

Town of Seymour
Board of Selectmen
MINUTES

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 8/12/19
TIME: 12:45 pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

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

Members Absent: Trisha Danka

Others Present: Rory Burke, Richard Buturla, Bryan Nesteriak, Chris Bowen, Frank Haines, Barbara Junko, David L. Coe, Loreen M. Coe, Mary K. Skurat, Andy North, Jennifer Magri

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order

First Selectman Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3 – Public Comment

Christopher Bowen – 26 Birchwood Road: Would like to bring to the Board's attention the extreme impact that the Katharine Matthies Foundation (began in 1987) has had to the Town of Seymour. It has touched many lives. The signs at the Katharine Matthies Field (on Silvermine Road) and the Chatfield Park Walking Track that bear her name have her first name spelled wrong. The spelling should be "KathArine" but is spelled KathErine. Would like to recommend that the Board have these signs fixed. We certainly do not want to offend anyone from the Foundation. Rory Burke will facilitate getting new signs made.

Andy North – 4-6 Ajellos Farm Road: Would like to request that the Board take into consideration Ajellos Farm Road under the new Road Repair Plan. It is in need of paving and/or patching/sealing. The road has a "B" rating, but the residents would like to request that you give some consideration to doing some repair work on the road. There are many cracks and rough spots.

Item #4 – Approve Minutes from July 16, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from July 16, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion: Robert Findley

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #5 – First Selectman's Report

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

1. Negotiations with the Seymour Police Union are ongoing. While we have reached tentative agreements on many items including all the financial ones, there are still two outstanding new items that are being worked on. These items have to do with the crediting of comp time in place of overtime and staffing levels for workers comp and disability situations. Both sides are very committed to get the contract done but are taking some extra time to work through these two new items to make sure they are set up correctly. Contract is not up until June 30 of 2020 so there is still plenty of time, but our goal is to have everything done by Fall of 2019.
2. Had a rating review phone call with S&P to touch base on all of our current financials. This is a standard 18 month check in from them to make sure we have been meeting all of our goals and are remaining on course. Our last rating was in December of 2017. Phone call went very well, and we expect to receive an update back from them at some point next week.
3. Met with Steve Gephard and his staff from DEEP regarding the Fish by Pass fixes that will need to take place. DEEP has a plan in place for the corrections as well as a funding source. Their goal is to begin work in the next few months and finish up the corrections as quickly as possible. There will be no additional expense to the town of Seymour for this work.
4. Had a meeting with some members of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and the Greater Bridgeport Council of Governments about Seymour, Ansonia, Derby and Shelton changing MPO's. This is something that has been discussed since we switch from the Valley COG to the Naugatuck Valley COG. Our goal would be to have this change take place by the start of the next fiscal year.
5. Attended the Seymour Kick Off Club Golf Tournament. We had a great turnout and I'd like to thank all of the sponsors for their generous donations to our Kick Off Club.
6. Spent several hours with Town Engineer Bryan Nesteriak touring all of the road upgrade recommendation that came in from residents on social media. We will discuss this further later in the agenda.

Item #6 – Discussion & Take Possible Action with Town Engineer Regarding Roads

Town Engineer, Bryan Nesteriak discussed the Road Project:

- At the last meeting, Bryan Nesteriak presented his Road Improvement Plan with a total cost of \$5 million. The amount needed after the review by Bryan Nesteriak, Rory Burke & First Selectman Kurt Miller's review of the roads is \$10.7 million. Also, we put out the information out on social media and received about 120 comments.
- Clinton Road was taken out of the report and replaced with Washington Avenue. Some other adjustments were made regarding costs needed to repair the roads listed on the report.
- Bryan looked at sidewalks: Y = Sidewalks on entire road, N = NO sidewalks on road, P = sidewalks on PART of road. Most of the roads in town DO NOT have sidewalks.
- Identifying which roads are worse than others is a very difficult thing. Very subjective.
- Rob VanEgghen – asked if moving equipment around would have any impact on cost? Bryan said no.
- Bob Findley – asked if there would be any impact on closing roads? Bryan said no, the contractor will have the list of roads that they will be working on and they will determine the most effective plan.
- The top 11 or 12 roads are the ones that need the most work. The rest of them can be interchanged as far as "need". The letter grade isn't everything. You also need to consider if it is a "high traffic" road. The "higher traffic" road will deteriorate more rapidly than one not used as much so even though it has a better "grade" than another road, it may be important to address it first.
- We can either approve the report as originally presented or the revised plan or address individually. Kurt Miller asked that the Board members actually drive on the last 25-46 roads on the report before making a decision. It may affect your decision about that road.
- Bryan Nesteriak said that the strategy of this Road Plan is for long-term improvement. We could do spot improvements – hit as many of the roads as possible, which may look like a bigger impact – but these "patchings" won't last.
- Rob VanEgghen – agrees that we should go for the long-term success. Kurt Miller said that we would bond for \$5-6 million, and the rest we will budget for. Currently we have more roads (to fix) than we have money.
- Bob Findley – the grading criteria should be looked at. This is what we will be basing our decisions on. Bryan Nesteriak also said that many roads have sections that are "B" and sections that are "D" so we average out the grade. Al Bruno suggested that maybe we could use + or – two to help define better.
- Kurt Miller said that each road in town is in the book.
- Bryan Nesteriak said that how much work is needed to correct these roads is taken into account in deciding which roads to fix. All "F" roads have been eliminated. Maybe a few "D" roads left. Bear in mind that soon the "C" roads will soon become "D" roads.
- Al Bruno – said he trusts Bryan's estimates.
- Annmarie Drugonis – asked about the second part of Titus Road – this is an unimproved road – we don't plow.
- Stephan Behuniak – some roads are missing; there needs to be some discussion on the priority of roads – we should all come out of this meeting with a plan. Certainly, the Industrial Park is a priority. Then we should do the "D" roads. This should cost about \$3 million. What about Clinton Road? Need to discuss this.
- Kurt Miller said that we all understand the importance of doing the Industrial Park. These companies up there are large revenue generators. Also, we need to protect our reinvestment of work done over the

past few years. We also need to consider the comments from the residents. Are there any roads on the list that we can take off?

- Stephan Behuniak asked about the \$200k for the Community Center – how does this figure in when we go out for bonding. Kurt Miller said that the \$200k for the Community Center and the \$200k for Downtown are placeholders. If for some reason the bond questions regarding the New Community Center fails, we will need to do some work on those sidewalks and parking areas. The question we are going to put out is can we spend \$5-6 million on the Road Plan for FY 20. We should have the list together by mid-September, so residents know which roads are on the Road Plan.
- Stephan Behuniak feels that we should take out the Community Center Contingency and put Clinton Road repair in.
- Al Bruno asked how bad 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Avenues are. They are smaller streets but do need work.
- Bob Findley said that the crack sealing will add a few more years. We can do this about five years after paving. Many of the roads on this list are beyond the time they can be crack sealed.
- We will make a final decision at our August 20th meeting on the Road Plan.
- Stephan Behuniak – said we should prioritize the bottom roads (#25-46 are interchangeable). Kurt Miller said we should bear in mind that we can fix PORTIONS of roads. For example, Mountain Road and Old Ansonia Road. We can fix these roads to make them at least drivable. At the next meeting, please come prepared with suggestions.

Item #7 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Town Planner

Town Counsel, Richard Buturla discussed the changes made to the services agreement for a Town Planner:

- About a month ago, Rick Dunne came to us with a presentation regarding a Planning Services Agreement between the NVCOG and the Town of Seymour. Since then we have been working on the terms & conditions of this agreement.
- The term was going to be a one-year agreement. But because the NVCOG took some time deciding on the individual, the term will now be from 9/1/2019 to 6/30/2020 (10 months) with one-year amendments thereafter. The fee will be the same (\$30,000). The individual will be providing some time to neighboring communities for the same fee.
- We were able to reduce the scope of an indemnity provision that they were looking for from the town. So that the Town will indemnify the NVCOG if their planner is sued in connection with services provided here. Mr. Buturla has never seen this happen. Termination for Cause is 30-Days; Termination without cause is 90-Days.
- Stephan Behuniak asked if we have a job description for this. Richard Buturla said that we do. Also, he asked if this person could come to our meetings. Yes, they can.

Motion to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with the NVCOG for planning services in accordance with the terms and conditions presented by Town Counsel Richard Buturla

Motion: Robert VanEgghen Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 5 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abstain

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

Al Bruno – N/A (Not present) Robert VanEgghen – Yes Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #8 – Action in Lieu of Special Town Meeting Regarding Resolution to Amend the Town’s Lease Purchase Agreement with Johnson Controls, Inc. for Energy Savings Improvements in Town Facilities & the Seymour Public Schools

First Selectman Kurt Miller read the resolution into the minutes:

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TOWN’S LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC. FOR ENERGY SAVINGS IMPROVEMENTS IN TOWN FACILITIES AND THE SEYMOUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION 1. That the Town of Seymour (the “Town”) amend the Lease Purchase Agreement with Johnson Controls, Inc. (the “Lease Purchase Agreement”) for energy savings improvements in various Town facilities and the Seymour Public Schools (the “Project”) to authorize the Town to finance additional Project costs in an amount not to exceed \$5,272,392 for a total Project cost of an amount not to exceed \$14,465,000.

SECTION 2. That the First Selectman is authorized to execute the amended Lease Purchase Agreement, other agreements and other documents on behalf of the Town for the Project; and the Board of Selectmen and other Town officials and employees are authorized to take all actions necessary and proper to carry out the Project.

Motion to approve the Resolution as presented

Motion: Stephan Behuniak Second: Robert Findley

Vote: 5 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abstain

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

Al Bruno – N/A (Not present) Robert VanEgghen – Yes Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Returned 7:48pm

Item #9 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding CARES Agreement Extension

The First Selectman read the letter received regarding the CARES Agreement Extension:

Dear Selectman Miller:

Reference is hereby made to that certain License Agreement by and between Town of Seymour (“Licensor”) and Coco’s Animal Rescue Efforts of Seymour, Inc. (“Licensee”) for space at 115 ~~Silvermine~~ Road in Seymour, Connecticut dated September 26, 2016 (the “License”).

In accordance with Section 2(b) of the License, notice is hereby given of Licensee’s option to renew the License for an additional term of one (1) year commencing July 1, 2019. All other terms and conditions of the License shall remain in full force and effect, including but not limited to, Licensor’s termination rights under Section 2(c) of the License.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Coco’s Animal Rescue Efforts of Seymour, Inc.,
Licensee

This renews the license in place from the last two years; everything remains the same. Location 115 Silvermine Road.

Motion to approve the CARES License Agreement as presented.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danko – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #10 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Surplus Equipment Auction Services

- Absolute Auctions & Realty – ordinances were updated and passed.
- They will handle the entire process of auctioning surplus equipment. There is no cost to the Town. Their fee comes from the buyer.
- We can sell things on our own if we choose.
- Richard Buturla said the term is for two years.

Motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the above proposed agreement with Absolute Auctions & Realty, Inc.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danko – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #11 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Census Complete Count Committee

- There has been a push from the Lt. Governor's Office to come up with ways to improve the census count in Connecticut.
- The Valley has a team – Rory is the unofficial chair for our team. We are trying to gather together people who would like to help get the word out about the census. We would report to Mike Burke.
- This is informational – need people to reach out to groups – PR for the census. The census is in April 2020. We will be done before then.
- We need to make people aware of TITLE 13 – this states that there will be no repercussions from filling out the census.
- Looking for ideas to educate groups about the census. We won't be doing presentations.

Motion to add to the Agenda Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Tax Abatement for George J. Hummel Little League

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danko – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

The First Selectman read a letter received from William Ragaini, President of GJHLL:

On behalf of the George J. Hummel Little League, I would like to request an abatement of the property tax on our property at 12 Chestnut Street. As you know, we are a 501(c)3 non profit organization. The issue which causes the tax collector to bill GJHLL stems from the stipulation in the agreement in 1950 in which Dr. John Casagrande donated the property to GJHLL with the understanding that, in the event of the dissolution of our league, the property reverts back to the Casagrande family.

In previous years, you granted an abatement of the tax and we are requesting a similar abatement this year.

Motion to abate the full amount of property tax owed for the George J. Hummel Little League @ 12 Chestnut Street

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Robert Findley

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danko – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #12 - Appointments

Motion to approve the below appointment for 8/06/19 as recommended by the First Selectman:

Appointments August 6, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Name	Board	Type	Term	Expiration Date	Party
Mike Horbal	Regional Water Authority Representative Policy Board	Appointment	3 Years	August 6, 2022	N/A

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danko – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie 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 8/02/19 from Tax Collector as presented by Sue Boland

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Robert Findley

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danko – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #14 – Transfers

None

Item #15 – Correspondence

- Check Register was attached.
- Letter from CT DOT regarding the grant that was awarded to us "Community Connectivity Grant for Woodside Avenue Sidewalk Project" – runs a sidewalk from Route 67 to the Oxford Town Line on Woodside Avenue.
- Letter from Town Counsel Richard Buturla in response to Stephan Behuniak's question regarding a vacancy in the Office of Registrar of Voters. The letter reads, in part:

In summary, if the deputy registrar accepts the appointment, he shall serve as the registrar and fill the unexpired term of office. On the other hand, if the deputy registrar rejects the appointment, the Democratic Town Committee shall appoint a registrar.

Item #16 – Public Comment

None

Item #17– Selectmen's Public Comment

- Stephan Behuniak – none
- Rob VanEgghen – none
- Al Bruno – none
- Kurt Miller - none
- Annmarie Drugonis – none
- Bob Findley – none

Item #18 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:02pm

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Robert Findley

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danko – N/A

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

W. Kurt Miller

First Selectman