

**Town of Seymour
Board of Selectmen
Minutes**

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

**Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall**

Members Present: Trisha Danka, Robert Findley, Annmarie Drugonis, Kurt Miller, Al Bruno, Karen Stanek, and Stephan Behuniak

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Rory Burke, Richard Buturla, Bryan Nesteriak, Robert VanEgghen, State Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order

First Selectman Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

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 January 2, 2019 Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from January 2, 2019 Meeting

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis Second: Robert Findley

Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes	Robert Findley - Yes	Annmarie Drugonis - Yes	Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno – Yes	Karen Stanek – Yes	Stephan Behuniak - Yes	

Item #5 – First Selectman's Report

1. The First Selectman's Budget is completed and ready to be presented to the Board of Finance upon their request. They will let me know the exact day once their budget schedule is set. I will be presenting a budget that keeps the mill rate level for a 4th year in a row that will still allow us to move the town forward in key strategic areas like technology and our rolling stock and infrastructure. As you will hear shortly from Bryan Nesteriak, we have invested a great deal of time and money into improving our roads and that will continue in the next fiscal year.
2. During FY 20, we will also be addressing the 3 final buildings of major concern to the Town of Seymour. Those buildings are the Community Center, Bungay School and 98 Bank Street. All 3 buildings are in need of major investment to maximize the use. We are currently in the process of understanding the future needs of the town services and functions that utilize these buildings to determine if we should be moving forward with renovations and repairs or if we should look at other options. I expect this process will be on going for the next several months and will provide updates as they come available. As part of

the discussion, we have reached out to our finance team to determine the impact that certain bond levels would have on the town's budget over the next 10 years.

3. Update on the building project..... work has been temporarily halted due to concerns with how the contractor has been handling the project. Work at the Library will be restarting in the next few days and should be completed in the next week or two. Once that work is completed, a final cleaning will take place prior to all areas being retested to confirm everything is as expected based on the contract. At town hall, work will remain stopped until a cleaning crew is brought in this weekend to address certain concerns that have been brought up. Once the cleaning takes place, testing will be redone to establish a baseline and work will resume as contracted. Once work is completed, another cleaning will be done. Cost of all cleaning will be the responsibility of the contractor.

Item #6 – Presentation of Volleyball Citations

State Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria congratulated the Seymour High School Girls Volleyball Team on winning their 2nd State Championship. Many thanks to the girls, coaches, and parents on all their outstanding work and many wishes for continued success in the future. Awards from the CT State General Assembly were presented to each girl followed by a group picture.

The awardees were: Jenna Baxter, Isabella Calabro, Megan Condo, Alyssa Cosciello, Jacey Cosciello, Stephanie Ferrara, Jasmine Franco, Katherine Kuscera, Myah LaRovera, Erin Lifrieri, Cathryn Ragaini, Gabrielle Rossetti, Emma Rousseau, Faith Rousseau, Victoria Sampiere, Kolby Sirowich, and Mackenzie Sirowich.

Motion to add an item to the agenda (Discussion and Request from Mission 22 in Naugatuck)

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danko – Yes

Robert Findley - Yes

Annmarie Drugonis - Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Here to present information on the **Mission 22 Program** for Veterans based in Naugatuck is Connecticut State Co-Leader AJ Bordas:

- Staff Sargent Brian Curtis, Jr., who has served in Iraq and Afghanistan discussed the serious implications of PTSD. The nightmares are very real and cause depression and suicidal thoughts. The lack of people who one can talk to that understands the daily struggle, stress and memories of what these veterans have gone through is critical. It is important to have a resource that veterans can rely on to let these feelings out. Sgt. Curtis has found relief by helping others afflicted with the same situations. Most of the people affected really do not want to commit suicide. They just want help and relief. Sgt. Curtis has helped many people through this program but has also lost people. The losses are devastating and always remembered.
- Most people do not understand the full implications of PTSD and TBI.
- Mr. Bordas said this is a NATIONAL non-profit organization with the closest chapter based in Naugatuck, CT directly trying to reduce the number of veteran suicides. Since 2008 (which had 22 suicides per the VA) till 2015 they have reduced the number by two, but still this is too high a number.
- Mission 22 tries to provide support to veterans, and to get them more involved in their own life and helping others. Social outreach is important, with Mission 22 or other veteran organizations doing the same work. Other work Mission 22 does is Comprehensive Wellness Programs, War Detoxification Programs (many do not realize that war – the adrenaline levels increase the dopamine levels in the brain – is addicting so that when these people come home they cannot handle the loss of adrenaline). Many

people cannot re-acclimate to calm civilian life here when they come home. Holistic service dogs, health & housing services, and many more services. Mr. Bordas shared a story very close to home for him of a veteran that needs the help Mission 22 can give. The VA does have a lot of programs, but there is just so much need, they are not enough.

- 22 for 22 Hike last Saturday in September in Naugatuck dedicates the hike to a veteran lost in the Naugatuck area. Mr. Bordas asked us (Seymour) to help get the word out about the support and raise awareness of assistance available to veterans. It is a real festival – Mayor Pete Hess 3 years ago has given Mission 22 the platform to get assistance from all over – Michigan, Delaware, Maine, many newspapers, and all over. If there is anything Seymour can do help spread the word and raise awareness it would be greatly appreciated. A 2.2k hike @ Seymour High School, maybe have a raffle. Or any other ideas.
- First Selectman Kurt Miller thanked Mr. Bordas for coming. It is definitely a cause that deserves our full attention. Annmarie Drugonis has volunteered to spearhead the mission here in Seymour. Mr. Miller said he would reach out to the other valley mayors and Mayor Hess to get something going as a Valley. Maybe all 19 members of the Valley Council of Government could contribute. Mission 22 is a 503c nonprofit. Donations can be mailed to Mr. Bordas or directly to Mission 22. State Representative Klarides-Ditria offered any help she could for this as well. Annmarie Drugonis will get together with her in February to discuss plans.

Item #7 – Discussion & Take Possible Action with Town Engineer Regarding Road Program

Town Engineer, Bryan Nesteriak presented an update on the Road Program:

- Updated Road Assessment Program document was distributed to all Board members. This document was formed in 2016 and is updated annually. Two bid packages were sent out: full reconstruction and milling/paving in 2016.
- A \$4.5million bond was received. Over the past three years we have used about \$4million. Roadwork has been prioritized based on condition and use.
- Over the past 7-8 years, about 20 miles of road (out of 82.5 miles total in Seymour) have been re-surfaced. There are NO “F” roads; the “D” roads are down to 6%; 60% of roads are “A” or “B”.
- Some mill & repave (remove top 2 inches & repave) and some full reconstruction (redo completely and start from scratch). Heavy patching (especially high use roads), taking out top 2 inches and repave was done on many roads in some parts (this is a 5-10-year fix before needs redoing).
- A lot of work downtown has been done (Columbus & Bank Street – making them one way), improving the curbs (used granite – they were concrete and about 20 years old – not that much more to use granite and they will last about 70-100 years)
- On the report, roads are listed as ok (done in last 7-8 years) or needing heavy patching.
- Hired a stripier – restriping the town continuing this year. In 2018 did the major roads. Will take about 3-4 years to re-stripe the entire town, depending on deterioration.
- Crack sealing: needs to be done 5 years after paving. Had trial contract of using crack sealing last year. Only about \$50,000 in the budget for roads.
- LOTCIP Grants – Holbrook Road is headed toward 3rd party review – reconstruction from Oxford to rotary – redesigned estimate is \$5million – design is 99% there. Construction should be in 2020. Other roads have been put in for LOTCIP Grants: Bungay Road/West Church Street from the Historical Society to the High School will put in sidewalks & road re-aligned (under design); can only work on two projects at a time. Also under LOTCIP: Botsford Road; Clinton Road needs reclassification (part in Ansonia – low usage on Seymour side – most complaints are from the Ansonia side) in order to qualify for the LOTCIP program.
- About \$200,000 left from the bond money.

- Trisha Danka asked what Bryan would estimate we would need in the budget in 2021 and after. He said we will need to increase the budget to around \$80,000 and increase \$5,000-\$10,000 in the years after that. This will be necessary to keep up the crack sealing.
- Bryan would like some feedback on how to spend the remaining money – the report lists the roads in order of priority. #1 to #10 could be interchanged. Please give him feedback on your thoughts on roads to address in 2019. Will come back to make a plan for 2019.

Item #8 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Potential Reimbursement for Rob VanEgghen

Rob VanEgghen who lives at 22 Woodside Avenue approached the Board of Selectmen (on 11/21/17) and was granted a rebate for 1/3 of the cost of sidewalk removal & replacement (\$1,500) in front of his home because after checking with the Town that the sidewalks on that road were NOT scheduled for repair/replace, he had taken out a permit and had the work done himself.

This past year the Town did decide to replace the sidewalks on Woodside Avenue. Rob VanEgghen has now requested that the Town reimburse the remainder of the cost to him. The total cost was \$4,500. This is a unique situation. There are other residents who have repaired sidewalks, not sure on the date of those.

Rob VanEgghen – 22 Woodside Avenue – very happy with the roadwork being done; his stretch is 100ft that was repaired/replaced. Neighbor also repaired about a 50ft section within last 5 years. Mr. VanEgghen is just trying to beautify and keep the street safe. He would be willing to accept a credit to his taxes or a check.

A general consensus was that this work was done AFTER Mr. VanEgghen was told that the sidewalk work would NOT be done by the town. He did receive the proper permit. And it was VERY recently that he had the work done. This is a UNIQUE situation. Several board members suggested that a time frame should be set for future situations.

A decision was made that when an application for permit for sidewalk was filed, Jim Baldwin would reach out to Bryan Nesteriak to see if any sidewalk work was scheduled to occur. In future situations, if they do not have a permit, they are out of luck.

Motion to approve to reimburse Rob VanEgghen \$3,000 to pay for the other 2/3 cost he incurred to repair the sidewalk in front of his house.

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #9 – Discuss & Take Possible Action Regarding Dissolution of the Friends of the Broad Street Park Committee

We have received a letter to the Board of Selectmen and Minutes from the Friends of the Broad Street Park Committee asking for us to dissolve the Committee.

Motion to dissolve the Friends of the Broad Street Park Committee as requested at their meeting.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #10 – Discuss & Take Possible Action Regarding Charter Revision

- Reviewed Charter Revision at last meeting. Would like to have a game plan at the end of this meeting.
- Kurt Miller suggested that we spend this year studying the questions not approved. We could have done more to promote information on these questions. He recommended that we not form the committee until AFTER the 2019 elections. We will get a much smaller turnout at the polls this year whereas 2020 is a Presidential Election year.
- Karen Stanek asked if the same people will want to serve on the Committee? Kurt Miller said that not all of them may be able to depending on their membership on other Boards. We will appoint the members to the Charter Revision Committee. It is a 9-person board. It will be approved/formed via resolution.
- Bob Findley said that they would like to keep as many of the former members as possible – but we will add new people.
- Kurt Miller suggested forming a sub-committee of Board of Selectmen members who could be researching suggestions.
- Stephan Behuniak had arguments for and against forming the committee now. FOR: The people were not well informed. The people who vote in a municipal year are more informed. Benefits to “striking while the iron is hot” having the committee/questions while they are still fresh in the voters’ minds. AGAINST: don’t want to set a precedent of having a committee every year. In this case we may have to. Also, Stephan asked how much it costs to have the committee. Cost can vary depending on how many meetings - \$30,000? \$100,000? Rich Buturla/Rory Burke will get this information for the February 5th meeting.
- Karen Stanek asked how many people have read or know what’s in the charter. Not many. Rich Buturla said that there are restrictions on advocating positions on the questions.

Item #11 – Discuss & Take Possible Action Regarding Capital Plan

- Long-Term Capital Plan was passed out to Board members. It is broken out over next 6 years.
- This plan shows \$414,815 in Requests. Currently we have \$1.8million to spend.
- Oil tank removal – have \$50,000-\$60,000 currently; trying to put \$10,000 per year. This is in case we need to replace any oil tanks.
- New mobile radios for Fire Department- requesting \$119,000 for five years.
- New fire marshal vehicle – truck is 6 years old – may not be addressed by Capital Plan – may be included in vehicle purchases for Town Hall. The SUV (needed to carry all equipment) has at least \$16,000 in additional needed equipment.
- Community Center Van – cost over 4 years – very much needed.
- Police Department Parking Lot – 2 years out - \$35,000
- Public Works was the most detailed oriented.
- Gas Boy Software is still in discussion.

Item #12 – Executive Session (Real Estate – 100 Prospect Street; Litigation – Stratford vs. Purdue Pharmaceuticals)

Motion to enter into executive session @ 8:34pm to discuss Real Estate – 100 Prospect Street; and Litigation – Stratford vs. Purdue Pharmaceuticals; invite Richard Buturla to be present. (Richard Buturla said the reason for executive session on the Real Estate is that it is a Town owned property and discussing publicly may affect the price)

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes Robert Findley - Yes Annmarie Drugonis - Yes Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno – Yes Karen Stanek – Yes Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Motion to exit Executive Session @ 8:54pm. No motions or actions taken in Executive Session.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes Robert Findley - Yes Annmarie Drugonis - Yes Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno – Yes Karen Stanek – Yes Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Item #13 – Discuss & Take Possible Action Regarding Potential Sale of 100 Prospect Street

Motion to request 824 referral to Planning & Zoning for 100 Prospect Street.

Motion: Bob Findley Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes Robert Findley - Yes Annmarie Drugonis - Yes Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno – Yes Karen Stanek – Yes Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Item #14 – Discuss & Take Possible Action Regarding Stratford vs. Purdue Pharmaceuticals

No action needed.

Item #15 – Appointments

Appointments January 15, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Name	Board	Type	Term	Expiration Date	Party
Lianna McMurray	EMSOC	Reappointment	2 Years	1/19/21	D
Paul Wetowitz	Inland Wetlands Commission	Reappointment	4 Years	1/20/2023	R
Peter Kubik	Permanent Building Committee	Reappointment	2 Years	1/3/2021	D
James Forsyth	Permanent Building Committee	Reappointment	2 Years	1/3/2021	D

Motion to approve above appointments 1/15/19 as recommended by the First Selectman.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak Second: Bob Findley

Vote: 1 – Yes 6 – No 0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – No Robert Findley – No Annmarie Drugonis - No Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno – No Karen Stanek – No Stephan Behuniak - No

MOTION FAILED

Item #16 – Tax Refunds/Abatements

Motion to approve attached Tax Refunds Report from Tax Collector as presented by Sue Boland

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes Robert Findley - Yes Annmarie Drugonis - Yes Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno – Yes Karen Stanek – Yes Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Item #17 – Transfers

None

Item #18 – Correspondence

- Check register was attached
- A legal opinion related to account to for the First Selectman's time that was requested in September

Item #19 – Public Comment

None

Item #20– Selectmen's Public Comment

- Stephan Behuniak – none
- Karen Stanek – asked Nicole Klarides-Ditria if the statutes could identify women as "Selectwoman". Nicole will look into it.
- Al Bruno – none
- Annmarie Drugonis – thank you that the tree work was completed on Holbrook; thank you to the public works department for finishing the playground @ Bungay School; Congratulations to the Seymour High School Cheer & Dance Team for placing in their competition!
- Robert Findley – none
- Trisha Danka – thank you to Annmarie Drugonis for bringing Mission 22 to us. Trisha would like to be on the committee to assist them when formed.

Item #21 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:02pm

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes


Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:





Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary

W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman

