

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 10/10/17
TIME: 2:50pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, October 3, 2017 – 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

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

Others Present: Richard Buturla, Town Counsel; Tom Eighmie, Nathan Riddle and Michael Flaherty.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

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

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

None.

ITEM #4: Presentation from Eagle Scout Nathan Riddle on veteran parking.

As an Eagle Scout project, Nathan created Purple Heart parking spaces for veterans across parking lots in Seymour.

Nathan felt that the project went very well. He installed 7 signs in the parking lots of the Board of Education office, the Community Center, Gary Park, Matthies Park, Sochrin's Pond, Chatfield Park and French Memorial Park. The spaces are designated for Purple Heart veterans. He felt it was important to honor them in this fashion. There is no way of regulating this because it hasn't been done before. It is very similar to handicap regulations but nothing has been put in place.

Kurt stated that Nathan will be working with Nicole to get something passed at the state level. Nathan put a lot of time and effort into this project. The signs are quite visible and he encouraged everyone to take a look around town.

Nicole commended Nathan on a job well done and she will do whatever she can to move this forward at the state level.

ITEM #5: Approve minutes from September 5, 2017 regular meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from September 5, 2017 regular meeting.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

ITEM #6: First Selectman's Report.

- At the next Board of Selectmen meeting on October 17th there will be no business conducted other than Charter Revision. They can focus their entire attention on that. I would like to leave with a document that day so we can send that to the Charter Revision Commission.
- I attended GFOA New England meeting with Doug Thomas. For the third year in a row, the Town of Seymour won the GFOA award of excellence in financial accounting for Fiscal Year 2016. Doug and the finance team do an exceptional job managing the town's finances. This award is added proof that we are continuing to move the Town of Seymour's finances in the right direction. I fully expect we will win our fourth award for fiscal year 2017.

- With the Governor's veto of the state budget that was passed by both the House and the Senate effective yesterday through executive order, the Governor has proposed drastic budget cuts to towns and cities all across Connecticut. This executive order had a direct impact on the first ECS payment for fiscal year 2018. Seymour was expected to receive \$2,532,123.00 but instead only received \$502,049.00 or \$2,030,074 less. As this is the one quarter payment we are projecting in our total ECS funding will be roughly \$8,120,296.00 less than expected. As you can imagine this is going to have a dramatic impact on not only the current budget but budgets for years to come. In consultation with the finance team and Superintendent Wilson, we have a three step plan that will need to be enacted over the next few months. I would expect a joint meeting of Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education to be called to review the plan in the coming weeks. Our projected cut of \$8,120,296.00 is the 18th largest cut dollar wise across the State of Connecticut.

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action regarding National Sikh Day Proclamation.

Kurt read the following proclamation as follows:

National Sikh Day Proclamation

WHEREAS, Sikhism is a religion founded in the Punjab region of South Asia over five centuries ago and introduced to the United States in the 19th century; and

WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth largest world independent religion with approximately 30 million adherents from diverse backgrounds throughout the world, including 700,000 adherents in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Sikhs in the United States pursue diverse professions and walks of life, making rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of the United States, including service as members of the United Armed Forces and

WHEREAS, Vaisakhi is one of the most religiously significant days in the Sikh history, commemoration the creation of the Khalsa, a fellowship of devout Sikhs, by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699; and

WHEREAS, the Sikh religion is based on a belief in one God and the equality of all human beings; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Vaisakhi includes performing Seva (selfless service), such as providing free meals to all visitors to Sikh Gurdwaras (House of Worship); and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, W. Kurt Miller, First Selectman of the Town of Seymour, on behalf of the Town of Seymour, hereby wish the Sikh American Community a joyous Vaisakhi celebration on April 14th, 2018 (Mool Nanakshai Sikh Calendar) and Declare Vaisakhi Day as **National Sikh Day**.

TOWN OF Seymour, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Given this 3rd day of October, 2017

W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman

Motion to accept the proclamation as presented.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

ITEM #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding hiring head custodian.

Kurt read the following memo:

I ask that the Board of Selectmen to offer the Head Custodian position at Step Five to Alex Danka, with an effective date of Wednesday, November 1, 2017.

Sincerely, W. Kurt Miller

Motion that the Town of Seymour offer employment effective on November 1, 2017 at Step Five to Alex Danka for the position of Head Custodian.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

ITEM #9: Discussion and take possible action regarding 2017 Emergency Management Performance Grant resolution.

Kurt read the following resolution:

**AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF
the Town of Seymour Board of Selectmen**

CERTIFICATION:

I, Susan DeBarber, the Town Clerk of the Town of Seymour, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Selectmen at its duly called and held meeting on October 3, 2017, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified rescinded, or revoked and it at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen may inter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that W. Kurt Miller, as First Selectmen of the Town of Seymour, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents

The undersigned further certifies that W. Kurt Miller now holds the office of First Selectman and that he has held that office since December 5, 2011.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this 4th day of October 2017.

Susan DeBarber
Town Clerk

Motion to approve the authorizing resolution by the Town of Seymour Board of Selectmen as presented by Susan DeBarber, Town Clerk.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Discussion:

Tom Eighmie, 50 Laurel Lane; Emergency Management Director, stated this is a standard form from the State of Connecticut as prescribed by FEMA. All municipalities apply for an MLA with governing bodies. Each Town in Region 2 (which Seymour is a part of), have to do a resolution in order for Region 2 to receive funding from the Federal Government. On a regional level, the money goes to the Bear Cat

Police Unit in Wallingford, a burn trailer at New Haven Fire, a Communications Vehicle in the City of New Haven, Port Authority equipment in Branford, other tactical police equipment throughout the region; regional hazmat team, regional fire out of Wallingford, as well as maintenance items on the equipment.

ITEM #10: Discussion and take possible action regarding postage machine contract.

Motion to move forward with the new postage machine contract as presented by the Director of Operations Tony Castera for 60 monthly payments of \$224.14.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

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

Al Bruno – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

ITEM #11: Appointments.

Motion to appoint Fred Stanek to the Memorial Day Parade Committee for a term of two (2) years expiring on October 3, 2019.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

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

Al Bruno – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Motion to appoint Jim Cretella to the WPCA for a term of two (2) years expiring on October 3, 2019.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

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

Al Bruno – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

ITEM #12: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to approve the Tax Collectors report of September 1, 2017 as presented.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

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

Al Bruno – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Motion to approve the Tax Collectors report of September 29, 2017 as presented.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

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

Al Bruno – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

ITEM #13: Transfers.

None.

ITEM #14: Correspondence.

- Check registers

- Letter from Pure Point Energy thanking the town for time and effort that was put in for the Solarize Seymour Program.
- Resignation letter from Marietta Sabetta stepping down from the Economic Development Commission. She served on the board for 10 years and will be missed.
- Resignation letter from Rosalie Averill stepping down from the Economic Development Commission. She served on the board for many years and will be missed.
- Letter from Dr. Jeff resigning from the 10-Year Strategic Planning Committee. He has been appointed as the Executive Director of Naugatuck Valley Health District and feels it will be a conflict of interest for him to remain on the board.
- Letter from Cheryl Michaud with regard to practice facilities for the Pop Warner Cheerleaders. Kurt and Superintendent Wilson have had conversations with her already. The issue has been addressed and practice space is being provided to the cheerleaders.
- Letter of resignation from Bill Wilkins, Jr. stepping down from the Friends of Broad Street Park due to changes in his schedule.

ITEM #15: Public Comment.

Alex Danka, 203 Pearl Street, stated that December 9th will be the date for the fireworks at the Land Trust. He complimented the people responsible for putting up the scarecrows around downtown; they look great.

ITEM #16: Selectmen's Public Comments.

Stephan Behuniak stated he loves the scarecrows around downtown. He thinks it is great for the town and he hopes they get more participation next year.

Karen Stanek complimented Judy Simpson and Culture & Arts Commission for making downtown look wonderful. She spoke at the Charter Revision Commission last week. Tonight confirms the concerns she expressed to them with the two resignations from the Economic Development Commission. Her suggestion is to empower the Economic Development Commission to have more authority with regard to economic decisions in the town and to survey the work done by the Economic Development Director. She believes the Economic Development Commission should have a strong voice and should have their opinions heard.

Kurt stated that in reading Marietta's letter, she went into great detail as to why she is resigning. She did not raise any of those concerns. He doesn't disagree with Karen's comments from the Charter Revision Commission meeting. He made comments and suggestions as to how her suggestions can be strengthened. The current Board of Selectmen, as well as, Kurt did not hire the Economic Development Director. He was hired prior to Kurt taking office with a certain charge and directives. For those things to be changed, it would require a charter change.

Karen stated that everyone can be replaced. That is why there are job descriptions. She gave examples from when she was a teacher. She discussed measureable goals. She stated that if your goal is measureable and not met, you should be told. That should be the case with regard to any position or responsibility in this country beginning at the top.

Karen discussed job descriptions not being a part of the Charter but a particular position is and it has a job description. That position has certain requirements or expectations of performance and if those are not satisfied, there needs to be accountability.

Kurt stated that in the current system that we are in, that is not as easily done as you think. Trying to remove employees from service is not as easy as one would think. He gave an example of an

employee whose benefits the town is still paying for. Everyone has their own personal opinions about the performance of specific individuals. There are right and wrong ways of doing things.

Karen thinks that accountability is a matter of evaluation in a fair and honorable way.

Kurt stated this is the system we have to work with until the system can be changed.

Al Bruno stated the Pumpkin Festival had a great turnout and it was a beautiful day. He is looking forward to the Seymour Pink 5K and the events coming up. The fields look fantastic in town. He thanked Public Works and all the employees there. They are doing a great job and it makes a huge difference.

Kurt stated the First Selectman's office isn't doing anything big for the Seymour Pink 5K. His cousin, Denise, is going through chemo at the moment but he will be walking. Rory will be selling pink garbage cans for \$150.00 at a booth at the 5K.

Annmarie Drugonis loves the scarecrows. They look great and they bring such liveliness to downtown.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria commended Culture & Arts on a job well done with the scarecrows downtown. She is looking forward to the Seymour Pink Breast Cancer walk. There are 2,600 people who have signed up. She loves seeing the Seymour Pink Breast Cancers banners go up each year. She congratulated the Eagle Scout on the creation of the parking signs. She stated the Pumpkin Festival was another success.

ITEM #17: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 7:42 P.M.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Second: Karen Stanek

0-Abstain

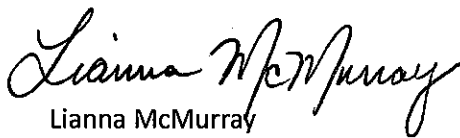
Al Bruno – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Submitted by,



Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman