

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, August 21, 2018 – 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: W. Kurt Miller, Al Bruno, Annmarie Drugonis, Stephan Behuniak and Trisha Danka.

Members Absent: Karen Stanek.

Others Present: Town Counsel, Ryan Driscoll; Patrick Lombardi, Ed Hendricks, Bill Sawicki, Richard Demko, Robert VanEggen, Saundra Gesek, Clay Jurgens, Al Rochelle, Chris Edwards and Rhonda Geffert.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:05 PM.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

None.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from August 7, 2018 regular meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from August 7, 2018 regular meeting.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 4-Yes 0-No

1-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Abstain

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

ITEM #5: First Selectman's Report.

Will discuss during correspondence.

ITEM #6: Discussion and take possible action regarding purchase of fire apparatus.

Al Rochelle stated the truck they are replacing is a 21 year old vehicle and has had multiple problems in the past. There is about \$30,000.00 projected for what they would have to spend on it. He discussed all of the issues with the truck. The truck needs to be replaced. It is the oldest truck in the fleet.

Al discussed how the plan to get a new truck got started. He was put in charge of finding a new apparatus along with 2 others. They happened to find a demo truck that is 2 years old. He discussed all the advantages and improvements of this new demo truck. He stated it will serve the needs of the Town of Seymour and serve their needs as a fire department. If they were to go out and buy a similar truck outright it would cost \$650,000.00. They are getting this demo truck for less than \$500,000.00. It could take 6 months to get a truck like this and discussed the process to get a truck. If this truck is approved, it is sitting in North Haven and they could have it within 45 days. The company they are getting the apparatus from are putting brand new tires and ladders on it.

Kurt stated that in the 18/19 budget they were projecting \$33,000.00 for repairs. That money can be put towards other trucks repairs. He asked what their opinions were on which truck would have to be replaced next.

Chris Edwards stated that in his opinion, the ladder truck would be the next truck to replace. The price to replace it is approximately \$1.5 million.

Chris said the new truck has been pump tested and it passed. They are getting all new ladders and tires as well. The truck had a DOT inspection and every little thing has been fixed. He said it won't need any foreseen maintenance until next year. This is saving them money on various testing. Chris said this truck will suit them for the next 20 years perfectly fine. Clay said there have been no red flags with the maintenance records.

Motion that the Town of Seymour move forward with the purchase of a Pierce Arrow XT Pumper Truck for the job number 2886 as presented by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action regarding draft report of the Charter Revision Commission.

Attorney Ryan Driscoll stated that there is an end date September 6, 2018 which is the latest date that the Board of Selectmen can approve the submission of amendments to the Town Charter for the voter's consideration at an election on November 6, 2018. In order to get to that process, the board can make no recommendations for changes to the draft report or it can make recommendations for changes to the draft report. If there are no recommendations for changes, the board can by a majority vote either approve or reject the proposed amendments or separate provisions thereof. The board doesn't have to approve all of the proposed amendments. Those that are not approved can be considered later in a referendum process or determined by a majority vote whether the charter amendments should be submitted to the voters at a regular or special election. He continued to discuss the process. In the event there are changes recommended in draft report, then the Board of Selectmen should vote on those recommendations tonight. After the adjournment of the Board of Selectmen meeting, commence a meeting with the Charter Revision Commission to confer on those recommendations. Tomorrow night the Charter Revision Commission will meet to discuss the amendments proposed to the draft report recommended by the Board of Selectmen and then reissue a final report. After that, there would need to be another meeting to act on draft report.

The Board members discussed the following from the draft report and whether or not they agree or disagree with what was put forward:

- Maximum number of members on boards and commissions set at 5 only for the Library Board of Directors. All other elected and appointed boards and commissions remain the same.
 - Trisha and Stephan – disagree
- Elimination of Town Meeting – all agree
- Term limits- Section 6.1: Kurt read the following: "There shall be a seven (7) member Board of Selectmen, consisting of the First Selectman and six (6) other Selectmen. The First Selectman shall be elected for a term of four (4) years, and the Selectmen shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. Votes cast for the losing candidate for First Selectman shall not be considered as votes cast for a seat on the Board of Selectmen. Commencing with the election of November 2020, an individual serving as First Selectman shall be limited to serving three (3) consecutive terms, and individuals serving as members of the Board of Selectman shall be limited to serving three (3) consecutive terms. In no event shall an individual serve in excess of fourteen (14) consecutive years on the Board of Selectmen."
 - 4 years for First Selectmen and 2 Years for the Selectmen – all agree
 - Term limits– Annmarie disagrees because of the difficulty trying to find people to participate on boards. Trisha understands the intent but has the same concerns as Annmarie. Al is against term limits because our community is small. Stephan agrees with the opinion that it is hard to find people to volunteer on boards but disagrees when it comes to the First Selectman and Board of Selectmen. Kurt stated he goes back and

forth with what is best. The board members continued to discuss at length. The board is moving forward that the term limits be two separate questions on the ballot.

- Combining Parks & Recreation, Aging and Livable Communities and remove Culture & Arts out of the Charter: the Charter Revision Commission discussed and no action was taken.
 - Trisha, Annmarie and Al disagree.
 - The purpose to remove Culture & Arts was because it is also in the Ordinances.
- Increase Special Town Meeting limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000 - all agree.
- Quorum for Town Meeting– all agree.
- Removal of captain and lieutenant from Police Department - all agree.
- Removal of prohibition of First Selectman holding multiple positions
 - Kurt stated he was talking only about State Representative and State Senator; no other elected position.
 - Stephan and Trisha agree with Charter Revision Commissions recommendation.
 - The board members discussed at length.
- Elimination of requirement for full text of ordinances – all agree.
- Removal of Board of Selectmen secretary – all agree.
- The Commission further recommends that the following non-binding advisory question be placed upon the November, 2018 ballot: *“Shall the Board of Selectmen undertake a study regarding the establishment of A Town Manager form of government?”* – all agree.

Kurt read the recommended ballot questions and discussion ensued about each question:

1. **Shall the Town Charter be amended to change the following: (1) specify the method of appointment of Deputy Registrar of Voters, (no concerns); (2) reduce the size of the Board of Library Directors from seven to five, (no concerns); (3) allow Selectmen to participate in meetings via videoconference or teleconference, (the board raised a few concerns); (4) provide for legal notices to be posted on the Town website, (no concerns); (5) elimination of the positions of Captain and Lieutenant in the Police Department, (no concerns); and (6) increase the amount of special appropriation requiring a Town Meeting to \$100,000.? (no concerns)**
2. **Shall the Town Charter be amended to replace the elected Board of Planning and Zoning with an appointed Planning and Zoning Commission? (no concerns)**
3. **Shall the Town Charter be amended to increase the term of the First Selectman from two to four years? (no concerns)**
4. **Shall the Town Charter be amended to set term limits for the First Selectman and Board of Selectmen? (no concerns)**
5. **Shall the Town Charter be amended to change the budget process, including the elimination of the Annual Town Meeting so that the budget will go directly to referendum, and to combine the Town and Board of Education vote at the referendum? – Trisha disagrees with merging the two budgets (Board of Education and the Town) and expressed her concerns. Annmarie and Al also would like to keep it 2 budgets. Stephan likes one budget. Kurt suggested dividing this question into two. The board discussed at length.**
6. **Shall the Town Charter be amended to correct grammar, spelling, terminology, statutory references, outdated provisions of the Town Charter, renumber sections, and make other and technical changes as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission? - Pat Lombardi, Chairman of Charter Revision, commented on how the commission made the corrections/amendments and the organization.**

Kurt discussed Section 11.2 – Eligibility and suggested adding First Selectman’s Assistant.

Motion to ask the Charter Revision Commission to review Section 11.2- Eligibility and add First Selectman's Administrative Assistant to Town Counsel and Town Engineer.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Kurt discussed Section 12.9 – Parks Commission. He read the following from that section: “The Parks Commission shall have the authority and responsibility to allocate and schedule the use of playing fields and park pavilions, with preference given to Board of Education activities. Such schedule shall be posted on the Town website.”

The board discussed a chain of succession with regard to elected officials.

Annmarie discussed the second to last paragraph of Section 12.11- Board of Public Works. She read the following: “...the collection and disposal of garbage, rubbish and ashes, and operating the transfer station and/or sanitary landfill... .” She asked to take “sanitary landfill” out of there.

Motion to remove “and/ or sanitary landfill” from Section 12.11 – Board of Public Works.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

ITEM #8: Appointments.

None.

ITEM #9: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report as presented for August 21, 2018.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

ITEM #10: Transfers.

Motion to approve Control # 2 in the amount of \$499,999.99 from Debt Service Fund to Capital – Fire Truck.

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

There will be a Special Town Meeting held regarding this on Tuesday, September 4th.

ITEM #11: Correspondence.

- Check register.
- Letter that Richard Buturla sent to Advance Energy Efficiency, LLC with regard to ZRECS.
- Bungay Road, West Church Street and Botsford Road have been funded through the LOTCIP program in the amount of \$2,602,480.00. That will run from the Seymour Historical Society to

the 3-way intersection by Seymour High School; from the 4-way intersection by Seymour High School up to the top of Great Hill Road.

ITEM #12: Public Comment.

None

ITEM #13: Selectmen's Public Comments.

Trisha Danka asked for prayers for a long time volunteer in town and former chair of Board of Education, Bruce Baker.

ITEM #14: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:26 P.M.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Second: Trisha Danka

0-Abstain

Al Bruno – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Submitted by,



Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman