

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

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 3/8/17
TIME: 2:50pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Members Present: W. Kurt Miller, Stephan Behuniak, Karen Stanek, Len Greene Jr., Al Bruno & Annmarie Drugonis

Members Absent: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Others Present: Town Counsel

Item #1: Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3: Public comment

Kevin Flaherty – 29 Emma Street – He read from the Small Cities housing rehabilitation contract. He says he was never given an itemized bill to approve as the contract requires.

Janice Han – 29 Emma Street – She read a portion of the Small Cities housing rehabilitation contract. She has had 2 repairs on her vinyl floor and is looking at a third. The contractor came 2 days after the last Board of Selectmen's meeting. They said they were going to cut a square out and replace it. She wants new vinyl and not a patch job. She says the contractor told her that it would only be replaced rather than repaired if they paid for it out of pocket.

Robert Kukiel – 17 Emma Street – He is not involved in the Small Cities program but he is involved in the American Legion. At least two veterans in his post are involved with it. They asked him to look into it and report back. Tonight's agenda says Small Cities and he wants to know if it is the same program. We think there should be a public meeting about this. We want to know how the Town was involved with this. The work was not done in the manner it was supposed to be done. There wasn't much interaction between the people doing the work and those requesting it. It's as if the elderly people and veterans were allowed any input or provided any guidance. They don't know what the bidding process was or who bid. They have a contractor looking at a bid and said that the price was inflated and that he was unaware of the bid process. The work was also supposed to be done to Town standards and it wasn't. It wasn't inspected as it should have been. They were supposed to be given an option to look at the bids. They were supposed to be paid as the work was finished only if it was satisfactory. He believes no one had any input from the Town on this. One repair failed inspection. They are being ignored by the grant administrator. People have been taken advantage of. They paid for this work with liens on their homes. The people winning the bids are always the same people. Some of this seems very questionable. The grant administrator was paid for work that people are not satisfied with. They don't know how to proceed, whether we need to get lawyers. The homeowners weren't given the information they were

supposed to be. They haven't gotten any information from the grants administrator. There is apparently a time limit on complaints but we haven't been told who to complain to.

George Noe – 10 Rocky Glen – He read from his Small Cities contract. He wants to know if the contract means that his approval can be overridden.

Janice Han – 29 Emma Street – She wants to clarify that the Building Inspector did come when the job was done. It seemed like the permits were only signed off on when they contractor got a little prompting. Someone working for the grants administrator took the paperwork and said it would be returned by it hasn't been seen since.

Item #4: Approve minutes from February 21, 2017 meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2017 regular meeting.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5-0-1 (Annmarie Drugonis abstained)

Item #5: First Selectman's Report

I presented my budget to the Board of Finance on Wednesday. The projected fund balance will be 9.97% or 10.25% if you include restricted accounts. I want to increase the floor to 9.25%. Our debt payments will be at 8.04%, which is trending in the direction we hoped it to. We'll reduce our debt burden by 50% in the next 10 years if we don't add more. The budget I presented on the Town side was a 2.15% decrease in expenses. The Board of Education side was an increase of 1.15%. Overall, there was decreased by .23%. The mill rate would drop but it will depend how the State budget pans out. At CCM today, we had conversations about how to move forward. Tomorrow, the legislature may vote to waive town charters and ordinances to give them until June to set budgets. The municipalities are reticent about letting the State do so once because then a threshold has been crossed. We have a few more weeks still left in the Town budget process. The State's appropriations committee has to have their budget done by April 24th and the finance committee a week later. The Town is in good financial shape and we can absorb \$500,000 without any impact to the taxpayers but we need to look forward to future fiscal years to ensure budgetary stability.

Item #6: Discussion and take possible action regarding fire department tax abatements

Kurt - These are the standard abatements we do every year. There is a ranking system to determine the points that count toward the maximum \$1,000 abatement.

A motion was made to approve the abatements as presented.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Discussion: Annmarie Drugonis – I saw an out of town address and I want to be sure we can only give it to in-town property.

Kurt – I believe he owns property in Seymour, but we will check.

Vote: 6-0

Item #7: Discussion and take possible action regarding Rise Up Day proclamation

Kurt - Ernie DiStasi, Vice Principal of the Middle School, created Bound for Success, a mentorship program. He has been working to find ways to fund it and he created this Rise Up event.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Bound for Success, Seymour Public School's mentoring program, began in 2014 and has paired dozens of children with successful members of the community, and

WHEREAS, Rise Up was started to serve as a fundraiser to support Bound for Success and is an integral part of the program, and

WHEREAS, In 2015, the program was a great success where over 70 staff members performed at the event in front of 700 spectators, and

WHEREAS, In 2016, the event expanded into Rise Up Day, a district-wide spirit day where community members can purchase t-shirt to benefit the program and demonstrate their community pride, then be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the Town of Seymour hereby declares Thursday, March 16, 2017 to be Rise Up Day to support Bound for Success and its role in strengthening our community,

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and this 7th day of March, 2017 caused this seal to be affixed.

W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman

A motion was made to approve the proclamation as presented.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Stephen Behuniak

Discussion: Kurt – I encourage everyone to come out Thursday the 16th at 7 at the Middle School.

Vote: 6-0

Item #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding Girl Scout Day proclamation

Girl Scout Day Proclamation

A Proclamation Celebrating 105 years of Girl Scouting

WHEREAS, March 12, 2017 marks the 105th 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 32,000 girls in grades K-12 across the state of Connecticut; and,

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 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, 2017, as Girl Scout Day.

A motion was made to approve the proclamation as presented.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis **Second:** Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

Item #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding 2017 Farmers Market

To The Town of Seymour Board of Selectmen,

The Seymour Farmers Market would like to request permission to hold the open air weekly market in the front municipal parking lot of the community center on Pine Street/Broad Street on Tuesdays, 12-6pm starting May 16 and ending October 31, 2017.

The Seymour Farmers Market has been home to many farmers. At times, the market has had up to 7 vendors. The Seymour Farmers Market will be working with the CT Department of Agriculture to recruit new farmers to make the market more successful.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

2017 will mark the 23rd season, feeding families of all surrounding Naugatuck Valley towns, as well as far away as the Danbury, Milford, New Haven areas.

Thank you very much for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexis Gazy, Seymour Farmers Market

A motion was made to approve the usage of the Community Center parking lot for the 2017 Seymour Farmers' Market

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Discussion: Kurt – I want to make sure that the parking lot behind the church is completed to avoid issues. We have concerns on Tuesdays with school because of the Boys & Girls Club as well as with summer camp. We'll work with them to make it work smoothly.

Len – If the parking lot goes beyond the 15th is there backup plan?

Kurt – It should only be a few days. The contractor is anxious to get going so it shouldn't be an issue.

Vote: 6-0

Item #9: Discussion and take possible action regarding awarding of bid for Community Center parking lot

Dear Selectmen,

On January 26, 2017, the Town received twelve (12) bids for the above referenced project:

See the attached Bid Tabulation sheet for a summary of the bids.

As indicated in the attached tabulation, the low bidder for the Base Bid was Earthworks, the #2 bidder is Grasso Paving and the #3 bidder is A&J Construction. Once the bid alternates are considered, the low bidder is either Earthworks or A&J, depending on the value of the contract.

Accordingly, it is our opinion that the Town's best interests would be served by awarding the above referenced Project to Earthworks in the amount of \$99,700.00 (ninety nine thousand seven hundred dollars) for the base bid only.

We trust this information allows the Board to make an informed decision on this matter.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,

Donald W. Smith, Jr., P.E.

Consulting Engineer

Kurt - The bids were all over the map. We also added alternates for other parts of the Community Center lot to see if it was feasible. After reviewing the options, we decided to just move forward with the lot immediately behind the church. We are finalizing the contract with the church now.

A motion was made to award the bid in the amount of \$99,700 to Earthworks as recommended by Town Engineer Don Smith.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to add to the agenda: Discussion and take possible action regarding forwarding the Community Center Parking lot to the Planning & Zoning Commission for an §8-24 referral

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

Discussion and take possible action regarding forwarding the Community Center Parking lot to the Planning & Zoning Commission for an §8-24 referral

A motion was made to forward the Community Center Parking lot to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a §8-24 referral.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Seconde: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-0

Item #10: Discussion and take possible action regarding Sustainability Committee

Kurt – Rory had the idea to put together a committee to help work on sustainability projects. Len also had discussed it with me. This is an opportunity to take on some more sustainability initiatives to make the Town more green. The projects are good not only for the environment, but also good for our finances. It will consist of Len, Stephan, Rory, Stephan's friend Joey Ortiz and a fifth person to be

determined. If you have any ideas for a fifth member, please let me know. I'd like to officially establish the committee on the 21st.

Item #11: Discussion and take possible action regarding setting of a public hearing regarding the Small Cities Grant on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Seymour will conduct a public hearing by the Board of Selectmen on March 21, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at the Seymour Town Hall, 1 First Street #4, Seymour, CT 06483 to discuss the Fiscal Year 2017 Community Development Block Grant program and to solicit citizen input.

Maximum award limits: \$700,000 for Public Facilities; \$700,000 for Public Housing Modernization of 25 units or less, or \$800,000 for 26 units and over; \$500,000 for Infrastructure; \$400,000 for Housing Rehabilitation Program for single towns, \$500,000 for two-town consortium, and \$600,000 for three or more Towns; \$25,000 for Planning Only Grants; \$500,000 for Economic Development Activities, and \$500,000 for Urgent Need.

Major activity categories are: Acquisition, Housing Rehabilitation, Public Housing Modernization, Community Facilities, Public Services, and Economic Development. Projects funded with CDBG allocations must carry out at least one of three National Objectives: benefit to low- and moderate-income persons, elimination of slums and blight, or meeting urgent community development needs. The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain citizen's views on the Town's community development and housing needs and review and discuss specific project activities in the areas of housing, economic development or community facilities which could be part of the Town's Application for funding.

Also, the public hearing will be to give citizens an opportunity to make their comments known on the program and for approval of the Program Income Reuse Plan. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, you may direct written comments to the Town of Seymour, First Selectman W. Kurt Miller, 1 First Street #4, Seymour, CT 06483 at the above address between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Mon-Thur and the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Fridays.

The Community Development/Housing Department on behalf of the Town of Seymour anticipates applying for a grant not to exceed the amount of \$500,000 under the Public Housing Modernization category of 26 units or more. In addition, the Town will create a revolving loan fund with program income (principal and interest) generated from the grant, if any, for public housing modernization. The Town of Seymour promotes fair housing and makes all programs available to low- and moderate-income households regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, lawful source of income, or gender identity or expression.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, you may direct written comments to the Town of Seymour, First Selectman W. Kurt Miller, 1 First Street #4, Seymour, CT 06483 or you may telephone W. Kurt Miller at 203-888-2511. In addition, information may be obtained at the above address between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. The hearing will also review and discuss the Town's prior Small Cities projects including any currently open or underway.

"All are encouraged to attend. The hearing is accessible to the handicapped. Any disabled persons requiring special assistance or non-English speaking persons should contact Deirdre Caruso ADA Coordinator, at 203-888-2511 at least five days prior to the hearing. The Town of Seymour is applying for two emergency generators for the Norman Ray and Father Callahan houses.

Selectman Bruno left at 7:55 PM.

Len – To be clear, this has nothing to do with the previous Small Cities grant that was discussed during public comment?

Kurt – Correct.

Annmarie – Are these automatic and will they be properly monitored?

Kurt – Yes and yes.

Karen – With regards to maintenance, we're lucky enough to have a generator at my house. It has to be maintained twice a year. Is that being considered?

Kurt – Yes, we have a contract already for the generators for Town buildings and I imagine we would add it to that.

A motion was made to set the public hearing for Tuesday, March 21st at 6:30 PM in the Norma Drummer Room at Seymour Town Hall.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 5-0

Item #12: Appointments

A motion was made to reappoint Kathy Conroy-Cass to the Economic Development Commission for a 3-year term expiring March 7, 2020.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 5-0

A motion was made to appoint Phil Wilhelmy IV to the Recreation Commission for a 2-year term expiring March 7, 2019.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 5-0

Selectman Bruno returned at 8:01 PM

A motion was made to reappoint Collen Lundgren to the Recreation Commission for a 2-year term expiring March 7, 2019.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Janice Keough to the Recreation Commission for a 2-year term expiring March 7, 2019.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Jeff Dussetschleger to the Strategic Planning Committee for a 2-year term expiring March 18, 2019.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Jen Magri to the Strategic Planning Committee for a 2-year term expiring March 18, 2019.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

Item #13: Tax Refunds/Abatements

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

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Stephen Behuniak

Vote: 6-0

Item #14: Transfers

There were no transfers before the Board.

Item #15: Correspondence

Check Register

Letter from Joseph Luciano regarding concerns with enforcement of Seymour's snow removal ordinances.

Resignation letter from Nick Cass from the Recreation Commission

Letter from the State of CT approving \$3.8 million in LOTCIP funds for the reconstruction of Holbrook Road

Item #16: Public Comment

Kevin Flaherty – 29 Emma Street – Driveways are the biggest line item we have left. We need to get some direction on that.

Kevin Kukiel – 17 Emma Street – I didn't want to imply any impropriety on behalf of the Town. Everyone at Town Hall has always been very friendly and professionally.

Item #17: Selectmen's Public Comments

Stephan – Do we have any updates on the Animal Shelter?

Kurt – I've only heard one complaint and we assume if we don't hear anything that it's good news. We used to get complaints almost weekly and now the feedback is generally positive.

Stephan – You don't get any indication that people are using it less now that it's in another town?

Kurt – Not that it's impossible, but we haven't had any indication. Also, they got the STEAP grant to improve the shelter, which will be good.

Karen – Saturday is St. Patrick’s Day so I’d like to wish everyone a happy St. Patrick’s Day and to point out that I am wearing my green.

Len – I was thinking about Rimmon Street and the Greenway Trail. Rimmon Street and the Greenway have had pre-construction meetings. Rimmon should be started any day and begin in earnest in April. I spoke with the Economic Development Director immediately before the meeting and that should begin in April as well. Holbrook will be LOTCIP, which can only have one application at a time. We will put Bungay in next and Mountain following that. Our hope is to have them both done in 2018.

Len – Do we have a communications plan ahead of time if there will be an impact to traffic?

Kurt – Probably only by the entrance ramp to Route 8. Milone has done a good job though and we will reach out to them.

Al – I want to congratulate the Seymour High School boys’ basketball team on advancing in the State tournament. I also want to commend Ernie Distasi on what should be another great program.

Kurt – Also, the girl’s cheerleading team won the state tournament.

Annmarie – I want to welcome Karen back. I want to congratulate the High School cheerleaders on winning States and the Seymour Middle School girls’ basketball team on their first ever tournament win. Is the light on Holbrook being replaced on the bad turn? I’m also looking forward to the Rise Up Day event as well.

Kurt – RealTerm, the contractor doing the streetlights, will be in on Thursday. They will also be installing sample lights on Broad Street Bridge to allow residents a chance to put in some feedback.

Annmarie – A resident on Sprucebrook asked if they’re replacing the light poles as well as the fixtures.

Kurt – They are not. Only the fixtures will be replaced.

Item #18: Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Submitted by,



Rory Burke
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman