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MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, February 21, 2017 – 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

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

Members Absent: Annmarie Drugonis.

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; Daniel Lynch, Bryan Nesteriak, Fred Stanek, John Stelma, Kevin Flaherty, Janice Han, George Noe and John Stelma.

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.

Kevin Flaherty, 29 Emma Street, discussed some issues he has been having with the Small Cities Grant. He stated there are many inconsistencies with the grant. He passed out packets regarding his concerns. He read a mission statement from the packet. He suggested having someone from the town that is well versed in all aspects of the grant sit down with applicants and help them fill out the paperwork properly. He stated the biggest issue is the driveway. He did not receive an itemized bill. He has no knowledge of what his warranty entails. He stated his driveway already needs to be repaired. He also questioned if the contractors are pulling the correct permits. He thanked Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Al Bruno, Stephan Behuniak and various other people.

Janice Han, 29 Emma Street (with regard to the Small Cities Grant), stated the vinyl that was installed in her house approximately 6 months ago already rips in it. She stated upon moving her refrigerator to clean rips popped up. The contractor came to the house because they had a bubble at the edge of the vinyl which he fixed. They now noticed there is more. There is no itemization of costs. She said in less than 3 months after her screen door was installed, the weather stripping on the bottom came off. The weather stripping was covered under warranty and it took six weeks for the contractor to reinstall the new one. She discussed a couple other issues as well.

George Noe, 10 Rocky Glen, passed out presentation packets to all the board members. He made a quick review of the Small Cities Grant. He was very concerned with concrete dust left in the basement of his home from a new oil tank replacement, making the basement unusable. He stated the contractor said he would clean the entire area and came back 84 days later. He stated there are too many problems with the driveway to cover. He questioned whether there were past customers who were billed excessive amounts for work done, items supplied, and workmanship. He suggested there should be an investigation. His oil tank replacement failed the permit inspection done by the Building Inspector. The Building Inspector also pointed out various deficiencies in his driveway.

John Stelma, 3 Oriole Lane, had issues with the Small Cities Grant as well. His home is still a work in progress. He stated that he received a letter from Nafis & Young which assured him that the driveway was acceptable and that it was covered under a one year warranty. His bathroom was completed two

weeks ago and there is already a crack in the molding. He doesn't know what the different projects cost. The contractor did some repairs to his stairway but didn't fix the landing. He also discussed issues with windows. He would like clarity on everything.

Dan Lynch, Middlebury, CT, candidate for Senator for the 32nd District, said three out of the four people who spoke had reached out to him regarding the Small Cities Grant. He stated it was clear that something wasn't quite right. He is concerned that this could potentially be a program that has wider problems. He believes things should be investigated. He made attempts to contact First Selectmen's Offices on many occasions, not only in Seymour but other towns as well and is disappointed. He stated his concerns with the Governor's budget. He is looking forward to working with everyone.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from February 7, 2017 meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from February 7, 2017 meeting.

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 4-Yes

0-No

2-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Abstain

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Abstain

ITEM #5: First Selectman's Report.

1. Budget process continues to take shape. Workshops are ongoing. The Board of Finance has begun their initial deliberations. My budget is just about done but I am waiting for a few last minute numbers to come in. I will be presenting my full budget as well as an overview of the town's finances to the Board of Finance on Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 pm.
2. The Governor presented his budget to the legislature on Wednesday, February 8th. In this presentation, he outlined his plan for the state budget for the next two years. This budget includes state revenue cuts to 139 towns and cities across the state while boosting revenue to the larger cities like Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport. Overall, Seymour is projected to take about a \$700,000 cut. The Governor is also recommending that the towns and cities be responsible to 1/3 the cost of the teachers' pension plan moving forward. That will be an increase in cost to the towns and cities of over \$407 million dollars a year. As you can imagine, these changes will be a tremendous amount of stress on local budgets. While I am projecting, as planned, a decrease of overall expenses and a reduction in the mill rate, this level of funding from the Governor's budget proposal will make that very challenging.
3. On behalf of CCM, Mayor O'Leary of Waterbury and I met with state legislators regarding the potential PTSD Works Comp bill that has been proposed for Police Officers and Firefighters. While we agree that something should be done to help our first responders in these situations, we can't support this bill in its current state. We are expected to meet several times over the coming weeks to see if an agreement of some kind can be made.
4. Contract negotiations are ongoing with Clerks Union and the DPW Union. We have been able to work quickly through the initial meetings and I expect to have some updates for you in late March as to where we stand.
5. The pre-construction meeting for Rimmon Road was held. Contractor is expected to break ground on the project by April 1 and has an expected completion date of Spring 2018.

ITEM #6: Discussion and take possible action regarding awarding of bid for Community Center Parking Lot.

Motion to table Item #6: Discussion and take possible action regarding awarding of bid for Community Center Parking Lot.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Len Greene

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action on acceptance of Chatfield Farms.

Kurt read the following letter:

Dear Selectmen:

Be advised that the majority of the work for the roadways at the Chatfield Farms subdivision has been completed and inspected to a satisfactory level. This office coordinated the work to complete the road, of which the original developer never finished. To clarify, the town pulled the bond on the developer in order to complete the work, which consisted of sidewalks, asphalt, curbing, cleanup, land surveying and other miscellaneous work. I am pleased to inform you that the work was all complete within the received bond amount.

I have provided to this board and the town planner as-built surveys of the three roadways, which include Stony Creek Lane, Bridal Path Lane, and Barn Hill Lane. I can also assure that the work we inspected was completed in accordance with the town's standards. The three roadways are suitable to be accepted by the town.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely, Bryan Nesteriak

Motion to accept Stony Creek Lane, Bridle Path Lane, and Barn Hill Lane as town roads as recommended by Town Engineer, Bryan Nesteriak, in his letter dated February 17, 2017.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

ITEM #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding State Library grant application.

Kurt read the following:

To: W. Kurt Miller, First Selectman

Board of Selectmen

From: Susan DeBarber, Town Clerk

RD: State Library Grant

Requesting the First Selectman and the Board of Selectmen to empower the Town Clerk to execute the application and contract with the State Library for a \$4,000.00 grant. The grant will be used to upgrade our land record software system. This will be used to bring our land records back from 1972.

This provides easy, accessible information for attorneys, title searchers and the public in our vault as well as online.

Motion that the Board of Selectmen empower the Town Clerk to execute the application and contract for the State Library for a \$4,000.00 grant.

Motion: Len Greene

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

ITEM #9: Appointments

Motion to reappoint Bill Paecht to the Parks Commission for a term of two (2) years expiring on February 21, 2019.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Vote: 6-Yes 0-No
W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Second: Len Greene
0-Abstain
Len Greene – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

ITEM #10: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report as presented.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

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

Len Greene – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

ITEM #11: Transfers.

None.

ITEM #12: Correspondence.

- Check registers

ITEM #13: Public Comment

Kevin Flaherty, 29 Emma Street, stated he contacted Senator Blumenthal's office as well as various other senators and representatives and received only one call back. He stated he is not sure what can be done for him and doesn't want this to happen to someone else.

ITEM #14: Selectmen's Public Comments.

Stephan Behuniak thanked everyone who spoke at public comment and applauded them for being there. He also welcomed Karen back.

Karen Stanek stated she has become acutely aware of what is going on with the Ansonia Library. She doesn't think they should close it.

Kurt reassured Karen that the library is all set here in Seymour.

Karen inquired where the boot drive was.

Kurt stated it was right under the bridge on Rte. 67. It was this past Saturday.

Karen stated she was annoyed with Derby for shutting down Rte. 34 for collecting money for their boot drive.

Kurt stated our Fire Department did the boot drive at the lights.

Len Greene said this was the first he had heard of complaints about the Small Cities Grant. He stated it is disconcerting to hear this is happening in town. He thinks there should be some kind of an investigation. He stated the board members will try to do what they can to bring attention to the matter and to make sure it doesn't happen down the road.

Al Bruno thanked everyone for coming out tonight and making people aware of the issues. He thanked Mr. Flaherty for giving the information about what was going on.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria stated she will continue to look into the Small Cities Grant issues on a state level. She hopes the issues can be rectified. She stated Public Works did a great job on the roads for the past two storms. She congratulated the Seymour Middle School cheerleaders on taking second place in their competition. She congratulated Len Greene on becoming the Deputy First Selectman.

Kurt stated we have been looking into the issues the residents have raised for the last couple weeks. The plan is administered by a consultant and the town does periodic audits on different accounts. He has had multiple conversations with the Building Inspector, Jim Baldwin and Jim Galligan, Town Engineer. Kurt said this isn't going to be swept aside but it will take some time. He has had multiple discussions with Lisa Low. There will be updates coming out but no specific timeline. They will need to be reviewed case by case. There were 18 or 19 homes done in 2014 and there were no issues with those homes. They want to see if there is an issue with the program or specific contractors. He requested that any questions or concerns to be directed to Rory and Dee.

Karen stated in the last meetings minutes, pages 3 and 4 have two spelling errors.

ITEM #15: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 7:47 PM.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Len Greene – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Submitted by,



Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman