

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, May 16, 2017 – 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: W. Kurt Miller, Karen Stanek, Stephan Behuniak and Nicole Klarides-Ditria, and Al Bruno (7:32PM).

Members Absent: Len Greene, Jr. and Annmarie Drugonis.

Others Present: Town Counsel, Warren Holcomb; Jan Hann, Kevin Flaherty, Sandra Gesek and John Maiorino.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:09 PM.

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 2, 2017 regular meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from May 2, 2017 regular meeting.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 4-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes Karen Stanek – Yes Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #5: Approve minutes from April 28, 2017 Ordinance Committee meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from April 28, 2017 Ordinance Committee meeting.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Karen Stanek

Vote: 4-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes Karen Stanek – Yes Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #6: First Selectman's Report.

- Tomorrow we will be presenting to Standard & Poor's in Boston. It will be myself, Doug, Tony and Rory. We each have different points of the presentation we are going to do. With the state of our State, our goal is to maintain AA+ with a positive Alma rating. The State has been downgraded. That puts a tremendous amount of pressure on the towns. I think we are very well prepared with the presentation that we have put together.
- The Governor released his updated budget on Monday. That would provide the Town of Seymour a 1.1 million dollar hold. That takes into account the \$700,000 from the low rate stabilization fund. It is unknown how realistic the Governor's budget is.
- Contract negotiations for the Clerks and Public Works are ongoing. It has taken a substantial amount time than anticipated. Warren and I have a meeting with both unions on Friday and will be receiving counter proposals. The Administrators Union, outside of contract, has all but agreed to some changes to their health insurance. Hopefully I will be able to provide updates at the June 6th meeting.

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action regarding establishment of OPEB trust fund.

Katherine Haney, who works with Public Agency Retirement Services, passed out a booklet regarding the OPEB Trust Program. She stated the company works strictly public agencies to assist them with funding their retirement services. OPEB stands for Other Post-Employment Benefits or other than pension benefits. She stated they have developed over the past 20 years a section 115 multiple employer trust which is a trust that has been set up for the benefit of the retirees. A lot of town agencies and municipalities are establishing OPEB funds on their own. The challenge in establishing a trust on your own is that it is costly, time consuming and a burden on staff.

Katherine stated their program is an established trust that any agency can join. The first benefit that they receive is that the trust is established and the town will not incur legal cost of setting up a trust. Another benefit is the trust is protected and certified by the IRS. The trust is ready to go when you are ready to join. They have gathered two investment partners- US Bank and Vanguard. US Bank acts as trustee and custodian of the funds. Vanguard has set up four pools to invest in. They have highly diversified portfolios. She stated by joining their program you can participate in the trust programs at a lower cost. These trusts are set up with an intention of a minimum balance of \$250 million. Katherine stated PARS manages and develops the trust that is in place. They have a legal and compliance department which will continue to monitor the programs as they go along. They have designated portfolio managers that manage the program for you.

Kurt stated the biggest issues S&P stressed is that the town should address the outstanding liability. They have looked at self-funding programs and group type programs. Kurt, Tony, Rory, Warren and Doug reviewed contracts. This would allow the town to have the expertise that PARS brings to the table plus their partners are reputable names.

She continued to discuss the impact and offered some math to show the substantial savings to the town.

Kurt read the following resolution:

WHEREAS it is determined to be in the best interest of the Town of Seymour (the "Town") to participate in the PARS Public Agencies Post-Retirement Health Care Plan Trust (the "Program") to fund post-employment benefits for its employees as specified in the Town's policies and/or applicable collective bargaining agreements; and

WHEREAS the Town is eligible to participate in the Program, a tax-exempt trust and plan performing an essential governmental function within the meaning of Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and the Regulations issued thereunder, and is a tax-exempt trust under the relevant statutory provisions of the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS the Town's adoption and operation of the Program has no effect on any current or former employee's entitlement to post-employment benefits; and

WHEREAS the terms and conditions of post-employment benefit entitlement, if any, are governed by contracts separate from and independent of the Program; and

WHEREAS the Town's funding of the Program does not, and is not intended to, create any new vested right to any benefit nor strengthen any existing vested right; and

WHEREAS the Town reserves the right to make contributions, if any, to the Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Town Council hereby adopts the PARS Public Agencies Post-Retirement Health Care Plan Trust, including the PARS Public Agencies Post-Retirement Health Care Plan, effective May 16, 2017; and

2. The Town Council hereby appoints the Finance Director, or his/her successor or his/her designee as the Town's Plan Administrator for the Program; and
3. The Town's Plan Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the PARS legal and administrative documents on behalf of the Town and to take whatever additional actions are necessary to maintain the Town's participation in the Program and to maintain compliance of any relevant regulation issued or as may be issued; therefore, authorizing him/her to take whatever additional actions as required to administer the Town's Program.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 COUNTY OF NEW HAVEN

Susan DeBarber, the Clerk of the Town Council of the Town of Seymour, of New Haven County, Connecticut, hereby certifies that the above foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by said Town at a regular meeting thereof held on the 16th of May, 2017 and passed by a _____ vote of said Council.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 17th day of May, 2017.

 Town Clerk

Motion to accept the resolution as presented.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 4-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes Karen Stanek – Yes Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #8: Discussion Economic Development Director.

Fred Messore provided a packet which includes his last quarterly report, a monthly report and photos of Greenway Trail. He stated the Greenway Trail is 45 days into construction and is coming along very well. Milone & MacBroom were hired to oversee the construction of the trail. They meet for bi-weekly meetings with the contractor, DOT and Fred to keep the project moving along. The construction is ahead of schedule. There were a few things that needed to be work through, most notably the traffic. They have been working closely with the Department of Transportation and the traffic division of the Police Department. They hope to get the lane on Rte. 67 open as soon as the work is completed on the corner of the intersection. He discussed the photos. A lot of the work is getting done under 67 by the entrance of Rte. 8. They will be getting new signals for pedestrians, bikers, etc.

Fred stated at the end of March he attended a Fundamentals of Municipal Economic Development forum that was presented by CERC (Connecticut Economic Resource Center). It was hosted at Basement Systems in Seymour. He stated that the town is fortunate enough to have a business partner to allow us to use their business center. He stated there were approximately 50 attendees. He stated the ideas and projects they have been implementing over the last several years have supported the growth of economic development in the community. The Economic Development Commission will have future discussions with CERC.

Fred and Kurt met with the Town of Hamden's Economic Development Director because he is in the process of implementing a business incubator. They have discussed the idea of creating an economic development corporation. They collectively discussed some ideas what the corporation is being utilized for, projects, funding, etc. Overall the business incubator is a 7-10 million dollar project. The recently closed Bank of America building will be receiving bids on May 19th. They originally thought it might be a good idea to partner up with Bank of America into creating this incubator but they are not sure if it would be possible to take on this endeavor.

Fred recently spoke to a vacant property owner, Kevin Cox. He owns the 2 acre parcel across from Webster Bank. In the past he was not open to selling the property. At this time it is the same. He has received a lot of inquiries but it is up to the owner and he wants to leave it as is.

Karen inquired if there was any interest of a fast food restaurant either on the Tkacz property on Bank Street or the property behind that or the property on Rt. 67.

Fred stated he has received some inquiries from brokers handling that property and there was some interest from a retailer on the corner parcel. He doesn't think they were able to make something work for that site. He stated with the amount of setbacks with the topography, it makes it a challenging site.

Fred stated with regard to Tri-Town Plaza, they just finished the remediation for parcels of the building that are vacant. He is still in process of marketing that space. He has 40-45 days' worth of marketing and if nothing comes out of that, they will be considering coming in to apply for demolition permits. There were issues that were addressed environmentally. It has been prepared for reuse or demolition.

Stephan inquired if he has heard from anyone interested in making a bid on the Bank of America property.

Fred stated he has been in communication with the relator of the property and he did indicate there was interest. The town went and viewed property when it first became available. He reached out to Bank of America to discuss the parking in front to see if they can work partnership between the bank and the town. The parking lot is being used at the moment. The back parking lot is not entirely owned by Bank of America. There were some aspects of the building that were not ADA compliant.

Stephan inquired if the business incubator idea is something that the town would continue to pursue.

Fred stated with the shape that the state Connecticut is in, it would be difficult to try and get money to foster something like that. He was not aware of the amount of money that the Town of Hamden was putting into this project. Financially, the town not is in a position to do that.

Stephan inquired how much of a hurdle are the regulations for a new business to get in that building.

Fred stated he not sure what the reuse of that building would be. Overall, the internal system with the land use departments, fire marshal, etc. have an open policy to sit with any business or developer. They usually hold a pre-application meeting to go over any concerns to try to eliminate any added time, etc. He thinks the current system is good.

Stephan inquired about the property across from Walgreens.

Fred stated he had heard from the realtor that there might have been an interest from a fast food chain, but it hasn't gone far.

Stephan inquired if an owner would meet with Fred first when there is a piece of land vacant for a while.

Fred stated he has a good reputation and relationship with realtors and retailers. They will reach out to him and they have an open dialogue.

Stephan inquired how much of Fred's time is spent dealing with the duration of greenway trail versus business development.

Fred before the Greenway Trail project started to now with it being underway, it takes approximately 50% of his time. Prior to construction starting, it took up more time. He stated he didn't realize he was going to be inundated with information. Later this week he will be meeting with Naugatuck Valley Council of Government regarding the future phases of the Greenway Trail.

Karen inquired about how much empty space, if any, is left at industrial park.

Fred stated the Industrial Park buildings are all being utilized.

ITEM #9: Update regarding Small Cities Program.

Kurt stated Rich Buturla is in the process of reviewing the paperwork from Lisa Low. There is no update at the moment.

ITEM #10: Appointments

Motion to appoint Jen Saksa to the Livable Communities Committee until completion.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 4-Yes

0-No

1-Abstain (Stephan)

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Abstain

Al Bruno – Yes

Motion to appoint David Van Wart as the Fire Investigator.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Motion to reappoint John Conroy Jr. to the Permanent Building Committee for a term of two (2) years expiring on June 2, 2019.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Al Bruno
Vote: 5-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes Al Bruno – Yes

Motion to reappoint Wane Natzel to the Permanent Building Committee for a term of two (2) years expiring on June 2, 2019.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak Second: Karen Stanek
Vote: 4-Yes 1-No 0- Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Nicole Klarides-Ditria –No Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes Al Bruno – Yes

Motion to reappoint Alex Danka to the Permanent Building Committee for a term of two (2) years expiring on June 2, 2019.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Al Bruno
Vote: 5-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes Al Bruno – Yes

Motion to reappoint Stanley Jachimowski to the Permanent Building Committee for a term of two (2) years expiring on June 2, 2019.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Al Bruno
Vote: 5-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes Al Bruno – Yes

Motion to reappoint Mike Marcinek to the Permanent Building Committee for a term of two (2) years expiring on June 2, 2019.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Karen Stanek
Vote: 5-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes Al Bruno – Yes

Motion to reappoint Thomas O’Neill to the Zoning Board of Appeals (Alternate) for a term of four (4) years expiring on May 21, 2021.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Stephan Behuniak
Vote: 5-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes Al Bruno – Yes

Motion to reappoint Bob Seale to the Zoning Board of Appeals (Alternate) for a term of four (4) years expiring on May 21, 2021.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Stephan Behuniak
Vote: 5-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes Al Bruno – Yes

ITEM #11: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report as presented.

Motion: Karen Stanek Second: Stephan Behuniak
Vote: 5-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes Karen Stanek – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes Al Bruno – Yes

ITEM #12: Transfers.

None.

ITEM #13: Correspondence.

- Check register.
- Memo to the Board of Selectmen from the Board of Fire Commissioners asking to appoint David Van Wart as a Fire Inspector.

- Email from Fire Marshall, Paul Wetowitz, asking to change the term 'Fire Inspector' to 'Fire Investigator' based on course work that David has taken.
- Letter from Tax Collector to Kurt regarding a tax collection of a business in town.
- Thank you letter from Pastor Lesiw regarding the National Day of Prayer.
- Letter of resignation from Stephan to the chairman and board members of the Livable Communities Committee.

ITEM #14: Public Comment.

Alex Danka, 203 Pearl Street, reminded everyone the Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 28th. He stated the Selectmen will be walking in the parade and Karen will have a ride through the parade. The parade starts at 11:30 AM and the ceremony starts at 11:00 AM.

ITEM #15: Selectmen's Public Comments.

Stephan Behuniak asked about a statewide project to widen Rte. 67.

Kurt stated they have been working on a plan for approximately 5 years. Milone & MacBroom is the lead engineer for the State of Connecticut.

Karen Stanek stated that the stop sign has been put back up on Botsford and Canfield but it looks weathered.

Kurt stated Public Works was worried about efficiency in getting the sign back up.

Karen inquired if a stop sign was missing when you come out of the driveway of the middle school because there are two posts that have stop signs and the other is a single green post.

Al Bruno thanked Public Works for the progress in repairing curbing around town. Also, thanked the Parks Commission to get the restroom situation fixed at Gary Park.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria thanked the Assistant Animal Control Officer, Ashley, for taking care of roaming dogs in her yard. She came out on Sunday and found the owners. The dogs had been missing for a couple days. She thanked and commended the Woodbridge Animal Shelter.

Kurt stated the carpeting, flooring and furniture will be installed this week in the First Selectman's Office and the Finance Office.

ITEM #16: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:03 PM.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes
Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Second: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

0-Abstain

Nicole Klarides-Ditria –Yes Karen Stanek – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes

Submitted by,

Reviewed by,



Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman