

Item #7 – Approve Minutes from October 29, 2019 Special Town Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from October 29, 2019 Special Town Meeting

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 4 – Yes

0 – No

2 – Abstain

Trisha Danko – N/A

Robert Findley – Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Abstain

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #8 – Approve Minutes from October 29, 2019 Special Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from October 29, 2019 Special Meeting

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 4 – Yes

0 – No

2 – Abstain

Trisha Danko – N/A

Robert Findley – Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Abstain

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Item #9 – Discussion with Executive Director of Seymour Ambulance Association

- Financial Statements from auditor this year were passed out to the Board
- Every other year we can do a “laid back” audit; this was at the recommendation of the auditors and cost savings (the audit costs usually around \$12,000 to \$13,000).
- Because EMSOC is not meeting any more, we passed this out to you.
- We are a unique situation – not a Town Department – quasi-department; 99% of us are volunteers. Most of the time when an ambulance goes out, it is with a volunteer.
- Last year we did 2,200 calls; this is phenomenal with the staff we have. We should be very proud of this. Last month we were up about 210 calls. Over the next few months the numbers should bring us to about the same as last year.
- We work very hard to keep our volunteers – lots of incentives – stipend program.
- We have been talking about regionalization; VEMS is the biggest type of regional outfit for our area. They cover from Shelton into Oxford. We will work together to cut costs.
- We do not make a lot of money, but we get by. Last year we were able to replace an ambulance from 1997. Spent \$230,000. The lift costs \$30,000 (does not include the stretcher). We try to increase our billing as much as possible. We do not force residents into collection. Usually we end up writing off between \$90,000 - \$100,000. The money we do get from the Town helps to offset this.
- This past year we have identified things in our building that need to be fixed. We have been working with the Building Department to correct these. There have been roof leaks that have caused flooding which has caused other issues. We need to replace door jams, rugs, fix walls, replace tiles. Over the summer the leaks were addressed and seem to be fixed. Now we can address the other issues. We are trying to fix as many of these issues ourselves as we can.
- Another issue we have is SPACE. We are very grateful for what we have, but as our membership and volume of calls increase, we are running out of space for our equipment and supplies. Our “mass casualty truck” has been outside for the past 10 years and has needed \$3,000 to \$4,000 in repairs. We would like to replace this.
- We did receive a \$10,000 grant from the Matthies Foundation. With this money we purchased six trauma bags – put one on each vehicle. Also, some 50 additional tourniquets for active members to use if needed.
- The Mass Casualty Drill held a few weeks ago was a great success. We had a huge turnout and was very helpful. There were 8-10 ambulances there, and countless people.
- Next year we are looking to replace another ambulance from 2008 with many miles on it. This would be a huge cost savings.

- We are still actively recruiting and training people. The call volume will not decrease.

Discussion/Questions:

- Rob VanEgghen – how long have you been in your current position? Kyle has been here a little over 3 years. Also, how many of your calls are drug related? About 15-25%.
- Robert Findley – what is your call volume today? Is it growing? Are you staffed to handle it? Last year we did a little bit less than the year before, by about 50-60 calls. This year will most likely match last years number. We have gone up substantially over the last 5 years (from 1,800). We are doing it ok right now. We also do mutual aid – have done calls in Waterbury. We most likely cannot sustain long-term increases in call volume. We will need to explore other ideas.
- Al Bruno – What will happen with the door jamb repair? Tim will come and repair this. He was waiting until he was sure that the roof leaks were repaired for good. Now it looks like the are fixed. We have been trying to fix things on our own. Last week we had a flooring company come out and re-finish the floors – tiles had been there since 2004. We will be painting the walls. We will work together with the Town to make the necessary repairs happen.
- Annmarië Drugonis – How long will it be until you won't fit in the current building? Kyle said NOW, actually. We have only three closets: one for I.T. equipment, one for medical supplies, and one is a coat closet. We only have storage for our medical supplies; we are currently renting a storage trailer. But over the next two years, it will become really tough to store everything. But we are very grateful for what we have.

All the Board members thanked Kyle Kelley and his team for all their hard work!

Item #10 – Financial Update from the First Selectman

- Un-audited fiscal year 2019 closing. We will receive the final audit in December.
- For property taxes we collected \$109,440 over what we expected; up 1.02%, prior year tax was up 0.83%; supplemental car tax was up 0.56%. We look to increase our collectibles every year.
- Short fall on "Interest & Lien Fees" of <\$52,231>.
- State funding – received \$667,452 more from the state grants than expected. We didn't want to plan on this money and end up with a shortfall.
- We purchased a fire truck in cash due to this extra money.
- "Other" – there was a shortfall of <\$113,258> from other state funding.
- "Permit Fees & Other" lines were a little higher on some and lower on some. Net is shortfall of <\$2,164>.
- Police Admin Fees were almost double what we expected due to road work. Interest on our General Fund was more than expected.
- "Other Financing Sources" - use of Fund Balance – built in for contingencies, emergencies (\$100,000/year). Last year we needed to adjust due to BOE was said to be short-funded by the state so we had to put \$142,476 towards BOE (which they used to fix the playground at Bungay School).
- "Capital Project Fund Reimbursement" - \$300,000 – this is for the final closeout of Chatfield/LoPresti School Project. We are still in the process of closing this out with the State. We expected to close this out last fiscal year. Now expect it will be done this fiscal year. We actually had such a great year, we can absorb this \$300,000. Final overage is \$141,120.
- Expenses – watched very carefully. Most departments were very close to original amount. We came in under budget by \$64,681 (General Government). We came in \$51,964 under budget in the Public Safety category. Sundry section was under budget by \$28,153. The Capital Non-Recurring was under by about \$260,000 which was put in the Mill Rate Stabilization Account to protect us in case of state shortages.

- The Expenses came to a total of \$403,864 under budget. This gave us a total surplus of \$544,984. This allowed us to spend \$499,999 on a new fire truck; leaving us with a total extra surplus of \$44,985.
- Reminder that these are the UN-AUDITED numbers. The numbers may change at the final audit. Usually get the final audit in December.
- FY 20 is trending very close to budget – possibly about \$1,000. But there is no need currently for a spending freeze. The department heads are managing their budgets. We check with them every two weeks on their budget to address any issues.

Discussion/Questions:

Stephan Behuniak – asked how Town Counsel arrived at the \$300,000. Bryan LeClerc said that \$135,000 is the “Settlement” and \$185,000 is for the general Town Counsel services: hourly rate for labor & contract negotiations, planning & zoning, etc. When that line is done at the end of the year and we have paid all bills and looked at all settlements, we will take that money and sweep it into the “interservice fund” or “workers compensation fund” or one of our “accrued benefits funds”. This is not necessarily \$300,000 for legal fees.

Rob VanEgghen – asked if we can break this property tax number into Commercial and Residential numbers? Not at this time with this report, but Rory can make sure that Rob gets those numbers. Estimate is about 70/30.

Item #11 – Appointments

Appointments November 6, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Name	Position	Type	Term	Expiration Date	Party
Sean Strumello	Tree Warden	Appointment	n/a	n/a	n/a

Motion to approve the above Appointment as presented

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 #12 – Tax Refunds/Abatelements

Motion to approve attached Tax Refunds Report dated 10/31/19 from Tax Collector as presented by Sue Boland

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 – Transfers

None

Item #14 – Correspondence

- Check Register was attached.
- Received a letter from Chris Bowen resigning his position on the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- Received an e-mail from Ed Hendricks resigning his position on the Board of Education for medical reasons.

Item #15 – Public Comment

None

Item #16– Selectmen’s Public Comment

- Stephan Behuniak – wished to thank the residents for coming out to vote yesterday and for voting to accept the bonding for roads and emergency communication equipment.
- Rob VanEgghen – excited to work with this Board for another two years
- Al Bruno – congratulated the Girls Soccer and Volleyball Teams – best record in a long time and to Tom Cunningham for winning “Best NVL Coach of the Year”.
- Annmarie Drugonis – Veterans Day is Monday
- Robert Findley – thanks to Stephan Behuniak for his dedication & service; congratulations to the Girls Volleyball Team
- Kurt Miller –
 - Navy wreath will be dropped off the Bank Street Bridge @ 10am; ceremony @ 11:11am in French Memorial Park paying tribute to all Veterans.

Bryan LeClerc asked if Kurt Miller could ask the Board to stand at recess for a few minutes.

- Excellent that the bonding for roads and communications equipment passed. Will be putting together the bonding packages next week. Money should come through February – late March.
- Although the bonding of \$15million did not pass, it stimulated conversations with the residents about the Community Center. At the December Meeting we will form a Building Committee. This will start the process. We will then have informational meetings over the next few months and have some information back to this board by around the March meeting. Ultimately, the vote will come here, to the Board of Finance, to the voters, and finally back here.

Item #17 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:54pm

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


Submitted by:

Monica Dimon

Monica Dimon

Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:



W. Kurt Miller

First Selectman