

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen

Tuesday, October 17, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Norma Drummer Room – Town Hall

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

Members Absent: Karen Stanek

Others Present: Town Counsel Bryan LeClerc, Tony Caserta – Director of Operations, John Healey – Mesirov Capitol (Seymour underwriters), Bruce Chudwick – Shipman & Goodwin LLP (Seymour bond counsel)

Item #1: Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3: Discussion and take possible action regarding a Resolution to Authorize, Issue and Sell General Obligation Refunding Bonds in an Amount not to Exceed \$12,000,000

John Healey – The State of Connecticut is still without a budget. We've been living under the Governor's executive order that could cut Seymour's funding by as much as \$8 million. The First Selectman contacted us in July to start looking at contingencies in case this happened. He asked us for a multi-pronged approach including cuts and refunding. We were tasked with restructuring the Town's debt to try to ease this burden. The Legislature passed a bill allowing municipalities to extend their debt to 30 years. This is a useful tool when used responsibly to manage the Town's debt and to weather these draconian cuts. We found about \$4-5 million in debt service savings but it may not have been the most prudent course of action because extending the debt increases the total amount the Town pays in interest. We were asked to fund about \$2 million in savings for the next two fiscal years in such a way that future administrations wouldn't be left with fewer options. We've got a tax-exempt and taxable option. The taxable option is because some of this debt has been refunded before. On the bright side, there's not a big difference between these rates so the penalty will be very small. It is \$6.5 million in tax-exempt and \$3.5 million in taxable. Remember that this is a restructuring, which saves money on future debt service rather than a refunding, which provides immediate savings. We believe we can generate over \$1 million in the current fiscal year and \$1.9 million in the next two before the debt service increase from its current trajectory. The amount is not much larger than \$100,000-\$200,000, which is very reasonable and doesn't saddle future administrations with an impossible situation. Fortunately, Seymour has a rapid amortization of debt, meaning debt is quickly retiring off the rolls. We held ourselves to 60% of principal retired in the next ten years. We kept in mind how ratings agencies will view these types of transactions. Seymour would be one of the first and we feel that would be beneficial. This action is a hedge because we do not know what the eventual budget document will look like. If the budget costs the Town \$8 million, this transaction offers flexibility without penalizing the Town. If the Town is held harmless or somewhere in between, we would propose moving forward with this transaction and using the savings towards the Town's contingent liabilities, such as the OPEB trust.

A large infusion of cash is needed to eventually allow the Town's trust's interest to fund the liability. Ultimately, it would be a shame to see Seymour penalized for something outside their control since they've been very fiscally prudent in the past several years. Moody's put 26 municipalities on downgrade watch and an additional 25 on notice yesterday. The criterion was whether the municipality's fund balance was larger than the Governor's cut. In 2020 Seymour has a series of 2010 bonds that will be prime for refunding. This will allow the Town to smooth out the impact of this proposed transaction.

Bruce Chudwick – In order to approve this transaction, the resolution requires a 2/3 majority to approve this resolution. The target amount for the transaction is \$10 million but the resolution allows for \$12 million because it offers us flexibility in case the market changes before the transaction is finalized in December.

John – This transaction would be conducted on a negotiated basis. Basically, everything would be set up but if we arrive at the sale date and something has changed, we have the ability to hold off. Similarly, we can accelerate the transaction if the market becomes more favorable. We believe the flexibility this offers us is in the best interest of the Town.

Len – Can you put this in layman's terms?

John – If there is a reduction in State aid you can tax more, spend less, or restructure existing obligations. This mitigates the need for the Town to have to issue a larger supplemental tax or cut than would otherwise be necessary. This will allow the current level of service to continue without burdening future generations.

Len – So in your firm's opinion, this transaction is the most efficient way to face the coming budget?

John – Yes, we believe it's the most prudent course of action since the future is unknown but will likely be negative without going too far.

Kurt – The three-pronged approach we discussed was \$2 million in cuts, \$2 million in restructuring of debt and potentially \$4 million in a special tax if it came to it. If it doesn't, we'll reinvest it in such a way that we can further stabilize the mill rate. It will not be used for tax relief.

Nicole – I think this is an important move for Seymour and I think other cities and towns will follow. It allows us some measure of protection with the uncertainty we're facing. The best case scenario is we'll have some extra money to invest in Seymour's future.

Kurt – I'd like to thank John and his partner Dick Thieverage, who has been with the Town almost 30 years, because they know the Town's financial situation and priorities. Bruce also helped to push some of this enabling legislation through.

Stephan – Can you explain the difference between the total savings and dissavings versus present value savings and dissavings?

Bruce – The total is gross and the present value is at the current interest rate. In the long run, the Town will pay more but the value comes from having flexibility presently. The interest rates are based on the day the presentation was prepared, not when we'll be pricing the transaction in a few months.

Tony Caserta – Our planning is based on the things we can control. This transaction increases what we can control and that's what this transaction is about. We don't want to lose ground or burden the taxpayer unnecessarily. This allows us to be proactive rather than reactive.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE, ISSUE AND SELL GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Section 1. General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the Town of Seymour (the "Town") in a principal amount not exceeding \$12,000,000 (hereinafter, the "Bonds") are hereby authorized to be issued, and the proceeds thereof appropriated, in such amount or in such lesser amount as shall be necessary to refund all or any portion of the Town's outstanding general obligation bonds (the "Refunded Bonds").

Section 2. The Bonds shall be issued and sold in such principal amount and in such manner as shall be approved by the First Selectman and Treasurer. The First Selectman and Treasurer are authorized to determine the Refunded Bonds to be redeemed and the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the Bonds which shall comply with the requirements set forth in Section 7-370c of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. The Bonds shall be sold on a competitive or negotiated basis and if sold on a negotiated basis, the First Selectman and Treasurer are authorized to execute a bond purchase contract or similar agreement for the sale of the Bonds. The Bonds shall be executed in the name and on behalf of the Town by the manual or facsimile signatures of the First Selectman and Treasurer, bear the Town seal or facsimile thereof, and be approved as to their legality by Shipman & Goodwin LLP, bond counsel to the Town. The Bonds shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the Bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon.

Section 3. The net proceeds from the sale of the Bonds, after payment of underwriter's discount and other costs of issuance, may be deposited in an irrevocable escrow account and invested in a portfolio of non-callable direct obligations of, or obligations guaranteed by, the United States of America, including United States Treasury State and Local Government Series ("SLGS") securities, Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") securities and any other securities permitted by Section 7-400 of the Connecticut General Statutes, all of which shall not be callable or prepayable at the option of the issuer thereof ("Government Obligations") in an amount sufficient to pay at maturity, or to redeem at the redemption price prior to maturity, the Refunded Bonds. The First Selectman and Treasurer are authorized to appoint an escrow agent and a verification agent to verify the sufficiency of the Government Obligations and to execute and deliver any and all escrow and related agreements necessary to provide for the payment when due of the principal of and interest on and the redemption premium, if any, on the Refunded Bonds.

Section 4. The First Selectman and Treasurer are authorized to prepare and distribute a Preliminary Official Statement and a final Official Statement of the Town for use in connection with the offering and sale of the Bonds and are further authorized to execute and deliver a Continuing Disclosure Agreement in connection with the issuance and sale of the Bonds on behalf of the Town in such form as they shall deem necessary and appropriate.

Section 5. The First Selectman and Treasurer are authorized to execute and deliver a Tax Certificate and a Tax Compliance Agreement for the Bonds on behalf of the Town in such form as they shall deem necessary and appropriate, and to rebate to the United States Treasury such amounts as may be required pursuant to the Tax Certificate and Tax Compliance Agreement for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Section 6. The Bonds, or any portion thereof, may bear interest which is includable in the gross income of holders thereof for Federal income tax purposes pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as the issuance of such taxable bonds is hereby determined to be in the public interest.

Section 7. The First Selectman and Treasurer are authorized to appoint a certifying, transfer and paying agent and a registrar for the Bonds; and to execute and deliver any and all additional agreements, documents and certificates necessary to effect the issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds and the refunding of the Refunded Bonds in accordance with the terms of this resolution.

A motion was made to approve the resolution as presented by Bond Counsel.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Discussion: Stephan: Do you believe this is kicking the can down the road?

Kurt: No, I believe this is proactive and if we waited the situation would deteriorate. I don't believe we'll be hit with the full \$8 million in cuts, but we were looking at a similar transaction in the next few years anyway. This will allow us to address long-term obligations at the least.

Stephan: If the budget comes back positive, who has a say in how the money is spent?

Kurt: Myself and the Treasurer in consultation with the Town's financial team. If something were to change between now and then I would bring it back to the Board.

Vote: 6-0

Item #4: Public comment

Sean Walsh – 126 Pearl Street: I think this transaction is a good idea. It seems like the Governor is punishing towns that were more responsible so I just hope this doesn't encourage him to penalize us further.

Item #5: Approve minutes from October 3, 2017 regular meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

Item #7: First Selectman's Report

I want to update you on the latest budget by the Governor. It shows Seymour receiving a cut of only \$1.194 million. This is less than the executive order budget but it doesn't include special education money that goes directly to the Board of Education which ranges from \$600,000-\$900,000. It is my understanding that this budget has no support on either side of the aisle. The Legislature is working hard to put together a bipartisan budget that is veto-proof. The current executive order is \$8 million in cuts. The first \$2 million would be cuts from both the Town and Board of Education, \$2 million in savings on debt service and \$4 million in potential special tax. Our projected unaudited surplus is over \$800,000. The current budget is trending at \$900,000 in surplus if the numbers hold. \$700,000 in this was planned via the mill rate stabilization account. We are projected to have cash flow issues in February if there is no budget depending on how the audited surplus turns out.

Item #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding Charter revision charge from Board of Selectmen

Kurt – I want to present my recommendations to the Board and then we can see whether they are unanimous, in which case they can be forwarded to the Charter Revision Commission as our recommendations, or whether we can at least agree that they are topics that should be discussed.

General Goals

- Reducing the size of volunteer municipal government. Recommendation is to cap permanent appointed boards to 5 members and elected boards to 7.
- Ensuring quality of candidates for public office by removing unnecessary partisan restrictions.
- Establish a procedure for removal of elected officials who are derelict in their duties.
- Strike redundant, unnecessary and outdated sections.
- Add chain of succession in case of catastrophe

Chapter 2 – ELECTED BOARDS

2.1 – When Elected

- Remove Planning & Zoning from list, reduce Board of Library Directors to 5

Chapter 3 – ELECTIONS, GENERAL

3.4 – Vacancies in elected offices

(d) *Other Boards* – Make vacancy appointment procedure uniform.

(e) *Term of Appointment* – Appointees to vacancies on elected boards shall serve until end of term originally elected.

(f) *Party Affiliation* – Exception to be made for party affiliation with unanimous vote of Board of Selectmen.

Chapter 5 – BOARD OF LIBRARY DIRECTORS

5.1 – General powers and duties

- Reduce to 5 members from 7

Chapter 6 – BOARD OF EDUCATION

6.1 – General powers and duties

- Reduce to 7 members from 9

Chapter 7 – BOARD OF SELECTMEN

7.5 – Passage of ordinances

- Publish notice of ordinance change rather than text in its entirety.

7.6 – Emergency ordinances

- Change location of publication of emergency ordinance to website.

Chapter 8 – FIRST SELECTMEN

8.1 – General powers and duties

- Remove prohibition on First Selectman holding other elected office.

Chapter 8A – BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

8A.1 – Composition and general powers and duties

- Remove from 4th paragraph “The successors to the current Chief....until he has signed a contract” and replace with “The Chief shall be required a three- (3) year contract which will detail the terms of employment”

- Strike paragraph 5 (captain)
- Strike paragraph 6 (lieutenant)

Chapter 8B – PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

8B.1 – Planning and zoning commission

- Planning & Zoning to return to appointed
- Strike end of 3rd paragraph beginning with “in 2013...”
- Remove party requirements for vacancy appointments to match 3.4(f)

Chapter 10 – APPOINTED BOARDS

10.1 – List of appointed boards and terms of office

- Remove Economic Development Commission references from Charter. Combine with existing language in ordinance.
- Remove Parks Commission and Recreation Commission from table and replace with Community Services Commission
- Remove Committee on Aging and replace with Livable Communities Committee
- Remove Sewer Use Rate Review Board
- Remove Redevelopment Agency
- Remove Culture & Arts Commission references from Charter. Combine with existing language in ordinance.

10.1.1 – List of appointed offices and terms of office

- Replace Civil Defense Director with Emergency Management Director

10.4 – Economic Development Commission

- Reduce membership to 5.
- In 3rd paragraph, replace “from time to time” to “every 2 years”

10.7 – Board of Fire Commissioners

- Change composition of Board to 1 member supplied by each house, 1 Selectman, 1 member of the Board of Finance, the Fire Chief

10.7.3 – Emergency Medical Services Oversight Commission

- Strike entire section. Commission to be disbanded.

10.8 – Housing Authority

- “It shall further be the duty...to coordinate the activities of the various other municipal departments, agencies and authorities as they pertain to housing.”
- Strike last paragraph – redundant with CT FOIA

10.10 – Parks Commission

- Combine with section 10.12 as “Community Services Commission”

10.12 – Recreation Commission

- Combine with section 10.10 as “Community Services Commission”
- Change all references of “Recreation Director” to “Community Services Director or his/her designee”

10.13 – Board of Public Works

- 4th paragraph, add “In conjunction with the Town Engineer,” to the beginning.

10.14 – Water Pollution Control Authority

- 2nd paragraph, strike from “The Authority shall work...” to end of paragraph.
- 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence should read, “The budget shall be prepared on or before July 1, and shall be submitted to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. Strike 4th and 5th sentences

10.15 – Commission on Aging

- Remove from Charter and combine with Livable Communities Committee

10.17 – Town Counsel and Assistant Town Counsel

- 4th paragraph, “insure that Town boards have access to such legal services” should be “ensure”

10.19 – Treasurer

- Tighten up language

10.21 – Sewer Use Rate Review Board

- Strike section

10.22 – Redevelopment Agency

- Strike section

10.23 – Civil Defense Director

- Replace all references to “Civil Defense Director” with “Emergency Management Director”

10.25 – Culture & Arts Commission

- Reduce to 5 members
- Remove references to Strand Theater
- Strike from Charter

Chapter 12 – Finance and Taxation

12.3 – Annual Town Meeting

- (a) *Budget preparations* - Remove all references to Annual Town Meeting. Budget process will proceed directly from public hearing to Board of Finance who will forward a budget to the Selectmen to be voted upon at referendum.

(b) *Duties of the Board of Finances on the Budget*

- (5) Increase cap on capital appropriation to at least 2%
- Strike paragraph 4
- Strike paragraph 5 or reduce presence to Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance
- Strike paragraph 6
- Remove reference to Annual Town Meeting in Paragraph 7

12.4 – Fiscal process

- (b) *Supplemental Appropriations* – change all amounts to \$100,000

Chapter 13 – Town Meeting

13.1 – General

- (e) – Remove all reference to “Annual Town Meeting”
- (f) – Remove all reference to “Annual Town Meeting” and change quorum to 100 people.

13.2 – Special Town Meetings

- Increase all amounts from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Chapter 17 – Miscellaneous

17.6 – Purchasing

- Check feasibility of purchase order dollar value floor

Al – There could be quorum issues if you reduce the size of some boards.

Bryan – Do you foresee one item at referendum for the combination of the budget of the Town and Board of Education?

Kurt – Yes

Bryan – Will the WPCA be on the same timeline as the rest of the municipal departments?

Kurt – No, they're their own entity.

Annmarie – What about the Special Acts?

Bryan – Those are from the State and we cannot change those.

Stephan – If we pass this all onto the Commission does that imply that the Board endorses it?

Bryan – It's up to you. You can pass ideas along individually. Ultimately, it's not binding. If you all agree it can be unanimous, otherwise it can be done otherwise. They meet twice per month and plan on going through a certain number of pages per meeting.

Stephan – Some think it's urgent to get some kind of recommendation.

Kurt – They should be taking this charge on rather than waiting for us.

Stephan – I agree, but several have said they need direction from us. I was going to recommend that we hammer this out tonight.

Al – I was charge to help revise the Charter when Paul Roy was in office. We were only give a small portion to review. One thing that stood out to me was the organization, which is to say it's not well organized. It's not in a traditional outline format. I would strongly suggest that at the end it is reorganized. The other thing is we're happy to give guidance but I don't want to step on their toes. I don't think we should be the ones to tell them what to do. The task seems to be overwhelming but there are some low-hanging fruit.

Kurt – Does anyone have any input on the board size changes?

Nicole – Yes.

Al – I think it depends on the Board.

Annmarie – Agreed.

Kurt – Should the biggest be the Board of Education, Selectmen and Finance and sized at 7?

Nicole – I agree.

Annmarie – I think 7 should be the maximum because any larger makes a quorum difficult.

Al – Research shows you don't want more than 9-11 on a board. I think you need a reason to reduce them though.

Kurt – I don't think we have enough people who want to participate so those that do get burned out.

Annmarie – That's a great thought in theory. Maybe someone on the Board of Education doesn't want to be on the Library Board.

Kurt – I don't think that means we have to accommodate them.

Nicole – I think it's reasonable. We just don't have the people.

Len – Why was the Board of Education set at 9 members?

Bryan – A lot of them are 9. There's a Statute that puts them at 3, 6 or 9 for 6-year terms. Another says 3-12 for 4-year terms. Another Statute references annual elections and you have biannual. I need to look closely at the Statutes because there are several.

Stephan – I don't want to change Selectmen or Finance, I think Library should come down, but I think Board of Education should be left alone based on the amount of subcommittees. The Board may suffer if you increase the burden on the individual members. I think appointed boards do need to be capped at five.

Nicole – Agreed.

Annmarie – Agreed.

Al – Agreed.

Len – Agreed.

Stephan – I would like to propose that anyone who wants to be appointed to a position should appear before this Board.

Kurt – I think that's fine for most meetings but the first meeting of a new board has 60-70 appointments. We don't meet candidates that we hire for employment.

Stephan – I would like to see that too. I think anyone that we should vote on, we should have the opportunity to talk to.

Bryan – For hiring that may be an issue.

Stephan – Maybe for reappointments we should forego it, but maybe for new appointments.

Bryan – Also some may not be able to attend if they have work.

Len – Should we put this in the Charter though?

Stephan – This is an idea that I've been kicking around for a few months and I thought the Charter revision would be a good way to introduce it but I'm open to other avenues. I think we should know the people we're voting on because ultimately we're responsible for putting them in place.

Al – I think you also have to be careful of alienating volunteers for Boards. I'm not sure that's the most efficient way. I'd hate to chill the volunteerism.

Stephan – I think it needs to be more of a commitment. I don't think it's too much to ask of someone to ask them to come to one meeting.

Kurt – If we did that could we abolish party affiliation?

Stephan – That's the only way I'd consider it.

Kurt – I could see someone down the road abusing that as well so I'd want to be careful.

Stephan – I could say the same about removing party affiliation as well.

Rory – We tossed around the idea of creating a mechanism for overriding the party affiliation, such as a unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen.

Stephan – We can't really dictate the particulars so we can put it forward generally.

Kurt – Okay. How about the finance portions? Are we comfortable with removing the Town meeting?

All – Yes.

Kurt – Is everyone okay with standardizing the dates of the milestones in the process? For example, the first Board of Selectmen meeting in April will forward the budget to referendum. I think this would make the residents better aware of the process.

Len – I just think we need a mechanism to allow us for flexibility in the case of something like our current budget issues.

Rory – We recommended a while back sort of drop-dead date based on the current dates set forth in the Charter. We standardized it by making it the last Thursday before each date.

Kurt – Yes, so the first referendum would always be held on third Thursday of April, for example. How about splitting the budget?

All – Agreed.

Stephan – Is there anywhere in the Charter that would allow for further integration with the Board of Education?

Bryan – I'll take HR as an example. You cannot force them.

Kurt – How about term limits and lengths. Do we think there should be limits?

Len – No, more for pragmatic reasons. There aren't enough people who want to run and you'll run out of people willing to run, particularly the Board of Finance.

Annmarie – No.

Al – It would depend on the board and the limit.

Nicole – No.

Kurt – I'm undecided myself. What about lengths of terms? Let's talk Selectmen first. If they're increased should there be a recall provision?

Annmarie – I think it's hard to make any changes in two years. The first year is just getting up to speed and then you're thinking about the election. I think four is reasonable.

Nicole – I agree with four.

Al – I would like to see what other towns do.

Len – I'm torn and I see the benefits of both but I have no opinion.

Stephan – I like a 4-year term but not without term limits.

Annmarie – How many terms?

Stephan – Anywhere between 2-5. I like 3. In a town with over 11,000 registered voters, the parties are doing a bad job recruiting. I wouldn't say you're done permanently after 2 terms, you could change boards or take a term off.

Kurt – The First Selectman used to have a limit of 3 2-year terms. Maybe they only apply to the First Selectman.

Len – I would be fine with that. My experience is that every town has an issue in recruiting candidates. People are less inclined to volunteer their time for a sometimes thankless position these days.

Stephan – My suggestion would extend to the regular Selectmen too.

Kurt – What are your thoughts on 4-year terms for the First Selectman with a 3-term limit and 2-year terms for Selectmen with a 6-term limit?

Al – As someone who lived in Wallingford with a long-term mayor, he's did a great job so I'm struggling with the idea of term limits. The people are voting so they have a say. Not everyone decides to vote though and we can't change that.

Stephan – If such a small percentage vote, I think it's hard to say it's their will.

Al – But they have the opportunity. I'm just not sure I'm seeing what the concern is.

Stephan – The President has a term limit. Any incumbent has a massive advantage, that's a statistical fact. The longer they stay, the bigger the advantage.

Nicole – Joe Crisco.

Al – I'd like them to wrestle with it.

Kurt – So we have no specific recommendation but we ask that they discuss it.

All – Agreed.

Nicole – What about the Memorial Day Committee? Don't they need more than 5 members?

Al – I think it needs to be case-by-case.

Len – I think they can sort it out.

Annmarie – Could we do a joint meeting?

Kurt – No, we don't want undue influence. What about the combination of Parks & Recreation?

All – Yes.

Kurt – The combination of Commission on Aging and Livable Communities?

All – Yes.

Kurt – Elimination of Sewer Use Rate Review Board and Redevelopment Agency?

All – Yes.

Kurt – Removal of Culture & Arts from the Charter?

Stephan – What's the reason?

Kurt – I'm not sure why they're in there.

All – Yes.

Kurt – Increasing the Special Town Meeting limit to \$100,000 from \$50,000? It's incredibly rare to get a quorum. It happens every time we have to buy a vehicle out of budget.

All – Yes.

Kurt – We talked about changing the quorum to 100 from 50 for Town meetings.

Len – What was the original impetus?

Kurt – I think it was random.

Len – Can it be 1% of the voting population or something more tangible?

Kurt – That would be 80-100 anyway.

Stephan – I would prefer to keep 50.

Kurt – If the firemen want a truck they can get 50 and force our hand.

Stephan – If we usually get 1-3, maybe it's worth it.

Kurt – That's one of the reason we moved away from the old way of Town meeting votes for the budget.

Just a discussion of the quorum for Town meeting then?

All – Agreed.

Al – With some history as to the discussion.

Kurt – Removal of the captain and the lieutenant as well as the language for the Chief?

All – Agreed.

Stephan – I would like to disagree with the removal of the prohibition of holding multiple positions by the First Selectmen. The First Selectman has enough on their plate.

Kurt – I know there are some towns that have it and I think it benefits the community if you can be a senator and selectman.

Al – I think you want people to focus on our community or Hartford.

Kurt – I think the prohibition is on paid positions.

Stephan – Would it allow the First Selectman to forego the pay and still accept the position?

Kurt – Town Counsel thought no, but I would like to make it clear. So they should look at it?

All – Agreed.

Kurt – Not publishing full ordinance for changes?

All – Agreed.

Stephan – The Charter requires the Board of Selectmen to have a secretary. Can we remove that?
All – Agreed.

Item #9: Appointments

A motion was made to reappoint Gail Catlin to the Comcast Advisory Board for a 4-year appointment expiring October 17, 2021.

Motion: Len Greene Jr.

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to reappoint Paul Tontini to the Comcast Advisory Board for a 4-year appointment expiring October 17, 2021.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

Item #10: Tax Refunds/Abatements

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

Motion: Nicole Klardies-Ditria

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-0

Item #11: Transfers

There were no transfers before the Board.

Item #12: Correspondence

- A memorandum sent to municipal building officials from the State Building Official regarding the closing of certain building permits
- A letter from Town Counsel to the Katherine Matthies Trust. The Town is looking at trying to moving it to the Valley Community Foundation
- A legal opinion from labor counsel regarding the Town's drug testing program, which hasn't been updated since 1996. This will be brought to the Board at the next meeting.

Item #13: Public Comment

Michael Flynn – 85 Skokorat Street: Seeing as so few people show up at Town meetings, may be we should consider a mayor and board of alderman form of government. I think we've outgrown being a town.

A motion was made to suspend the rules to return to item #8.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Len Greene Jr.

Vote: 6-0

Kurt – Do we want to add moving to a Town Manger? It was voted on in the past and went 60-40
Nicole – No

Len – Yes

Annmarie – No

Al – Yes

Alex Danka – 203 Pearl Street: I gave Bob the original Matthies trust document so it should be in your office.

Item #14: Selectmen's Public Comments

There were no Selectmen's comments.

Item #15: Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at PM.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 6-0

Submitted by,



Rory Burke

Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller

First Selectman