

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, June 5, 2018 – 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: W. Kurt Miller, Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, Trisha Danka, Stephan Behuniak and Len Greene, Jr.

Members Absent: Karen Stanek.

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; Linda Bellavance, Judy Simpson, Megan Chrishinsky, Mark Krauchick, Caron Robinson and John Oczkowski.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:04 PM.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to go out of order to Item #15: Appointments.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Item #15: Appointments.

Motion to appoint Jim Baldwin to the NVCOG Regional Planning Commission with no expiration date.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Motion to reappoint Al Cocchia to the Conservation Commission for a term of four (4) years expiring on June 3, 2022.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Motion to appoint Lianna McMurray as Town Clerk with no expiration date.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Discussion: Kurt stated Lianna McMurray was appointed as Acting Town Clerk until July 1, 2018. That appointment is still in place but this will be the last meeting until then. He reached out to the Administrator's Union to waive the normal posting rights and that was taken care of. It is his opinion and that of many in Town Hall that Lianna has done an exceptional job. She has been a good, friendly and caring employee for the Town of Seymour.

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

Megan Chrishinsky, 211 Mountain Road, was there on behalf of the Seymour Education Association and expressed her concerns with change of insurance carrier for the municipal workers for the Town of Seymour. She stated the unions were not notified until late April about the change from Anthem to Cigna. The Seymour Education Association has filed a grievance with the Board of Education because their collective bargaining agreement was violated. Their contract specifically states that a change of carrier shall not result in any loss of benefits, coverages and increases in deductibles for teachers and their dependents. Cigna has confirmed that there will be a disruption of benefits from Anthem in three major areas. The Seymour Education Association is prepared to take this to arbitration and to the State Labor Board.

Caron Robinson, 29 Greenwood Circle, stated her fiancé, George Monroe, has been a resident of Seymour for over 30 years. She has seen the ups and downs of Main Street for the past nine years. She sees many opportunities for Seymour. She encouraged George to get involved and he wrote up a list of suggestions for the Economic Development Commission. She discussed the list. She is interested in helping the Town of Seymour.

Mark Krauchick, 35 Bungay Road, is the Custodian for Bungay School and President of AFSCME Local 13 L3-25. He was there representing the Board of Education's custodial and maintenance workers. He discussed the concerns regarding the switch to Cigna as the insurance carrier. He discussed the changes that will be made with Cigna. The group believes there are better options than Cigna. The Union believes the savings can be achieved with a better plan. He suggested joining the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership 2.0 as so many other municipalities have done. Let's work together and do the right thing for town employees and tax payers.

John Oczkowski, 21 Davis Road, President of the Police Department's Union. Their union has also filed a grievance with the town regarding switching insurance carriers. There are several members that will be affected by the new insurance. One member's daughter is going through surgery right now. His concerns would be future care for her. He has reached out to Cigna and many of the doctors that his daughter is seeing are not covered by Cigna. She was diagnosed with leukemia at a young age and is going to out of state for care. He is very concerned that those coverages will not be there. He discussed the concerns with what is going to be covered for employees.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from May 17, 2018 special meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from May 17, 2018 special meeting.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Discussion: Trisha stated the end of a sentence on the last page should read 'passable' not 'possible.'

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

1-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Trisha Danko – Yes

ITEM #5: First Selectman's Report.

None.

ITEM #6: Presentation of citation to Eagle Scout Sam Bradshaw.

Sam Bradshaw had his Honor Society Banquet this evening. This Item will be readdressed at the next meeting in July.

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action on removal of Kathy Conroy-Cass from Economic Development Commission.

Kathy Conroy Cass sent in a Resignation Letter.

ITEM #8: Discussion with Founders' Day Committee.

Linda Bellavance stated that the Founders' Day Committee decided to cancel Founders' Day. She couldn't get to the Board's meeting before the event. In meeting with Tom Eighmie, they discussed the inability to use Main Street. At the time of their meeting, she didn't have enough vendors. If they were confined to the area he wanted them to use (Bank, Columbus, First and over by Citizen's Engine), they would have only been able to take 38 paying vendors. They would not have made any money for the benefactor and would have barely paid the bills. They last minute decided to cancel the event in order to be fiscally responsible. She stated that there is no a chance of their group bringing it back and have decided to disband. They have decided to distribute all our goods to Historical Society and then whatever is leftover they will distribute to various organizations.

Annmari asked how many vendors they had at the time of the meeting with Tom Eighmie.

Linda said she had approximately 30 vendors but she knew she was going to get more. They returned all the money from all the vendors and corporate sponsors. They aim for as close to 100 vendors per event. Linda explained how Tom Eighmie has worked with the committee every year and knows how everything works. He was looking at the event from a safety point.

Linda said they couldn't move the event to another spot in three weeks because there was not enough time. They needed to keep Main Street but she did not have enough vendors.

Trisha asked at what point they reach the volume of vendors.

Linda stated the day before and some people drive in the day of. This has been no different than in the past. Two weeks before the event they have the majority of vendors. They don't lay out the event ahead of time. They set it up two days before. The cutoff date for vendors to pay \$60 was May 1st and if they come in after that they pay an additional \$15.

Tom Eighmie, Emergency Management Director, 50 Laurel Lane, stated that there were many red flags. Several members of the Founders' Day Committee had resigned which caused everyone on the Public Safety side to take notice. He met with them on April 19th. At that time, he mentioned the possibility of not applying for the permit for Main Street with the DOT. With all the events happening in town, he along with Deputy Chief Satkowski and Deputy Fire Marshall Tim Willis all meet and review plans for the events. Volunteers were a question. He discussed a memo from Steve Culmo dated April 26th. In his memo, he had 28 assigned volunteers. In his final comments, he said that with all of the obstacles he is facing he had reservations of this event being successful. May 3rd was the Founders' Day Committee meeting where they cancelled the event. A memo came out on May 4th stating there were too many issues and they wouldn't make enough money. At the time of the first meetings, they had 3 food trucks and 42 vendors. He discussed a previous committee member's opinion regarding where they were at. He stated the numbers were very low. This was 42 days out from event happening. He continued to discuss possible changes to save Founders' Day.

Discussion continued about why the event was cancelled. They also discussed how much money was donated over the past few years.

ITEM #9: Discussion with Deputy Police Chief.

Tabled to next meeting in July.

ITEM #10: Discussion and take possible action regarding Town Homeowners Program.

Kurt read the following letter from Priscilla Altorelli:

This is to inform you that we have 228 applicants eligible for the Town Homeowners Program. The Town has approved a line item of \$50,000 for the program. The recommendation of this office is that the applicants be granted a benefit of \$215.00 for those that have 100% ownership or have life use of the property. Those having ownership of less than 100% will have the benefit prorated by their percentage of ownership.

Please advise this office of the decision of the Board of Selectmen regarding the grating of this benefit.
Thank you.

Motion that the 228 applicants eligible for the Town Homeowners Program be granted a benefit of \$215.00 or a lesser amount prorated by their share of ownership as recommended by Assistant Assessor Priscilla Altorelli.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Stephan

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

ITEM #11: Discussion and take possible action on Seymour Ambulance Association agreement.

Kurt discussed the changes that will be made to the Seymour Ambulance Association contract as follows:

- Section 9 (Part 4): Facilities and Equipment: The Town of Seymour will no longer be paying any utilities. Seymour Ambulance will pay their utilities.
- Section 9 (Part 5): “The Town agrees to budget \$25,000 each year of this agreement in the Town’s capital budget to be used by SAA toward the purchase/replacement/refurbishing of an SAA Ambulance. These monies will be paid directly to that company contracted for the new ambulance. The town agrees to have these funds begin July 1, 2019.”
 - Section 13 (Part 1) wraps everything into one number. It is outlined through 2023 making this a 5 year contract.
 - The Town will continue to put \$10,000 towards their gas.
- Section 23 (Part 3): “The Town and SAA agree to form an Exploratory Committee to review the potential of SAA becoming a Full department of the Town. The results found will be NON-Binding and will be taken as RECOMMENDATIONS only. The Committee will be comprised of equal representation by SAA and the Town and others agreed on by the committee.” Rich would like to add some language to this.

Richard Buturla stated Section 20 (Part 2) ‘Relationship with the parties’ include the intentions of putting these statutory numbers in. They’re going to pick up the same volunteer benefits that firefighters have for the members SAA. The statutes provide for members of volunteer fire departments and ambulance corps. There were some errors but will be fixed.

Motion to authorize the First selectman to enter into this contract with the provision that it be informed in substance acceptable by Town Counsel.

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Al Bruno left the room at 8:08 P.M.

ITEM #12: Discussion and take possible action on Smoke in the Valley application.

The organization would like to hold Smoke in the Valley on Saturday October 6th 2018 from 12:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. at Matthies Field. They would also like a set up date of Friday, October 5th. They are requesting the use of the field for both days.

Al Bruno entered back into the room at 8:10 P.M.

ITEM #13: Discussion and take possible action on Basement Systems tax abatement.

Motion that the Board of Selectmen tentatively approve Basement Systems tax incentive program application for 16 Progress Avenue for the new building to be built with an estimated value of improvements of \$7,000,000.00.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

ITEM #14: Discussion and take possible action on debt service ordinance.

Richard Buturla stated this was drafted in conjunction with the Board of Finance Chairman. He stated it is appropriate to go ahead and pass this new ordinance and allow it to move forward.

Motion to pass the new Debt Service Fund Ordinance as presented by the Ordinance Committee.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Back to Item # 15: Appointments

Motion to appoint Mike Marcinek as a regular Economic Development member, Dan McGuiness as an Alternate Economic Development Member and Caron Robinson as an Alternate Economic Development member.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

ITEM #16: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report of June 1, 2018 as presented.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

ITEM #17: Transfers.

None.

ITEM #18: Correspondence.

- Check registers.
- Bob Looker's retirement letter. His last day was May 24, 2018.
- Regional planning position that NVCOG has put forward. They will house the planner and towns would be able to buy into the use of this planner. Kurt continued to discuss.

ITEM #19: Public Comment.

None.

ITEM #20: Selectmen's Public Comments.

Stephan Behuniak wished Bob Looker well in his retirement and thanked him for all his service to the town.

Len Greene, Jr. thanked the Memorial Day Parade Committee, the Police Department, the Fire Department and EMS for all their hard work for the parade. His daughter had a blast walking in her first parade. It was a good day for all.

Al Bruno congratulated Alex Danka and his committee on a great Memorial Day Parade. Everyone had a blast. He attended the Board of Education Awards ceremony last night and it was a great event.

Annmarie Drugonis thought the Memorial Day Parade was very nice. The Hurricanes never miss a beat. She congratulated Becca Johnson who got Connecticut Softball Player of the Year. She also attended the Memorial Day services at French park. She congratulated Mr. Looker on his retirement.

Trisha Danka said ditto to what everyone had previously stated.

ITEM #21: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:28 PM

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Second: Trisha Danka

0-Abstain

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

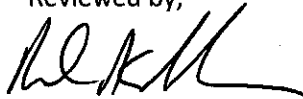
Trisha Danka – Yes

Submitted by,



Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman