

Town of Seymour
Board of Selectmen
MINUTES

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 4/9/2019
TIME: 4:30pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Trisha Danka, Kurt Miller, Al Bruno, Rob VanEgghen, Stephan Behuniak

Members Absent: Robert Findley, Annmarie Drugonis

Others Present: Richard Buturla, Rory Burke, Chief Paul Satkowski, Deputy Chief Roberto Rinaldi, Joseph Belletti III, John Boanno

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order

First Selectman Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
Welcome to Rob VanEgghen to his first meeting as a Selectman.

Item #3 – Public Comment

Joseph Belletti III – 76 Cedar Street – Licensed Arborist – I have sent a letter of intent on March 5th, 2019 for consideration to be the tree warden in town. We have not had a tree warden in town for two years. In speaking with town residents, there is a concern about the trees in the town. State statutes prescribe that the town must have a tree warden appointed. We have no arborist or tree warden looking at our trees to determine hazard in an official capacity. Proper protocol isn't being followed, including posting notifications for the removal of non-emergency trees. No one is qualified to determine whether certain trees are a clear immediate emergency and bypass this protocol. With no arborist, there are no educated eyes determining if a secondary hazard exists, or to determine if these hazards would require pruning as opposed to taking down a tree. Aerial inspections are sometimes necessary. I have reached out to Eversource to perform hazardous removals in lieu of the town taking down trees. Currently there are multiple hazardous trees in town near high impact areas. Town employees are trimming trees without proper oversight or knowledge of proper pruning practices. This has created potentially greater hazards in town. Currently our trees have seen an influx of invasive insects and diseases. We should have a town-wide master list of trees. The town Public Works Director e-mailed me on 3/23/17 with his concern of our town not having a tree warden and the necessity of an advocate for our town's trees. I am willing to perform this duty gratis and the town's only duty would be for reimbursement of costs related to official capacity as tree warden (paperwork, establishing an official e-mail address, etc.) Having a tree warden is not only required by statute but is also crucial to properly balancing a budget as well as the tree canopy in town before we are stripped of a necessary ecological & aesthetic resource. I humbly request a vote at your earliest convenience to be appointed to tree warden in town. Thank you.

Item #4 – Approve Minutes from March 19, 2019 Special Town Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from March 19, 2019 Special Town Meeting

Motion: Al Bruno Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 4 – Yes 0 – No 1 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes Robert Findley – N/A Annmarie Drugonis – N/A Kurt Miller – Yes

Item #5 – Approve Minutes from March 26, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from March 26, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion: Stephan Behuniak Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 4 – Yes 0 – No 1 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes	Robert Findley – N/A	Annmarie Drugonis – N/A	Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno – Yes	Robert VanEgghen – Abstain	Stephan Behuniak - Yes	

Motion to add to the agenda: First Selectman’s Report

Motion: Stephan Behuniak Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 5 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes	Robert Findley – N/A	Annmarie Drugonis – N/A	Kurt Miller - Yes
Al Bruno – Yes	Robert VanEgghen – Yes	Stephan Behuniak - Yes	

First Selectman’s Report:

- Budget Public Hearing will be held at the Community Center on Thursday, April 4th @ 7pm in Room 115
- Budget is available on the website or can have Rory mail to your house.
- On Monday, 3/25/19 I presented the Civic Service Awards to Avi Balter from Seymour Ambulance and Chief Michael Lombardi from the Fire Department both men volunteered a great deal of time to the community and it was my privilege to honor them.
- On Friday, 3/22/19 I along with the First Selectman of Beacon Falls & Bethany sat down with Lt. Governor Bysiewicz to discuss problems & issues faced in the small towns in our area. The Governor & Lt. Governors do take the comments of the First Selectmen very seriously when making changes. I expressed my appreciation for that to her.
- Regarding the audit: The audit issued for Financial Statements as of 6/30/18 came out with a clean audit opinion. The audited financial statements are free of material mistakes. For Fiscal Year '18 we had a surplus of \$40,473 after state cuts of \$1.962 million. We should be very proud of this.
 - Our Fund Balance, using a GAAP basis, stands at 12.28% which is continuing to grow, though not as fast as previously. Our Debt Ratio is down to 6.46%. I have a meeting with our financial advisers tomorrow to discuss plans for the next three years.
 - There was a “control deficiency” which was noted by the auditors for classifying “Other Financial Resources” which are revenue as “Miscellaneous Revenue”. Also, there was a “management comment” regarding issuance of purchase orders after date of purchase and the “School Student Funds” lacked internal control over purchasing. We can have Doug Thomas come to our board to present the audit if desired.

Item #6 – Discussion with Police Chief

Police Chief Paul Satkowski addressed the Board of Selectmen with an update on the Police Department:

- Chief Metzler left on 6/30/2018 and left a solid foundation for the department; Deputy Chief Rinaldi also joined us tonight.
- There has been a huge transformation since 7/1/18. There have been many promotions from inside the department (12). We had to fill all of the back positions. There are a few retirements.
- Staying within budget even with all these changes.
- It is getting harder to find qualified people to hire. I have high praise for all the men & women officers out there every day, preventing crime, saving lives, serving the community.
- We had over 40 interviews to get 5 qualified people. By September we should have a full crew.
- The SRO’s are doing a tremendous job. The schools’ security & safety are our top priority.

- On a daily basis, the officers are out there facing the opioid crisis – has increased and along with that comes additional crime – burglaries, larcenies. They are doing the motor vehicle stops, drug investigations, using the K-9 units.
- The detectives are a great team. The juvenile crimes are increasing; we need to toughen the juvenile laws. We are doing our best to combat these crimes.
- The mental health crisis is another area our officers are dealing with out there every day. Sometimes there are two or three situations per shift. Many times, they are called to the schools. The number of these situations are increasing.
- In the future, we are working on updating our policies and procedures. We are looking to be accredited by the state. We are enhancing and improving our employee performance evaluations. We are working to maintain our staffing levels.
- We are coming into our busy season (lots of outdoor activities) and working closely with the emergency management & personnel. We are doing many community outreach events, raising money for good causes. Our officers are doing a fabulous job out there and I commend them all.
- Now we will be increasing our motor vehicle enforcements, radar trailer, distracted driving, etc.
- We have trained six new FTO's.
- We have created a scholarship fund for two (male & female) high school seniors, \$1,000. Thanks to the Board of Police Commissioners for approving that. Using money from the Community Fund for this.
- Many thanks for all the departments and boards that assist the Police Department and also the people in the community and town businesses.
- Rob VanEgghen asked how many officers total? 42 by September (1 short due to a retirement). We have two supernumeraries total (just hired a retired state trooper with a lot of experience). Rob also asked if there is special training for the mental health issues. All new officers have Mental Health First Aid. Last year six officers went to advanced training and will send six more this year.
- Stephan Behuniak asked the % of calls are drug related? Not sure. This past election day there was a HUGE drug raid in town. Weapons, heroin, crack cocaine, over \$350,000 were seized. In January, there was a situation where crystal meth (valued over \$400,000) was being shipped to an address in Seymour. Our officers are always out there doing what they can to prevent the drugs and keep everyone safe.

Item #7 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding 2019 Farmers' Market

The First Selectman read a letter from Alexis Gazy regarding the 2019 Farmers' Market:

The Seymour Farmers Market would like to request permission to hold the open air weekly market in the municipal parking lot of the community center on Pine Street/Broad Street/Derby Ave on Tuesdays, 12-6pm starting May 14 and ending October 29, 2019.

The Seymour Farmers Market has been home to many farmers. At times, the market has had up to 7 vendors. The Seymour Farmers Market will be working with the CT Department of Agriculture to recruit new farmers to make the market more successful.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 203-723-8885 or email me at gazybrothersfarm@sbcglobal.net.

2019 will mark the 25th season, feeding families of all surrounding Naugatuck Valley towns, as well as far away as the Danbury, Milford, New Haven areas.

Thank you very much for the consideration.

Motion to approve the 2019 Farmers' Market request as presented above.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Trisha Danka

Discussion: Rob Van Egghen asked if this is the best location? Kurt Miller said that since the Community Center expanded parking (and additional parking at the church) this location was selected. Other areas were considered, but this was found to be best. Stephan Behuniak asked if anyone vendor was ever turned away from joining the Farmers' Market? Kurt Miller said not that he knows of.

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – N/A

Annmarie Drugonis – N/A

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Item #8 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding VEMS Taxes

The First Selectman read the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION
REGARDING VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
(VEMS)**

WHEREAS, Valley Emergency Services, Inc. ("VEMS") was formed in 1983 for the purposes of providing paramedic services to the Naugatuck Valley communities of Shelton, Derby, Ansonia, Seymour and Oxford (the "Naugatuck Valley Communities") and

WHEREAS, from the formation of VEMS to the present, the five Chief Executive Officers of the Naugatuck Valley Communities or their designees sit as members of the Board of Director of VEMS; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 19a-179-4, VEMS holds the Medical Intensive Care Paramedic ("MICP") Primary Service Responder ("PSAR") designation within the five Naugatuck Valley Communities; and

WHEREAS, VEMS, in effect functions as a quasi-governmental provider; and

WHEREAS, VEMS has located its headquarters at 764 Derby Avenue, Seymour, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, it is of great value to the residents of Seymour to have the VEMS headquarters located within Seymour; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, VEMS made 1,029 calls within Seymour for the purpose of providing paramedic services; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, VEMS made 932 calls within Seymour for the purpose of providing paramedic services; and

WHEREAS, all revenues in excess of expenses are utilized by VEMS for the purchase and enhancement of equipment or additional capital expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the payment of municipal real property taxes for the property located at 764 Derby Avenue would diminish funds available to support VEMS, and detract from its' vital mission to provide high quality paramedic services to the Naugatuck Valley Communities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 12-65(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes any municipality may by affirmative vote of its legislative body, enter into a written agreement fixing the assessment of real property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 12-65(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Town of Seymour hereby fixes the assessment on the Grand List of October 1, 2018 and for the next three years thereafter the real property located at 764 Derby Avenue at \$1.00 provided; however, this agreement shall terminate should VEMS cease providing paramedic services to the Town of Seymour.

Motion to approve the Resolution as read

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Discussion: Richard Buturla said that VEMS was tax exempt but due to a paperwork issue (did not submit the proper form). It is a unique situation; they are providing a service – this is a quasi-governmental entity providing a governmental function in terms of providing paramedic service to the community. We would otherwise have to provide this service another way. Kurt Miller receives no remuneration in terms of your board membership to VEMS.

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – N/A

Annmarie Drugonis – N/A

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Item #9 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Vision Agreement

We discussed this at our last meeting; all questions have been answered since then.

Motion to approve the above the Cloud Service Scheduled Agreement between the Town of Seymour and Vision Government Solutions.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – N/A

Annmarie Drugonis – N/A

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Item #16 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:55pm

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – N/A

Annmarie Drugonis – N/A

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Submitted by:

Monica Dimond
Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:

W. Kurt Miller
W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman