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**Town of Seymour ~ Board of Finance
MINUTES
Budget Deliberations
Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall**

Members Present: Bettyann Peck, Kwame Dunbar, Beverly Kennedy, Jim Cretella, Bill Sawicki, John Stelma; Paul Wetowitz, Gary Popielasz (alternates)

Members Absent: Richard Demko; Grace Brangwynne, (alternate)

Others Present: Doug Thomas

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order

Chairman Bill Sawicki called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3 – Public Comment

None

Item #4 – Deliberation and discussion of 2020/2021 Budget

Bill Sawicki asked Doug Thomas to make any corrections to the BOF Budget.

Also, flip columns "BOF Budget" and "Difference Dept Req vs 1st Sel"

Starting with the Expense Side....

Selectman's Office

- #105 - please get rid of the dollar and put into Administrative Assistant and get rid of the word OPEN

Economic Development Commission

- #370 Memberships – what is the <\$1,700> getting rid of? Please cross off CREC. What are we getting with these memberships? Which memberships are we still paying for?

Registrar of Voters

- #310 – Why did Kurt cut the election staffing <\$20,000>? Is it needed?

Assessor's Office

- #330 – revaluation # taken out – Doug said that we have this number elsewhere in reserve. There is enough in there to cover this \$89,127.
- #740 – equipment costs were taken out – for chairs, etc.

Printing & Legal Ads

- #540 – Do we really need \$15,000 for advertising? We do have a Town website. Doug will find out.

Town Planner

- Please delete the work OPEN

Town Computers

- #740 – Maintenance – Renewals – please get a breakdown of this number.

Town Operations – Buildings

- Reduce all #'s for BOF to match the Selectman's budget

Town Contributions – Miscellaneous

- Remove the "Fathers Club" and "Council of Small Towns" lines
- #858 – Valley Transit District – keep the department request @ \$8,250

Town Contributions – Recreation

- #880, #881, #882 – keep the \$200 for all these – leave the department request of \$3,950 each
- #891 – did we actually pay them the \$5,500? The \$5,000 is correct.
- #887 – Boy Scouts – get rid of this line as it is included in line #889
- #888 – Boys & Girls Club – leave at \$10,000

Police Department

- #105 – Salary (Clerks) – please fix the \$2 – match Kurt’s budget
- #110 – Salary (Uniformed Police) – this reduction takes an officer out; the original number includes all the officers all the time – this never happens.
- #112 – Salary (Supers) – ok with this cut of \$5,000 – if they really need it, we’ll find it.
- #745 – Cars – because we will have savings in the Salary line item, we can reduce this number to \$30,000
- Go with the First Selectman’s Budget

Emergency Management

- #610 - Fix the \$1 in General Supplies. Go with First Selectman’s number.

Fire Department

- #102 – not funding the Chiefs Wages – it’s never been done, and we don’t want to start paying the volunteers.
- #430 and #615 – ARE WE KEEPING THESE AT 1ST SELECTMAN OR DEPT REQUEST?
- #720 and #740 – take these out – they will be put in Capital and Buildings

Highway Wages & Maintenance

- Overtime, Snowplowing, Materials – we don’t want to overbudget; if they end up needing the extra money, we will fund them.
- #424 – Trees – <\$25,000> - we should seriously consider putting this back in.
- #330 – Vehicle Storage – need to put in the \$18,000 – they are going to build a storage shed; use First Selectman’s number of \$18,000
- #615 – Clothing – need to add in the \$9,500 – use First Selectman’s number of \$9,500

Street Lighting

- #622 – we need to use the First Selectman’s number \$117,400; last year this number was under-funded too much

Sanitation/Transfer Station

- #424 – would like to replace the wood grinder – this \$10,000 is for an outside contractor

Waste Collection

- When this contract was signed, there was no “Appropriation Clause” included. This would protect the Town from paying if we ran out of money. Use the \$1,113,002 – First Selectman’s number.

Community Services Department

- #110 – the additional was an estimate of what she thought she needed
- #530 – take out \$1,583 from the First Selectman’s number and use that number
- For all other lines use the First Selectman’s number total should be \$457,670

Culture & Arts Commission

- Use the First Selectman’s number

Parks

- #424 – use the Department Request number \$20,000
- #430 – use the Department Request number \$50,000 – this number includes the additional roof repairs on 6 roofs
- #510 – use the Department Request number \$3,000
- #610 – change the number to \$37,100

Library

- #430 – take out the \$15,000 – this will go in the Town Buildings or Capital
- #500 – make this number \$1,583

Health Insurance

- We are budgeting an 8% increase (Anthem)

Town Insurance

- This is our Property Casualty & Liability Insurance
- The Workers Comp line has gone down – we have a better loss rating (from 2.4 to 2.1)

Capital – Non-Recurring

Bill Sawicki reminded Doug that on July 1st a check needs to be cut for the \$358,826 and put in the Capital – Non-Recurring reserve account.

Town Contingency

- Use the First Selectman's number

Bond Purchase – Principal & Interest

- Doug will distribute the money to the appropriate accounts after the bond purchase

Board of Education

- Bill Sawicki will call Mike Wilson to get a revised number for Monday's deliberations

Bettyann Peck asked about the Teachers' Retirement. Bill Sawicki said that normally no town contributes to the teachers' pension. This is funded by deductions from the teachers checks and the state makes up the difference through the General Fund. The problem is that there is a shortfall and the State said that they were going to bill each town a percentage of the deficit. A year ago, the number for us was \$187,000. We did not budget hoping the State would not pursue the issue. This year would be about \$250,000. Next year our contribution would be about \$380,000. We have not heard anything on this yet.

Bill Sawicki said that we would not meet on March 11th or March 18th. We are hoping to have our budget finalized by the March 16th meeting. If not, we will finalize on March 23rd.

Doug will find out the contract end date for the Trash/Recycling contracts for Monday.

Item #5 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Submitted by:

Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary