

COPY RECEIVED
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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, March 21, 2017 – 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: W. Kurt Miller, Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Al Bruno, Karen Stanek, Annmarie Drugonis, Stephan Behuniak and Len Greene, Jr.

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; Kevin Flaherty, Janice Hann, Laura Filo, James Filo, John Maiorino, Nicole Dionas, John Stelma, Jessica Cantor, Peter Wright, Don Smith, Trish Danka, Jennifer Magri and other members of the Strategic Planning Committee.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:01 PM.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

Kevin Flaherty, 29 Emma Street, thanked Len Greene for returning his phone call. He stated Senator Blumenthal's office is terrible at getting back to people. He contacted Dimple Desai, point person for the program, and was told he should have a begin date and end date on his warranty. He stated every contractor he spoke to said there should be a written warranty. He believes Jim Galligan does not have an unbiased opinion for the driveway repairs.

Janice Hann, 29 Emma Street, passed out a photo of a door frame. She stated the contractor cut it wrong and would like it fixed. She stated she is not getting any cooperation.

Laura Filo, 6 Chuse Drive, inquired if the board was aware of the matter between the town and Soncca. She is concerned with what has happened between when Soncca started and now. The town is filing a lawsuit against Soncca trying to collect property taxes. Soncca is recognized as a charitable organization that solely provides childcare before, after school and during the summer. She doesn't understand why all of a sudden there is a change.

James Filo, 6 Chuse Drive, asked if the town is going after any other charitable organizations in the Town of Seymour. He inquired who the tax collector answers to.

John Maiorino, 38 Emma Street, came to speak on behalf of his neighbor, Kevin Flaherty. He stated that people are being scammed by this Small Cities Grant. He stated all these people need repairs to their driveways. He has never seen such bad work done and no one is doing anything about it.

Nicole Dionas, 9 Aurora Drive, Oxford, stated she is very grateful for the Soncca program. She is very concerned about this litigation they are facing. It would be a financial hardship on their family if it wasn't for the Soncca program. Soncca is a nonprofit organization that has been in existence for 32 years. Soncca has state and federal recognition and receive funding through the United Way. She inquired what can be done to alleviate/address this situation.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from March 7, 2017 meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from March 7, 2017 meeting.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

(Nicole stepped out 7:11 PM)

W. Kurt Miller – yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #5: First Selectman's Report.

1. Budget process continues to take shape. Workshops have concluded and the Board is now in the process of finalizing the budget for the town hearing which will be on Monday, April 10th. Based on board discussions, they will be putting forth a mill rate that will be equal to the current rate or slightly less than where we were last year. This is being done to project the town from any large drops in revenue from the state of Connecticut.
2. Contract negotiations with the Clerks Union and DPW Union are ongoing. I had hoped to have these wrapped up by the end of April, but that now may not be the case. I will provide more updates as we move forward.
3. Rory Burke, Tony Caserta and I met with representatives from Real Term and Eversource regarding the street light project. The meeting was extremely productive and the project is on schedule to begin later in the spring.
4. Attended the National League of Cities conference in Washington DC last week representing CCM. I attended several sessions on technology and infrastructure as well as several legislative sessions and updates. During this time we also met with Senator Blumenthal and Senator Murphy at their offices to discuss issues facing Connecticut and what if anything could be done on a federal level to assist the state.
5. Attended the Citizens Engine Company Annual Banquet. The food as always was outstanding. Awards and recognition were given out to a very deserving group of volunteers. It is my pleasure to join them each year for this. During the banquet, a 7 minute year in review video was played that I will be posting to social media later this week to showcase the kind of effort that these volunteers put in on our behalf. We are very lucky to have them.
6. Last night the Seymour Oxford Rotary gave out their Volunteer of the Year awards. Two people from Seymour received awards..... Alex Danka of the Seymour Land Trust and John Oscowski from the Seymour Police Department. While I was unable to attend, Deputy Chief Paul Satkowski filled in for me and shared some words of thanks and gratitude on my behalf.
7. Finally, I will be taking a family vacation from Wednesday, March 29th through Sunday, April 9th. During this time, I will have no access to phone, text or email. In my absence, Len will be addressing any issues that may arise on my behalf. Day to day operations will be handled by Tony Caserta and Doug Thomas. I will be meeting with all the service chiefs prior to leaving to make sure there are no outstanding issues.

(Nicole returned at 7:15PM)

ITEM #6: Update from Strategic Planning Committee.

Trish Danka stated the Strategic Planning Committee is still working on finalizing the first completion of the Strategic Plan. Last year, the majority of their time was spent completing the board and commission interviews as well as re-interviewing some of the departments who received new department heads (Library and Public Works). They spent a lot of time executing the Seymour Summit which they thought was a great success. They are discussing holding another one. They have held a lot of meetings to pull into the plan those interviews that were completed as well as comments they heard that were applicable from the Summit.

Going forward, for next year, they will continue to meet with the First Selectman on a biannual basis to get his updates to incorporate any changes into the plan. They will review the plan to ensure everything is still incorporated goal wise. They would like to continue with the public Summit but are deciding whether to hold it annually or every 2 years and who the audience will be. They will also be discussing how often they should re-interview departments, boards and commissions.

Last year they completed communication videos at the high school. Because of the upcoming summit and interviews, they took a hiatus for this school year. They are hoping to have the Communication Committee active again and reinstate those communication videos whether it is through the high school or another venue.

Annmarie stated the communication videos were great. It showed the value of work that Seymour High School can do. She would like to see that come back and shared with the community.

Trisha stated it is a great way to get students involved in volunteering.

Kurt thanked Jen for her service to the board.

Trisha stated Jen has decided to not have her appointment reinstated and we will miss her.

Kurt stated there are two openings on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Trisha stated they may have located one person, Corey, who has recently graduated high school.

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action regarding setting of annual Town meeting for Thursday, April 27th at 7 PM at the Seymour Middle School Auditorium.

Motion to set the annual Town Meeting for the 2017-2018 Budget for Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Seymour Middle School Auditorium.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Kurt stated the Board of Finance will be having their Town Hearing on April 10th. That will give the residents an opportunity to weigh in on the budget. The meeting on the 27th will be to move the budget forward to referendum. One of the reasons he is pushing it as far as possible, is because the Appropriations and the Finance committee need to meet on the 24th and the 25th which will give them time to see what the state does. The budget is prepared to absorb up to \$700,000 of cuts from the state of Connecticut which Kurt considers is the worst case scenario.

ITEM #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding setting of budget referendums for May 11th, May 25th, and June 8th from 6 AM to 8 PM at the Seymour Community Center.

Motion to set the budget referendums for Thursday, May 11th, Thursday, May 25th and Thursday, June 8th from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the Seymour Community Center as needed.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

ITEM #9: Discussion and take possible action regarding Small Cities Resolution.

Kurt read the following resolution:

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION
OF THE TOWN OF SEYMOUR**

SMALL CITIES PROGRAM

Certified a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Town of Seymour at a meeting of its Board of Selectman on February 2nd, 2017 and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever.

(Date) _____

(Susan DeBarber, Town Clerk)

(SEAL)

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing pursuant to Public Law 93-3 83, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Seymour make application to the State for \$500,000 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement, therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,
2. That the filing of an application by the Town of Seymour in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 is hereby approved, and that W. Kurt Miller, the First Selectman of the Town of Seymour is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Seymour.

Motion to accept resolution as presented.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

This \$500,000 grant will be used to purchase two large generators for the Callaghan House and for Norman Ray House.

Kurt stated that the grant that is in question is a revolving loan fund which is a different administration. The town would manage the process for this particular grant.

Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; stated the board is approving the resolution in order for the town to apply for the grant. This grant is much different than the revolving loan fund that residents are concerned about.

ITEM #10: Appointments

Motion to appoint Rory Burke to the Sustainability Committee for a term of two (2) years expiring on March 21, 2019.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Motion to appoint Len Greene, Jr. to the Sustainability Committee for a term of two (2) years expiring on March 21, 2019.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

1-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Abstain
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Motion to appoint Stephan Behuniak to the Sustainability Committee for a term of two (2) years expiring on March 21, 2019.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

1-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Abstain

Motion to appoint Jose Ortiz to the Sustainability Committee for a term of two (2) years expiring on March 21, 2019.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Motion to appoint Shipman & Goodwin, LLP as Bond Counsel expiring on December 3, 2017.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Motion to reappoint Kathy Rich to the Commission on Aging for a term of two (2) years expiring on April 2, 2019.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – yes
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes
Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Motion to reappoint Kathy Conroy-Cass to the Economic Development Commission for a term of three (3) years expiring on March 19, 2020.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Stephan Behuniak

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Vote: 7-Yes | 0-No | 0-Abstain | |
| W. Kurt Miller – yes | | Al Bruno – Yes | Len Greene, Jr. – Yes |
| Annmarie Drugonis – Yes | | Karen Stanek – Yes | Stephan Behuniak – Yes |
| Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes | | | |

Motion to reappoint Christine Aliman to the Economic Development Commission for a term of three (3) years expiring on March 19, 2020.

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|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Motion: Len Greene, Jr. | Second: Stephan Behuniak |
| Vote: 7-Yes | 0-Abstain |
| W. Kurt Miller – yes | Al Bruno – Yes |
| Annmarie Drugonis – Yes | Karen Stanek – Yes |
| Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes | Len Greene, Jr. – Yes |
| | Stephan Behuniak – Yes |

ITEM #11: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to approve the Tax Collectors report as presented.

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Motion: Len Greene, Jr. | Second: Annmarie Drugonis |
| Vote: 7-Yes | 0-Abstain |
| W. Kurt Miller – yes | Al Bruno – Yes |
| Annmarie Drugonis – Yes | Karen Stanek – Yes |
| Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes | Len Greene, Jr. – Yes |
| | Stephan Behuniak – Yes |

ITEM #12: Transfers.

None.

ITEM #13: Correspondence.

- Check registers.
- Two letters of public comments from Joseph Luciano:
 - The first letter includes his recommendations to re-write the snow ordinance (Ordinance 14-6)
 - The second letter regards people who are violating Ordinance 14-6 of the snow ordinance and his comments on that.
- Resignation letter from Gary Vasas.

Kurt read the following:

*Dear Seymour Planning & Zoning Commission,
Please accept my immediate resignation from the Planning & Zoning Commission of Seymour. I had to move out of town and can no longer fulfill my duties as a result. Thank you for the time and opportunity and best wishes going forward.*

*Sincerely,
Gary Vasas*
- Resignation letter from Karen Stanek from the Seymour Commission on Aging.

Kurt read the following:

*Dear Mrs. DeBarber,
Please accept this letter as my resignation as a Member of the Seymour Commission on Aging to be effective immediately.*

It has been a pleasure, honor and privilege to serve with the dedicated members of the Commission on Aging in furthering the goals and objectives of the Commission for the people of the Town of Seymour. I wish the members of the Commission further success in achieving their goals and objectives.

*Very truly yours,
Karen R. Stanek*

ITEM #14: Public Comment.

Kevin Flaherty, 29 Emma Street, doesn't know why the warranty is so secretive. He stated his promissory note says \$30,564 and another says \$32,950 and he is unsure which one is correct. He stated he is very disappointed in the whole program. He hopes something can be done.

Janice Hann, 29 Emma Street, stated she signed a contract and in a portion of the contract it says before the job is done we will get our warranties and Mr. Foley from Lisa Lowe's office will inspect everything and he never came. She thinks something should be done. She is getting frustrated because they are not getting answers from anyone.

John Stelma, 3 Oriole Lane, stated his main concerns with his Small Cities Grant are the lack of warranty information and an itemized bill. He has received the scope of work. Five items, including the driveway, have not been completed which will not be taken care of properly until the weather gets better.

Jessica Cantor, 12 Garden Street, works for Soncca and is looking to see who is in charge of Mr. Kuziak. When there is a situation such as theirs, being a nonprofit organization, she inquired why they are being charged taxes on their property. They have been in business for 32 years in Seymour. She asked what can be done with regard to appealing so they didn't have to go to court. They would like to resolve this situation.

Peter Wright, 113 Rolling Hills Drive, Oxford, is representing Soncca. He is the current Treasurer and has been on the board for Soncca for the past 15 years. He thinks it is a great program. Soncca helps childcare for before and after school programs, it is accredited and safe. Some accreditations helped improve Seymour School System. They provide a huge service to the Town of Seymour. They are clearly a nonprofit organization. He doesn't understand why they are in litigation for taxes.

John Maiorino, 38 Emma Street, stated the people who were given the grant were not allowed to pick their own contractor. He stated the work is terrible. He wishes someone would investigate the contractor.

ITEM #15: Selectmen's Public Comments.

Stephan Behuniak, in regards to small cities grant, asked if they know specifically what the towns role is regarding oversight in terms of contractors and how the program is run.

Kurt stated he is two-thirds of the way through very thorough review all of the contracts. He is having Building Inspector examine permits that were pulled. Once that is complete, it will go to Richard Buturla for a review. He hopes to have everything done by Friday. He will get the information out to people directly affected. He expects answers by the end of the week. He stated it has and will take some time getting all the information together.

Stephan stated it is good to get more information out to the public. With regard to the Tax Incentive Program for Basement Systems, he inquired if that goes towards just the new addition or will equipment be included also.

Kurt stated the Tax Incentive Program goes toward the new assessment and any additional assessment on building and new equipment.

Stephan inquired if there was anything that can be done to stop Basement Systems from leaving if in the 8th year they decide to leave.

Kurt stated there are penalties built into program.

Stephan commended Public Works on a job well done with the storm. He inquired why town parks have not been plowed.

Kurt stated they don't plow certain parts because of liability.

Karen Stanek commended Public Works on a job well done. They did a great job on North Benham Road. She noticed Public Works out nailing up mailboxes which had been knocked down during storm. People appreciate the service.

Kurt stated Public Works was out there for 18 consecutive hours. They also worked overnight the night after the storm clearing out downtown. He stated they had a driver retire on Monday at 4:30 so they were down a driver also.

Len Greene, Jr. stated this was the first he had heard of the Soncca litigation issue. He stated it is something that is concerning to hear. He stated he doesn't know the details but their voices have been heard. He stated they would like to respond but they are actually not allowed. It is disconcerting to hear the issues with the work that has been done with the Small Cities Grant. He is not quite sure if it is State or Federal grant. He stated their voices have been heard and are moving forward to get answers. People are now aware of the issues. He stated he could see the potential benefit if it is done right. He commended Public Works on a job well done with the roads during and after the storm. He thanked all emergency management and personnel for taking care of people.

Al Bruno said that it is great to hear that an investigation is underway regarding the Small Cities Grant issues. He thanked everyone who came out and voiced their concerns. If residents didn't come here and voice their concerns, no one would have not found out. He stated he would like to know what is going on with Soncca. It is a great asset to our community. Hopefully at the next meeting we will get an update. He thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and voicing their opinions.

Annmarie Drugonis thanked everyone for bringing the Soncca issue to our attention. Hopefully we will have answers soon. She stated everyone is so used to thanking Public Works for a job they are doing. She said what they are seeing is the next step that Public Works needs to be at. They have a very strong leader and right people in place to move it forward to the next level. She stated she is so sorry everyone is going through so much trouble with the Small Cities Grant. It sounds like by the end of this week answers will be given. She congratulated the Seymour High School cheerleaders on their last competition. She recognized the passing of a past captain and chief, Jay Cavallaro. It was sad to see him lose his battle.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria stated to the people affected by small cities grant, her office has been working in conjunction with the First Selectman's office. They are almost done investigating and will get answers. She was honored to attend Citizen's Engine No. 2 132nd Banquet with Kurt. The food was amazing. It was good to be a part of a great community where our fire fighters take their lives in their hands every day. It was very sad to hear about the past chief Jay Cavallaro. She thanked Karen for her service on the Commission on Aging.

ITEM #16: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:01 PM.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

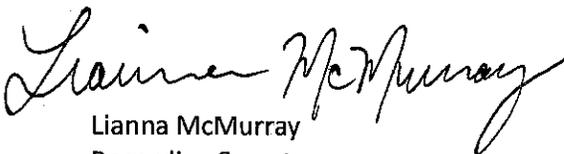
Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Submitted by,

Reviewed by,



Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman