

Town of Seymour  
Board of Finance

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 2/22/18  
TIME: 11:00AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes

Budget Deliberations  
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 7:00pm  
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

**Members Present:** Jim Cretella, Richard Demko, Kristyn Hanewicz, Beverly Kennedy, Heather McDaniel, Bill Sawicki, and John Stelma; Gary Popielasz (alternate)

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Rick Belden, Jen Magri, Vonda Tencza, and Michael Wilson

**Item #1 – Call Meeting to order**

Chairman Bill Sawicki called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item #3 – Public Comment**

None

**Item #4 – Deliberation & Discussion of 2018/2019 Budget**

Discussion and presentation of Board of Education Budget by Jen Magri (Chairperson of Board of Education):

- 1.23% Increase requested - \$404,444
- Addition of Elementary Special Education Teacher (and paraprofessional) specializing in Behavioral/Emotional issues. The goal of this is to keep some of our students in-house instead of sending them out-of-district. The amount here is deducted from the Special Education line item. In the future if this program works well, after our students are taken care of, we may be able to accept students from other districts.
- The cost for a special education student out-of-district is \$95,237.
- The "Special Education Excess Cost" Grant from the state – we receive 70% reimbursement; could be less if the state reduces that line item in their budget.
- Increase in transportation, 5%; increase in benefits, 5%; increase in special education tuition, 5%
- Large decrease was due to elimination of several clerical paraprofessionals
- Workers Comp – there is a reserve fund that is funded in the budget every year (\$150,000); partner with PMA who estimates what our expenses will be each year; currently have about 80 active cases; about \$40,000 expenses
- A "Shared Services Committee" has been formed by the Board of Education to discuss the possibilities of shared services with Ansonia. This is a different issue than "regionalization".
- The Student Council current has Student Representatives who report to the Board of Education with student feedback on issues and ideas that the students may have with the current programs.
- The Arts program has had many new offerings/activities currently. Some of the AP Art Program students were recently featured in the news. Rich Demko asked about the reduced Band activities at

the High School level (as opposed to the wonderful Middle School programs). Jen Magri said that they do not have the level of interest at the high school that they do at middle school level. Many students choose to pursue sports related activities or other programs offered at the high school. There has been a lot of interest in the Drama programs.

- Bill Sawicki asked how the parent involvement in the BOE budget has been this year. Jen Magri said that it is always an ongoing challenge, but they are going to present the budget at the PTA meetings and get the word out as best they can.
  
- Bill Sawicki said that last year we had only 916 people come to vote out of 9,600 registered voters. The cost to run each vote is between \$4,000 - \$6,000.
- We may need to spend some money to fix our infrastructure this year. It is better to make the repairs done the right way from the beginning and spend a little more now instead of keep patching something that really needs replacing. This way the buildings will last.
- Next week will be a busy week:
  - Monday: Fire Department deliberations
  - Tuesday: REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING; then Office of Building Compliance, First Selectman's Office, and Town Buildings deliberations
  - Wednesday: Assessors Office, Town Clerk, Community Services deliberations

**Item #5- Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Submitted by:

**Monica Dimon**  
**Recording Secretary**