8-24 referral for 139 Maple Street

Item #16: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item #17: Selectmen's Public Comments

Al: Happy New Year. I look forward to another year on the Board.

Annamarie: There was an accident on Holbrook Road that took out a pole. Eversource replaced the pole, but not the light. It's a bad area on the road so I want to make sure they're going to replace it.

Len: I want to thank Citizen's Engine and Great Hill for hosting Santa and driving him around Town.

Item #18: Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 6-0

Submitted by,



Rory Burke
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman