

Congratulations to all!

Item #5 – First Selectman’s Report

1. For the third year in a row, we held our annual 2-day budget summit meeting at Basement Systems training facility. During the first day, we had the chance to hear from many of our financial vendors to get an idea as to what we should be focusing in on for FY 21. We reviewed town insurance coverages, investments and our existing loan portfolio as well as discussing potential changes and their impact for the upcoming fiscal year. On day two, we discussed our overall budget strategy and established a set of goals to work toward. Also, on day two, the senior staff joined us to present their budgets to each other (something we lovely call the Hunger Games) as well as to work through the town’s capital plan for FY 21 and beyond. This is an extremely worthwhile meeting and I very much appreciate all of the hard work and effort that goes into these two days by our staff to properly prepare for the upcoming budget season.
2. The Board of Finance has released their budget workshop schedule for the month of February. I will be presenting my budget and recommendation to them on Monday, March 2 at 7 pm.
3. My budget is close to being complete. We have a two-hour session schedule for tomorrow, and I anticipate one additional session the end of next week. We are very close to keeping the mill rate stable for a 5th year in a row. I will provide more information during February.
4. I’d like to thank state Rep. Klarides-Ditria for helping to set up a meeting between the town and Eversource to address outstanding issue with streetlights as well as the frequent loss of power in town. We had a very open and honest discussion with them on our concerns and left with a good feeling that they understood where we were coming from and what our frustrations are. We put in place a plan on how we will move forward and what the expectations are. Eversource has committed to doing a substantial amount of tree cutting in Seymour over the next several months.
5. I was one of the 250+ people to attend the TEAM Housing Forum to discuss the need for affordable and workforce housing in the Valley and surrounding areas. I found the forum to be very well done and a great deal of information was presented. We came away with several strategies we will be working to implement over the next few years.
6. Police Union contract negotiations are ongoing. There are only 2 outstanding parts that are being discussed around the potential of a new schedule for patrol. We have a cutoff date of Monday February 3 at 9am to complete this part of the discussion. Once that is done, I expect to wrap everything up quickly and have a draft copy to be reviewed by this board.
7. Met again with the towns of Ansonia and Derby to explore the potential of regionalization. We are still in the process of reviewing the needs of each community and their strengths and weaknesses to determine what opportunities may be available. We are targeting 7/1/2020 for some of these changes to take place if possible.

Item #3 – Public Comment

None

Item #4 – Approve Minutes from December 18, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from December 18, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis Second: Al Bruno

Discussion: two corrections on comments made by Bob Findley on the minutes that were actually made by Al Bruno:

Page 9 "Bob Findley said that the Board does not need to do it all the time, he has always voted no on these and will continue to do so"

Page 10 " Findley said that there is a lot of case law that comes into this as Ruch pointed out and they can use common sense and decide what to do, but in general he is not for reimbursing these things. The insurance never wants to pay anything and maybe they should be the ones in charge of this."

From the context, I believe Al Bruno (copied) can confirm that he stated the above and they should be corrected in the minutes.

Vote: 7 – Yes	0 – No	0 – Abstain	
Trisha Danka – Yes	Robert Findley – Yes	Annmarie Drugonis – Yes	Kurt Miller – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes	Robert VanEgghen – Yes	Chris Bowen – Yes	

Item #7 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding TaxServ Contract/Agreement

- Tax Collector, Dana Flach had a few comments on TaxServ: the document here is just a renewal; we have been using them since 2014 (it is a three-year contract, with the option to renew for three years). They are very good; they are a collection agency. They do mainly motor vehicles. We send out letters, demands, bills, warrants with marshals. We do our best to get the money first. They can pay online. This is NOT selling the liens. Many times, when people move, we lose them. When it goes to the marshal, they can't pay online. If all else fails, we use TaxServ.
- Kurt Miller asked what percent of our taxpayers end up with them. Dana said very small %.
- Chris Bowen asked if they get only the ones, we can't make contact with. Dana said yes (usually the very old ones, people we have made many attempts – wasted postage – to contact; we send them the files and they send out at least quarterly letters to the customers. They get a 15% fee, no reimbursable expenses.
- Dana said there are a few other firms that do this, but TaxServ is good to work with, easy to communicate with, very accessible. They send us the money when they receive the payment. We send them their 15% when we receive the payment.
- We try to contact them before sending to TaxServ. After a year of trying to contact, or if registrations are coming up for renewal we will send again. Try to work with them, set up payment plans, etc. Sometimes it is a few years before we resort to TaxServ.
- Chris Bowen asked if before we send a notice to TaxServ do you apply any kind of return receipt or signed mail? Dana said no, we send regular postage, send out statements every month (except two months), make demands (usually others give 10 days), we give them 30 days, then a FINAL DEMAND (another 30 days) with a neon sticker. We do not want to add the 15%. We would prefer to work with the people.
- Kurt Miller asked what TaxServ collection rate is. Dana said she did not know. They do better than we do on those.

- Do we have information on the amounts that TaxServ collected for us? Dana said that that information would be online in her quarterly reports.
- They don't send out letters for any amount \$25.00 or less. We will just suspense those. We can always send letters and notices to them. When people use their credit cards for payment, they need to use their e-mails. We can try these as well to contact people.

Motion that the Board of Selectmen give authority to the First Selectman to enter into an agreement for professional services between the Town of Seymour and TaxServ Capital Services, LLC for the collection of delinquent taxes and other receivables as presented by our Tax Collector, Dana Flach.

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Robert Findley

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Note that Robert van Egghen left the meeting at 7:30pm

Item #8 - Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding 128 West Street

Town Attorney, Richard Buturla discussed this property:

- The town took 128 West Street back for taxes
- Proceeded with eviction to gain possession of the property
- Referred per section 8-24 to Planning & Zoning Commission for report. They passed a motion approving the sale for the Town to go forward.
- Town Code 15-3 expressly empowers the Board of Selectmen to sell whatever property the Town acquired by way of tax enforcement; also required publication in the local newspaper.
- CT General Statutes Section 7-163e also requires publication in the newspaper and it is pretty specific how it needs to be done. I can assist the First Selectman's Office to be sure it is done correctly. Also, there needs to be a sign posted conspicuously on the property that it is subject to a public hearing. A public hearing then needs to be held after notification.
- If the property is worth less than \$10,000, statute 7-163e does not apply.
- We can retain a broker (would need to pay commission); we can put together a notice to solicit sealed bids for this property with the right to reject any and all bids saying that we put it up on our website. See where these bids come in. Consult with our Assessor, Joe Kuziak and see what the value is, and then see if we want to move forward with a public hearing and newspaper publication.
- Kurt Miller said that the property is definitely worth more than \$10,000. There has been substantial interest in the property already.
- Rich Buturla said that we should put together a notice and collect sealed bids by a certain date, giving us the right to reject any and all bids. Sell as is. Note that we will comply with 7-163e; after that we will publish notice in the newspaper, hold the public hearing and then we can vote to move forward & enter into a contract. When people come to the hearing, the people will know what the high bidder is. If that doesn't work (we don't get bids that we want), then we can list it with a realtor.
- Trisha Danka asked if we will be able to have the Assessor's input when we open the bids.

Motion to authorize the First Selectman's Office to go forward and put a notice of solicitation of bid proposals for the possible sale of 128 West Street on the Town website

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Robert Findley

Discussion: Rich Buturla said we will see what comes in, and he will work with Rory on the wording for the solicitation.

Vote: 6 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abstain
Trisha Danka – Yes Robert Findley – Yes Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Kurt Miller – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes Robert VanEgghen – N/A Chris Bowen – Yes

Note that Robert van Egghen returned to the meeting at 7:36pm

Item #9 - Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Community Center Building Committee
We will address this under “#14 - Appointments”.

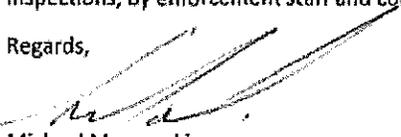
Item #10 - Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Possible Blight Issues

- a. **38 Nichols Street** – received a letter from Mike Marganski (Enforcement Officer) containing a recommendation regarding this property. Kurt Miller read the letter into the record:
Dear First Selectman Miller,

Mr. Benito Urgiles has completed renovations on the single family blighted property. On December 11, 2019, a Certificate of Occupancy was issued by the Building Official.

I am requesting that the Board of Selectman release the Blight Lien, Waive the Blight Fine and issue an administrative fee of \$1,500.00. The administrative fee will cover the costs for recurrent compliance inspections, by enforcement staff and consults with counsel.

Regards,


Michael Marganski
Enforcement Officer

- We have had some initial conversations on this. The goal of blight/fine costs is to get the property cleaned up and back on the tax rolls. We have had some issues with this property. The property owner has done everything he possibly could to meet all of our expectations, even exceeding them. He has been in front of this Board many times, we have driven past the house. The neighbor who lives next door wanted us to thank you for the wonderful job you’ve done. Kurt Miller said that while he doesn’t believe we should waive the whole fee, \$1,500 is a bit excessive. We have discussed a number around \$250 for the administrative fee. I recommend that this (\$250) is an acceptable number. Once this is paid, the blight lien and fee can be lifted and the house can be sold. Richard Buturla concurred with this recommendation. Mr. Urgiles has been very cooperative with the Town and done an exceptional job.
- **Comments:**
Trisha Danka agreed that the \$1,500 is too much. I agree that the \$250 is fair. Going forward, I think we should have a formula for arriving at these fees. It should not just be arbitrarily picked out by the Blight Enforcement Officer, or any other individual. There needs to be some type of thought process into what kind of fees we will be charging. I would have supported legal counsel to be involved. Kurt Miller said that one hour of legal fees and three hours of staff time is what was included in this cost (\$240, rounded up). Trisha Danka said that she is more concerned with where we are going with these letters of recommendation of fees to the Board and that whomever is in the position to review blight, that they would provide an explanation of how they arrived at the fees. Kurt Miller said that we can ask Mike Marganski to do this. Trisha said that the number should be a unique number specific to the property,

and that we see some structure moving forward. Richard Buturla said that with respect to this property, we had very little legal time.

Robert Findley agreed with Trisha that we should have some type of formula for arriving at the fees. We can make our assessment from there.

Annmarie Drugonis agrees with the \$250.00 but would like to have our Blight Enforcement Office come to one of our meetings to explain in detail what he has been doing – how he has come up with these numbers. If he cannot come to the meetings, at least he can send a letter with the explanation.

Al Bruno agrees that the \$250 is a reasonable number. There has been a lot of work done on this house. I would also like to see more data on how the fees are arrived at. These letters need to have a little more detail.

Rob VanEgghen also agrees with what has been said.

Chris Bowen concurs with Trisha Danka regarding lowering the administrative fees to \$250. He has seen Mr. Urgiles before the Planning & Zoning Commission several times and has been very cooperative with everything the Town has asked. I also concur with Annmarie Drugonis regarding the selecting of \$1,500 and an explanation from our Blight Enforcement Office. I just looked in the Charter and there is no guidance regarding blight fees. Kurt Miller said that Blight Compliance is an Ordinance and the fees are \$100/day. Chris said he would also like to get more information from Mike Marganski on how he arrived at the \$1,500. Richard Buturla said that Mr. Marganski is not a full-time employee. Kurt Miller said that he would meet with Mike Marganski to get this information on paper and sent out.

Motion that the Board of Selectmen, through Town Counsel, release the blight lien and waive the blight fines after an administrative fee of \$250 has been paid for the property at 38 Nichols Street

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Chris Bowen

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

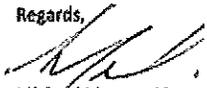
Mr. Urgiles wanted to thank the Board members for their help. He said agrees to pay the fee, but this shouldn't have happened. Maybe should have knocked it down, but we fixed it. Chris Bowen said we greatly appreciate the work you did on the house.

- b. 96 Haddad Road (should be 95 Haddad Road)** - received a letter from Mike Marganski (Enforcement Officer) containing a recommendation regarding this property. Kurt Miller read the letter into the record:

Dear First Selectman Miller,

Mr. Antvan Huribal has completed renovations on the single family blighted property. On December 23, 2019, a Certificate of Occupancy was issued by the Building Official.

I am requesting that the Board of Selectman release the Blight Lien, Waive the Blight Fine and issue an administrative fee of \$1,500.00. The administrative fee will cover the costs for recurrent compliance inspections, by enforcement staff and consults with counsel.

Regards,

Michael Marganski Enforcement Officer

Comments:

- Richard Buturla said that in this case, we drew up a five-page agreement around 2/27/19. So, we did do more legal work with this property than the previous one. This one was about three hours of legal work. Still we have had other cases involving banks and court appearances that required considerably more billable time.
- Rob VanEgghen asked what the background on this property situation is.
- Richard Buturla said that Mr. Huribal owned the property back on that date. It was severely damaged by fire back in October of 2014. He had an issue with the insurance. There was a delay in repairing and remediating the fire-damaged structure. Commencing 8/30/2018 penalties were levied against it at \$100/day per the Blight Ordinance and the fines began to accumulate. We caused a Blight Lien and Certificate of Continuing Lien to be filed around 2/27/19. As of 6/24, 2019, the Blight Lien was \$29,900. On 2/12/18, Mr. Huribal had applied for a building permit to remediate the existing blight violations. The Town was willing to forebear for a period of time from exercising its rights and remedies with respect to the blight lien and existing blight violations providing that Mr. Huribal comply with the terms and conditions of this agreement. He was required to remedy & correct all existing blight violations for the subject property prior to the forbearance termination date, obtain a certificate of occupancy for the subject property, then the Town agrees to release the blight lien and blight penalties for the subject property. That is the agreement that was made with respect to this property. This agreement was signed by the Board of Selectmen, signed by Kurt Miller and Mr. Huribal. The forbearance termination date is 4/1/20.
- Trisha Danka asked if Mr. Marganski, in that letter, is stating that the work was done. Kurt Miller said YES, the Certificate of Occupancy was issued on 12/23/19. If so, does that mean that we will not be able to collect legal fees with respect to that property for the work Town Counsel had to do? Mr. Marganski recommended a \$1,500 administrative fee.
- Chris Bowen asked if he has been fighting with the insurance company this whole time? Kurt Miller said yes. Chris Bowen asked if, going forward we can be presented with a timeline of events relating to the blighted property.
- Trisha asked if we can charge for the three hours of legal work. Richard Buturla would like to look into it. He would like to table to the next meeting so he can check the Blight Ordinance and Town Code. Chris Bowen asked if we would be billing this additional work to Mr. Huribal? Richard Buturla said no, this work now would not count. Even with this research, his fee would still be below the \$1,500. Trisha Danka said that any work done now is due to our questions and not his blight. Richard Buturla said he would like to talk to Mr. Huribal and look into this.

Motion to table a decision on item #10(b)

Motion: Chris Bowen

Second: Rob VanEgghen

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Item #11 - Discussion with Financial Advisor Regarding Bonding

We met today with Standard & Poors and our underwriter John Healy. There is going to be a joint meeting with the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. At some point in early February he will meet with the Board of Finance first. Then we will schedule the joint meeting.

Motion to table this discussion until the joint meeting (BOF/BOS)

Motion: Robert Findley Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes Robert Findley – Yes Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Kurt Miller – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes Robert VanEgghen – Yes Chris Bowen – Yes

Item #12 - Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Parks Fees

Kurt Miller read a letter sent to him by Bob Lang, Parks Commission Secretary:

Dear Mr. Miller

We would like to bring to your attention a recent decision by our board to increase the fees for teams which do not possess a non profit status. The fee will be increased from \$250 per team to \$750.

Yours truly,

Bob Lang
Secretary

Also included were the minutes of the Parks Commission Meeting from 10/28/19 which read, in part:

Bill Sawicki suggested that out of town fees for field use for teams for profit be raised to \$750.00 per team. Motion by Bill Sawicki and 2nd by Gary Popielasz. All in favor.

Motion that the Town of Seymour increase the fee for FOR PROFIT out of town teams for use of Town of Seymour fields from \$250 to \$750 as recommended by the Parks Commission in their October 28, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Chris Bowen Second: Robert Findley

Discussion:

- Chris Bowen asked if they gave any justification for this increase? Is there a need? Are the fields fought over? Kurt Miller said that it is the expense to maintain that is the issue. These are FOR PROFIT teams.
- Al Bruno asked if Bill Sawicki was the Treasurer or the Chairman of the Parks Commission. Kurt Miller said he is the Chairman and also the Chairman of the Board of Finance. Al said if Bill has recommended this increase then Al agrees. Our public works department does a fantastic job. Our fields look spectacular and lush.
- Robert Findley said this is comparable to what other towns are charging.

Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes Robert Findley – Yes Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Kurt Miller – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes Robert VanEgghen – Yes Chris Bowen – Yes

Item #13 - Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding 2020 Farmers Market

Kurt Miller read an e-mail received by Alexis Gazy into the record:

Happiest New Year!

The farmers market would like permission to return to the community center off of Pine Street on May 19, 12:00-6:00pm, every Tuesday through October 27, 2020.

A special thank you for the signage on the side of the building! It looks fabulous!

Beldotti's Bakery will be back, along with a few new prospective vendors, to be determined.

Thank you so much for your consideration and support!

Alexis Gazy, Gazy Brothers Farm

391 Chestnut Tree Hill Road, Oxford, CT 06478

203-723-8885

Motion to establish the date and time for the Seymour Farmers Market to be from May 19th through October 27th, 2020 on Tuesday's from 12:00pm to 6:00pm in the Community Center Lot off of Pine Street.

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Rob VanEgghen

Discussion: Kurt Miller said that they will continue to work with Mary McNelis at the Community Center and the church regarding where they are set up and the parking. They have gotten easier and easier to work with every year.

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Item #14 - Appointments

Appointments January 21,2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Name	Board	Type	Term	Expiration Date
Harvey Catlin	Parade Committee	Appointment	2 years	1/21/2022
Kurt Miller	Community Center Building Committee	Appointment	Until Completion	n/a
Jim Baldwin	Community Center Building Committee	Appointment	Until Completion	n/a
Tim Connors	Community Center Building Committee	Appointment	Until Completion	n/a
Mike Marcinek	Community Center Building Committee	Appointment	Until Completion	n/a
Fred Stanek	Community Center Building Committee	Appointment	Until Completion	n/a
Suzanne Reilly	Community Center Building Committee	Appointment	Until Completion	n/a
Zack Philippos	Community Center Building Committee	Appointment	Until Completion	n/a
Bryan Nesteriak	Community Center Building Committee	Appointment	Until Completion	n/a
Bill Sawicki	Community Center Building Committee	Appointment	Until Completion	n/a
Michael Julian	Board of Fire Commissioners	Appointment	3 years	1/17/2023

Motion to approve the above Appointment of Harvey Catlin to the Parade Committee for a term of two years, expiration date is 1/21/2022

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Robert Findley

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Motion to appoint Michael Julian to the Board of Fire Commissioners for a term of three years, expiration date is 1/17/2023

Motion: Chris Bowen

Second: Robert Findley

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Community Center Building Committee – put together to review the possibility of building a new Community Center. All of these people were selected for specific reasons: we have our Building Official, our Facilities Director, the chairman of our standing Building Committee, a member of the Board of Education, a representative from the Livable Communities Commission, a representative from the Recreation Commission, our Town Engineer, and the chairman of the Board of Finance. Kurt Miller will be chairing this Committee to keep things moving along, and be asking for help from Richard Buturla, Town Counsel. We will put together a schedule of milestones we plan to hit. There will be public meetings; Kurt has already put out one social media post trying to generate some response from the residents. To date, he believes we have received about 900 responses. We will try to engage the community as much as we can so we can move forward with the process.

Motion to approve the nine members listed above to the Community Center Building Committee as presented

Motion: Robert Findley

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Item #15 – Tax Refunds & Abatements

Motion to approve the Tax Collector Refunds Report dated January 3, 2020 as presented by Sue Boland

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Motion to approve the Tax Collector Refunds Report dated January 16, 2020 as presented by Sue Boland

Motion: Chris Bowen

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Item #16 – Transfers

None

Item #17 – Correspondence

- Check Registers

- Received a letter from the Great Hill Hose Company. Kurt Miller read it into the record:
Dear Selectman Miller,

During the recent December meeting of the Great Hill Hose Company, Michael Julian of ~~62 Francis Drive~~, Seymour and Doug Zaniewski of ~~16 Lantern Drive~~, Seymour were the two names selected for your consideration for appointment to the one open Great Hill position on the Board of Fire Commissioners. The position up for appointment was previously held by Daniel Cooper whose term expired.

Thank You,



Ethan Iott, Company Secretary
Great Hill Hose Company

Usually with the fire companies, they will recommend two people for an open position and then we vote to accept one of them.

- Letter from Mr. & Mrs. James Entwisle regarding a sewer backup in their home. They praised Mr. Walter Royals and the WPCA crew that worked so diligently to correct a very difficult situation. They are also asking for the Town to reimburse them for \$5,446 in expenses relating to the event. Had the sanitary sewer pipe in the street been clear, they would not have had the problem in the first place, or a contractor would have been able to locate and clear it via a manhole. Kurt Miller will forward this to the WPCA. They should be addressing. In case the WPCA does nothing, at least you will be aware of the situation.

Item #18 – Public Comment

Gregory Chernak – 21 Highland Road, Oxford, CT – regarding 126-128 West Street – are we bound by state statute to have a sealed bid auction? Kurt Miller said that the Board does not respond to questions during Public Comment. Kurt Miller said that he could send a letter or call the office. Mr. Chernak said there is a better way to do this than a sealed bid auction that would be fair to the bidders and to the Town. The problem with a sealed bid auction is that the Town knows how much money they need to break even. That would be the opening bid on a live auction. Saying that we may reject all bids isn't fair to the bidders or to the Town, because we would incur more debt if nobody buys the property. If we have an accounting of your cost, you can probably sell it at auction for more money that way. This would be a better way that would benefit everyone.

Dana Flach – Seymour Tax Collector – the Town DID do a Tax Sale on the 126-128 West Street property. The opening bid was \$50,000 to recoup our costs. We received a bid of \$8,000 which I rejected. Then the property went to the Town.

Item #19 – Selectmen's Public Comment

- Chris Bowen – Congratulations to the Seymour High School Girls Volleyball Team for becoming State Champions
- Rob VanEqghen – Happy New Year to all! Happy Birthday to Kurt Miller!
- Al Bruno – nothing ***
- Annmarie Drugonis –

- We had our first meeting of the M22 Group for veterans' suicide. We have a date for the walk, June 13th, 2020 – just waiting for final approval from the Board of Education. The walk will start at 12pm on Saturday, June 13th and end at 10am on Sunday, June 14th. It is called Seymour's 22 Walk for Hope. The next meeting will be February 13th at the C2 Firehouse @7pm – we would love to have people there. We are really starting to put together what we want to do. We also have the Masquerade Ball coming up on March 20th – at Aria's in Southbury, tickets are \$100 each. It is black tie. We wear the masks because the veterans wear their masks of pain. I will be keeping everyone updated on this.
- Regarding Seymour Unified Cheer (Seymour, Ansonia, Shelton) – I have watched these girls compete and they are simply amazing. They are mentored by the Seymour Middle School and Seymour High School Cheerleaders – they have their own struggles, they are being taken in and mentored, made part of a group – the smiles on their face, the excitement and joy they get out of it – they even apply to compete at States in March.
- Congratulations to the Volleyball Team!
- Happy Birthday Kurt!
- Robert Findley – Congratulations to the Girls Volleyball Team! Happy Birthday Kurt!
- Trisha Danka –
 - I did take the library up on their offer to go and visit them and get their feedback. Chris Bowen also was there as was Rich Demko from the Board of Finance. They were really just looking for feedback. I encouraged them to provide the presentation they had for us to the Board of Finance because that would be the appropriate venue. Also, I encouraged them and offered to help them to kick-off the 5-year Strategic Plan. They were very excited and happy to get the feedback. I hope to see some positive movement from them to get the things that they say they need. There seems to me to be a very large lack of understanding why certain decisions have been made which were addressed and how to move forward more quickly. I am thrilled to be able to help them and to attend as, I'm sure, were the other people who attended.
 - With regards to the Blight issue: we are waiting on feedback from Attorney Buturla when he has a chance to look over the issues; I can't stress enough that I totally respect that we had an agreement with this individual (Mr. Huribal) based on his situation with the fire and we may not be able to move forward and recoup the legal fees. If that is the case, Mr. Urgiles' situation was that he was out of the country when the Blight Office came to the property. In lieu of having a fee structure and having a way to come up with these fees we need to be considerate and fair of anyone with a blight fine in front of them. I know that decision was already made. I am not super happy I made that decision not understanding that we might not be able to do something similar about the other blighted property.
 - Happy Birthday Kurt!
- Richard Buturla – Happy Birthday Kurt!

Item #20 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:29pm

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Submitted by:

Monica Dimon

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Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:



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First Selectman