

Town of Seymour
Board of Selectmen
MINUTES

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 5/24/19
TIME: 11:45AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Trisha Danka, Robert Findley, Annmarie Drugonis, Kurt Miller, Al Bruno, Rob VanEgghen, Stephan Behuniak

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Rory Burke, Richard Buturla, Tim Connors, Dave Bitso, Antvan Huribal, John DiCarlo, Mario Francucci, Rick Dunne

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order

First Selectman Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

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 May 7, 2019 Ordinance Committee Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from May 7, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Bob Findley

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

2 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Abstain

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Abstain

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #5 – Approve Minutes from May 7, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from May 7, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

2 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Abstain

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Abstain

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #6 – First Selectman's Report

First Selectman's Report

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

1. I'd like to thank all of the residents that came out to vote on the annual town budget. While I am very happy that both the town and BoE budgets passed overwhelmingly, I am very disappointed in the overall turnout. We will continue to try to find ways to improve voter turnout and are open to any and all suggestions that people may have.

2. Met with a representative from the US Census Bureau to discuss the upcoming Census and what the towns can do to help the process. The town will be doing as much as it can to help with the process and providing as much information and resources as possible.
3. Negotiations with the Seymour Police Union are continuing. Things are moving along nicely, and I expect to have something for this board in the next month or so.
4. Communications Committee has met several times regarding changes and updates to our emergency services communication system. I expect to have information for our last meeting in June for the board to review.
5. Discussion regarding a potential new Community Center are ongoing. We are still very early in the planning but will provide updates as we move along.
6. We will be planning a Fall referendum to vote on 3 specific issues to prepare for potential bonding in the near future..... one question on a new community center, one question on a \$5 million road package and one on new emergency services communication system.
7. The end of the fiscal year is quickly approaching, and department heads are working to close out their budgets. Finance is projecting a small surplus this year of about \$125,000. I'll continue to provide updates in the coming weeks leading up to the final close out.
8. We had a Mass Casualty Incident Drill on Sunday, May 19th. It went very well, and everyone learned a lot. Many thanks to the members of the Fire Departments, Police Department, and Ambulance Corps for the time and effort they put in. They were there for about 7 hours. We will have another one in the fall.

Motion to add to the agenda: Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Assessor's Request for the Town Homeowner's Program

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

First Selectman Kurt Miller read the following notice from the Assessor's Office:

This is to inform you that we have 245 applicants eligible for the Town Homeowners Program. The Town has approved a line item of \$50,000 for the program. The recommendation of this office is that that applicants be granted a benefit of \$200.00 for those that have 100% ownership or have life use of the property. Those having ownership of less than 100% will have the benefit prorated by their percentage of ownership.

Please advise this office of the decision of the Board of Selectmen regarding the granting of this benefit.

Thank you, J. Kusiak, Assessor, D. Thomas, Finance Director and D. Flach, Tax Collector

Motion to approve the above Town Homeowner's Program benefit per applicant for \$200 per the request of the Assessor, Finance Director and Tax Collector

Note: this is called the "Senior Citizens Tax Freeze" on the Budget

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #7 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding NVCOG Regional Wastewater Treatment Consolidation Study

Presentation by: John DiCarlo (Project Manager), Mario Francucci and Rick Dunne

- Rick Dunne – this study is funded by the State Office of Policy Management. It is voluntary. The five communities are Naugatuck, Beacon Falls, Seymour, Ansonia, Derby. At any point during this study we can opt out of it.
- Phase 1 (base case) cost of operating on a “go-it-alone” basis through 2040. Around \$300million in improvements at a state level. This study looks at, from a state-wide perspective, how can we lower costs for taxpayers, users, and taxpayers at the state level, because they are in for some of these costs (the cleanwater program, subsidizing improvements, debt service, and about 25% of the cost). There is usually about a 10-year wait before you can get funded. We are hoping that by regionalizing we can move up the list.
- Phase 2 (governments model – regional) – How does the investment we have made individually compare to other towns in the area? How do we equalize those costs?
- This information can be found on our website @ www.nvcogct.gov under Plans & Studies
- Mario Francucci – we are trying to figure out if it would be better financially for Seymour and the other towns to continue on their own or to merge with other towns to save money. At the end of Phase 2 (about a 1-year process) we will come back with some answers.
- The three components under consideration are: WPCA, Collection, Large Pumping Station
- Phase 1 – have looked at 1000 ft. levels; looked at what is Seymour doing now at the plant, what are the challenges at the plant, what is the plan for the future at the plant. Also, the same for the pipe system and collection. We have visited Seymour’s facilities. Looked at the screening, grit removal, pumping, phosphorous control, etc. We have interviewed staff, WPCA and plant managers.
- OPM (administrative body that this report goes to) requires us to look at a 20-year plan. Did some population projections. Currently our facilities are working fine. But they will need a significant upgrade soon. This includes the electrical and subsystems. These systems are old, and their reliability gets less. We have assigned a cost to upgrade the treatment plant to what we need to have. This cost all-inclusive is \$40million. These numbers are at a conceptual level for now. Next, we will compare these to regionalization alternative numbers.
- Collection system costs \$8.5million – Pump Stations (2) costs \$2million
- As part of Phase 1 we have identified a list of alternatives (12) – many are paired.
- We will screen this down – do a detailed review engineering – select the best group.
- Further assessments of the plant, reviewing costs, reviewing schedule and come forward with the best alternatives.

Questions/Discussion:

- *Annmarie Drugonis*: thank you for the presentation; the state did pay for the study, but once we decide to go forward with this, where will the money come from? We do a joint application with other towns under the Cleanwater Program. Then we would anticipate that DEEP, OPM and the Administration would move this application to the top of the list. If we have somewhere in the neighborhood of \$300million worth of cost between the 5 plants, it would be financed at some point by the state

taxpayers under the Clean Water Program . If we could find a way to eliminate \$50million or more of this eventual debt, this would be a good candidate for a high position on the list for the Cleanwater Program.

Do not stop anything Seymour is doing at the Town level now.

The state will not come in and say we need to regionalize. If towns continue to “go it alone” the state may just not offer reimburse you for upgrading your plants in the future. Those who regionalize will get assistance from the state, those who don’t will not.

- Robert Findley: are there any other towns that have regionalized? Mattabassett has 4 towns. But this study is designed to be a “model” for regionalization. There will definitely be some bargaining unit issues to overcome and issues with municipal departments to overcome. Every town does not have a separate WPCA board or department. Some have separate bargaining unit. We will look at this somewhat in Phase 2.
- Rob VanEgghen: why are others such as Oxford, Shelton, Waterbury not included in this study? They did not choose to opt in.
- Collection system: no one puts away 1% a year for this. Eventually this will need to get re-done.
- Stephan Behuniak: the estimated numbers presented – will they be refined? We will continue to look at the conditions of the facilities and what needs to be done, we will then become more confident with the number we have. In order to get another level of detail, we would need to develop facility plans. Stephan said his concern is that the numbers, when compared with the regionalization numbers, are comparing the same levels. All the numbers will be compared at the same level. We will look at Capital Costs and Lifestyle.
- Al Bruno: if we decide to regionalize, how long will it take to complete the project? Maybe 10 years, maybe less. Many years at least. It depends on how motivated the entities are. Will the project keep up with the technology? Yes, we will keep up with the technologies. Will the costs increase? If necessary, if the cost would be beneficial. There will be a governing body that will oversee the buildings and running of the plants.
- Trisha Danka: are there any benefits to the communities that are not opting in to the regionalization? Some just want to control their own. The benefit of this study is that it gives you options to reduce cost through regionalization. We have no obligation to go forward with regionalization at the end of the study.
- Kurt Miller: is the decision to go forward with regionalization the Board of Selectmen or the WPCA? Rick said probably both.

Item #8 – Discussion with Facilities Manager

Town Facilities Director Tim Connors gave the Board of Selectmen an update:

- We are nearing completion of the projects began last November at the Town Hall, Library and the Police Department. We are just finishing up some punchlist items now.
- In the future would like to have people on the boards who have professional experience – know what they are looking at.
- New projects: Johnson Controls Energy Savings Program throughout the Town and Schools – weatherization, changing boilers, lighting, solar energy savings
- Schools: dealing with a lot of old buildings & old issues; changing boilers at High School; solar, roofs, weatherproofing.
- Rob VanEgghen asked if Tim is the one who does what ever anyone needs? Tim handles things that are brought to his attention and brings to the board if needed. Works a lot with Alex Danka and Jim

Motion: Robert Findley

Second: Al Bruno

Discussion: Richard Buturla said that we would put together a document for the property owner to sign regarding this matter.

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Item #11 – Set Public Hearing for Ordinances for June 4, 2019 @ 6:45pm in the Norma Drummer Room @ Town Hall: a) Surplus Equipment and b) Strategic Planning Committee

Motion that the Board of Selectmen set the Public Hearing for the following Ordinances for June 4, 2019 @ 6:45pm in the Norma Drummer Room @ Town Hall: a) Surplus Equipment and b) Strategic Planning Committee

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Item #12 - Appointments

Appointments May 21, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Name	Board	Type	Term	Expiration Date	Party
Valerie D’Anna	Culture & Arts Commission	Reappointment	3 Years	5/31/2022	D
Bonnie Wilkes	Municipal Agent	Reappointment	2 Years	6/1/2021	N/A
Alex Danka	Permanent Building Committee	Reappointment	2 Years	6/2/2021	R
Stanley Jachimowski	Permanent Building Committee	Reappointment	2 Years	6/2/2021	U
Mike Marcinek	Permanent Building Committee	Reappointment	2 Years	6/2/2021	D

Motion to approve the above appointments for 5/21/19 as recommended by the First Selectman

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Item #13 – Tax Refunds/Abatements

Motion to approve attached Tax Refunds Report dated 5/17/19 from Tax Collector as presented by Sue Boland

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Item #14 – Transfers

None

Item #15 – Correspondence

- Letter from State Department of Transportation regarding installations of Horizontal Alignment Treatments on State Roads in District 4. The letter reads, in part:

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) is planning to install horizontal alignment warning signs and pavement markings at curves on all State owned and maintained roads in District 4. The new warning signs will have yellow retro-reflective sheeting and yellow delineators will be installed on the sign posts. These upgrades will be in compliance with national standards and will improve motorists' awareness of a change in the roadway alignment. The project is being designed and is tentatively scheduled to be constructed during the 2020 construction season.

It is the Department's policy to inform elected officials and the public when such projects are undertaken. It is important that the community share its concerns with the Department to assist in the project's development. Accordingly, the attached news release providing information on this project is scheduled to be issued prior to the beginning of construction. It is not anticipated that an informational meeting or formal public hearing will be necessary for these projects due to the limited nature of the proposed work.

- Letter from Town Counsel regarding a U.S. Department of Justice Investigation that has now been closed.

As you may recall, in response to a complaint, the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut opened an investigation in 2016 to determine whether violations of federal civil rights laws, including Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, had occurred in Seymour. The complaint alleged, in general, that various towns and cities throughout Connecticut failed to provide accessible ballots to voters with disabilities at elections. We communicated with the Assistant U.S. Attorney handling this matter, and have monitored the case.

- Letter from Joseph Szarmach at McCallum Enterprises LP regarding Derby Dam Hydroelectric Project: Due to unusually high rainfall, we were unable to complete the drawdown of Lake Housatonic during the earlier scheduled dates. As a result, we are trying again to reschedule the drawdown during the week of May 20-24, 2019.

The purpose of the drawdown is to facilitate some flashboard repairs and perform routine maintenance of the Derby Dam.

Lowering the water level of Lake Housatonic is contingent upon river flow conditions as well as the weather forecast. We will be coordinating this drawdown closely with FirstLight Power Resources and their operations at their Stevenson Dam and other upstream plants. Shoreline residents will be informed through public notices placed in the newspaper, as well as through the Lake Housatonic Authority, to enable them to maintain their docks during this period.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 203-386-1745.

Item #16 – Public Comment

None

Item #17-- Selectmen's Public Comment

- Stephan Behuniak –
 - 1. Regarding the referendum totals – suggest we get additional signage for days leading up to referendum days. Other towns have very visible reminders for their referendums.
 - 2. We should start videotaping all town meetings and upload to YouTube. Kurt Miller said that he just purchased a GoPro 7 Black which has the ability to go directly from the camera to the internet. We are working on this now. Hopefully will be able to get this up and running in a few months.
 - 3. Could Kurt or Rory – whomever schedules the department presentation to the Board of Selectmen request the presenting department forward a written report with the packet? This way we can formulate any questions ahead of time.
- Al Bruno – congratulations to Stephan on his nuptials
- Rob VanEgghen – looking forward to attending the Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, and the High School graduation on June 7th. Also, congratulations to the Seymour Track Team today at NVL's.
- Kurt Miller – please let Rory know if you are attending the Parade and Graduation so they can have a seat for you.
- Annmarie Drugonis – also looking forward to the Memorial Day Parade & High School Graduation; congratulations to the Track Team as well as to Stephan.
- Bob Findley – congratulations to the Seymour High School Softball Team as they won tonight.
- Trisha Danka – will try to make the Parade and Graduation
- Kurt Miller – Our upcoming meetings are: June 4th, June 25th, and July 16th. Please mark your calendars accordingly.
- Rory Burke – none
- Rich Buturla – none

Item #18 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:31pm

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Submitted by:

Monica Dimon

Monica Dimon

Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:



W. Kurt Miller

First Selectman