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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Town of Seymour
Board of Selectmen
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Trisha Danka, Robert Findley, Annmarie Drugonis, Kurt Miller, Al Bruno, Rob VanEgghen, and Chris Bowen

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Richard Buturla, Veronika Jelenik (Voices), Rory Burke, John Healey (Underwriter), Bruce Chudwick (Bond Counsel - Shipman & Goodwin), Alex Danka

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order
First Selectman Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance
Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3 – Public Comment
None

Item #4 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Resolution to Authorize, Issue & Sell General Obligation Refunding Bonds

- The Bond Resolution before us has been approved by the Board of Finance. John Healey presented to the Board of Finance last week.
- First look at what the Town's existing debt looks like. This reflects the 2017 debt incurred in anticipation of state cuts around $8 million (mid-year). As a measure to hedge against this, the Town re-structured a portion of its debt, took advantage of a good rate environment. This led to the profile you see here: a downward slope, 56% of your debt falls off in 10 years (which is considered rapid by the rating agencies). What it does for the first five years is remain flat payments, which the Town has no problem paying. However, any new money put on top of this will cause an upward slope. We do have a great rate environment now.
- In November, the residents approved $5 million for the Road Program and $1.4 million for the Emergency Telecommunications System. These are the projects we are going to fund: about $6.5 million. In an effort to mitigate that impact and not saddle future administrations with large debt service and possibly jeopardize our mill rate, we will restructure our debt.
- We are talking tonight about a "Mini-Refunding". This is our Proactive Strategy to Manage Debt Service:
    - Short Term
        - Gain some near-term budgetary latitude
        - Provide additional mill rate stability
        - Assist in financing public-private opportunity for Community Center
        - Smooth impact of new money issue

- Long Term
  - Remove plateaus & gain a truly downward-sloping debt profile
  - Take advantage of historically low rate environment
  - Utilize enabling legislation before sunset
  - Proactively position the Town to weather future market downturns or negative state action

- The "Yield Curve – 30 Year Lookback" represents cost of financing over a 30-year window. Page 18 of the handout.
- Page 13 of the handout shows "Restructuring Scenario: Extend Debt Through Fiscal 2049" shows a downward slope with the New Money financing for $6.5 million with a comprehensive restructuring component.

Bruce Chudwick said the reason why the Town is able to do this is due to a change in the legislation in 2017 – allow municipalities to extend the bond maturity past the latest of the bonds you are re-funding.
These bonds will be taxable bonds. The other change in 2017 was the "Jobs Act & Tax Cut Act" that took away the advance re-funding on a tax-exempt basis. This has impacted the market tremendously.
This Resolution will allow the First Selectman & Treasurer to take all the steps necessary steps to issue the Refunding Bonds and re-structure your bonds in accordance with the new state laws.

QUESTIONS:

- Trisha Danka said that in the past we discussed that we didn't want the debt service to go down past a certain point. Where are we in that process? Are we at that point? Kurt Miller said that we are at about 6.25%. S&P asked why we wanted to do this now. We said to continue to re-invest in our community and improve the Town and have the flexibility to do this. So, yes, we are at that point now where we can add more debt on. We were initially at about 10% but have brought it down to 6%.
- Chris Bowen asked if the Board of Finance approved this? Yes, they have.
- Rob VanEgghen confirmed that we will adjust things as needed going forward.
- John Healey said that the Town has been very pro-active in managing your debt. We need to invest in the Town. We need to keep roads safe, keep kids safe, educate kids. Most towns are RE-ACTING to the market as opposed to staying ahead of the curve.
- Kurt Miller said that this fits in with the 10-Year Strategic Plan and S&P's recommendation on how much debt the Town should have. We are setting up our future Boards to have money available to them to bond should the need arise.
- Trisha Danka said that she loved the "pro-active/re-active" speech because I have been preaching that for a number of years now, and it's great to see that we are at that point. Rob, to clarify for you, it's always great to have low debt because you don't want to charge the taxpayers. But we don't want to go too low and then see there are all these projects that we need to do. This would then spike the taxes when we need to get these things done. It is encouraged to find a level that you should be at, and even if you go can down significantly, you want to find where to spend the money so that you can see where it's going to be needed in a pro-active manner so you can keep up with all those things. So that's the point of reaching that point where we can keep it level so we can maintain all of this.
- Kurt Miller said the first time we did this, was when we started the Mill Rate Stabilization Account. We kept it level and we were able to build up a cash reserve which we were able to fund our OPEB with, we were able to build up our Fund Balance, and able to pay for some things in cash. Using these pro-active techniques have put us in a good financial position.

- Bob Findley asked if this will have any benefits to our credit rating. John Healey said that they wanted to be sure not to do anything to jeopardize your credit rating which we worked so hard for and benefitted from. We had an off-the-books conversation with S&P and asked if we were "ok" with proceeding with the re-structuring and asked if it would harm the credit rating. They said that they were only concerned whether we were hiding any deficit. Since we have nothing to hide, this should NOT jeopardize the credit rating.
- Rob VanEgghen asked if town size and/or budget size determine whether we could ever attain the AAA rating. John Healey said that there are two items would prevent us from getting to AAA (not really sure if we want to be there): 1. We would need a greater Fund Balance. We have done a lot of work to get where we are. We are just around 12%. 2. Demographics – our Town is the size it is. The rating agencies do look at this. So, in order to raise the rating, we would need to maybe tax the residents to raise the fund balance. Not worth it. We are very close (getting great rates) to being treated as AAA. Also, consider that then we would need to MAINTAIN that AAA rating.
- The Town of Seymour has been very good about being in the market every two years. Many of our peers are out there every year. The enabling legislation will expire next year. This is a great time to take advantage of it.

Motion to approve the Resolution to Authorize, Issue & Sell General Obligation Refunding Bonds as presented by Town Bond Counsel, Bruce Chudwick

Motion: Al Bruno 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

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE, ISSUE AND SELL GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS

Section 1. General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the Town of Seymour, Connecticut (the "Town") in a principal amount not exceeding $6,500,000 (hereinafter, the "Bonds") are hereby authorized to be issued, and the proceeds thereof appropriated, in such amount or in such lesser amount as shall be necessary to refund all or any portion of the Town's outstanding general obligation bonds, including, but not limited to, the Town's outstanding General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2010B, dated and issued August 12, 2010, General Obligation Refunding Bonds, 2016 Series B, dated and issued July 1, 2016, General Obligation Bonds, 2017 Series A, dated and issued June 29, 2017, General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2017B, dated and issued December 27, 2017 and General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2017C, dated and issued December 27, 2017 (collectively, the "Refunded Bonds"). The Bond proceeds may be expended to fund the escrow account provided for in Section 3 hereof, to pay an underwriter's discount on the Bonds and to pay all costs of issuance related to the Bonds.

Section 2. The Bonds shall be issued and sold in such principal amount and in such manner as shall be approved by the First Selectman and Treasurer. The First Selectman and Treasurer are authorized to determine the Refunded Bonds to be redeemed and the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the Bonds which shall comply with the requirements set forth in Section 7-370c of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. The Bonds shall be sold on a competitive or negotiated basis and if sold on a negotiated basis, the First Selectman and Treasurer are authorized to execute a bond purchase contract or similar agreement for the sale of the Bonds. The Bonds shall be executed in the name and on behalf of the Town by the manual or facsimile signatures of the First Selectman and Treasurer, bear the Town seal or facsimile thereof, and be approved as to their legality by Shipman & Goodwin LLP, bond counsel to the Town. The Bonds shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the Bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon.

Section 3. The net proceeds from the sale of the Bonds, after payment of underwriter's discount and other costs of issuance, may be deposited in an irrevocable escrow account and invested in a portfolio of non-callable direct obligations of, or obligations guaranteed by, the United States of America, including United States Treasury State and Local Government Series ("SLGS") securities, Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") securities and any other securities permitted by Section 7-400 of the Connecticut General Statutes, all of which shall not be callable or prepayable at the option of the issuer thereof ("Government Obligations") in an amount sufficient to pay at maturity, or to redeem at the redemption price prior to maturity, the Refunded Bonds. The First Selectman and Treasurer are authorized to appoint an escrow agent and a verification agent to verify the sufficiency of the Government Obligations and to execute and deliver any and all escrow and related agreements necessary to provide for the payment when due of the principal of and interest on and the redemption premium, if any, on the Refunded Bonds.

Section 4. The First Selectman and Treasurer are authorized to prepare and distribute a Preliminary Official Statement and a final Official Statement of the Town for use in connection with the offering and sale of the Bonds and are further authorized to execute and deliver a Continuing Disclosure Agreement in connection with the issuance and sale of the Bonds on behalf of the Town in such form as they shall deem necessary and appropriate.

Section 5. The First Selectman and Treasurer are authorized to execute and deliver a Tax Certificate and a Tax Compliance Agreement for the Bonds on behalf of the Town in such form as they shall deem necessary and appropriate, and to rebate to the United States Treasury such amounts as may be required pursuant to the Tax Certificate and Tax Compliance Agreement for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Section 6. The Bonds, or any portion thereof, may bear interest which is includable in the gross income of holders thereof for Federal income tax purposes pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as the issuance of such taxable bonds is hereby determined to be in the public interest.

Section 7. The First Selectman and Treasurer are authorized to appoint a certifying, transfer and paying agent and a registrar for the Bonds; and to execute and deliver any and all additional agreements, documents and certificates necessary to effect the issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds and the refunding of the Refunded Bonds in accordance with the terms of this resolution.

Item #5 – Approve Minutes from January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting
Motion to approve Minutes from January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting, with correction
Motion: Annmarie Drugonis Second: Al Bruno

Discussion: Trisha Danka said that she would like to clarify her comment on page 5 at the bottom "Trisha said that the number should be a unique number specific to the property". Revise this to "Trisha said that the formula should create a unique fine that is specific to the property."

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 #6 – First Selectman's Report

1. The grand list for October 2019 has been completed. The gross grand list increased $16,435,111 to a total gross grand list of $1,260,074,776. Exemptions against the grand list increased from $28,738,074 to $38,721,507 giving us a net grand list of $1,221,353,269 which is an increase over last year of 0.68% or $6,451,678.
2. Town and Board of Education health insurance has been put out to bid again this year. We will be reviewing several different options including the State Partnership plan as well as a self-insured option through an area cooperative. We expect to have numbers back near the end of the month and I will provide updates when available.

3. The municipal side of the budget has had a spending freeze put in place for all non-essential spending. After reviewing some of the trends for the first 6 months of the year, we thought it would be prudent to put a freeze in place to allow our budget to stabilize prior to the end of the year. We are forecasting that the budget will have a small surplus overall for the end of the fiscal year, but some individual line items will require transfers.
4. The Board of Finance has begun its work on the FY 21 budget. Workshops started last night and will continue throughout the month. I will be presenting my budget and recommendation, along with a financial overview of the town to them on Monday, March 2 at 7 pm.
5. My budget is close to being complete. At this point, I am just waiting for final numbers in a few places. Once I have those numbers, I will be able to wrap up my process by the end of the month. Our goal as always will be to keep the mill rate level, which would be for a 5th year in a row, but this will be a very challenging year due to outside pressures being place on our budget for things like pension costs and insurance increases. On the pension line alone, our increase is over $400,000 due to the State MERS program. The legislature is continuing to refuse to make any changes to the MERS program, putting more pressure on the towns & cities. They gave us a 5-year program where they increase the amount each year. For a police officer, at the end of year five, for every dollar that a police officer earns, we will be required to put 25 cents into the retirement account. That is an astronomical number. While the state has no problem changing their plan (SARS), the absolutely refuse to change ours. The chairman of our Board of Finance wants us to look at different avenues to see if there is an opportunity for us to potentially get out of the MERS Program. Town Counsel has done some work on this. Essentially, we would buy our way out – take out a Pension Bond – we pay the present value of the future sum – many millions of dollars. Then we would need to re-negotiate every single contract. If I was a union employee, I would never give up this plan. If the State Legislature does not make any changes, we will be stuck in this situation and it will only get worse. It is at the top of CCM's Agenda every year, but never makes it. Please reach out to your State Legislature.

Item #7 - Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Comprehensive Compensation Plan

In reviewing the Town of Seymour Ten Year Strategic Plan section four initiatives to develop, implement, and document standardized recruitment practices it seems appropriate that a comprehensive pay plan should be developed to aid the Town in fulfilling its strategic objectives. The pay plan would target non-union, ordinance, and elected officials with the purpose of establishing a market reference point (MRP) to be used as the basis upon which adequate compensation levels are determined. The development of minimum, midpoint, and maximum salary ranges for these positions will serve as a benchmark for the Town in creating recruitment strategies that attract qualified skilled professionals and retain existing talent. The Human Resources Director, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, will establish the salaries for the positions listed below:

First Selectman	Director of Finance
Chief of Staff	Director of Human Resources
Director of Operations	

The Human Resources Director will complete a comprehensive labor market review by analyzing salary/wage and organizational data from other comparable municipalities in Connecticut.

The Objectives of the Seymour Pay Plan would be as follows:

A. Internal equity;
B. Competitive with the municipal market;
C. Links pay and performance;
D. Easy to administer;
E. Provides continuity and flexibility

- HR Director Chris Pelosi will draft up a copy, the Board of Selectmen will look at it, make any changes needed, and then he will do a final draft for our approval.
- Robert Findley said, with regard to the "Links pay & performance plan", he would like to see how Mr. Pelosi would design a performance plan, so that, as we are doing yearly increases, how they would evaluate for these roles. If we do a min/max average salary, we want to have a program that will allow you to grow into that salary and improve over time and we want to have a performance structure so we can evaluate each person individually. Kurt Miller said except for the First Selectman's position, the other four we can do this with. All other positions are all tied to union contracts, so we can try as much as we can to implement this. This could eventually move into our Facilities Director, our I.T.Director, some of our shared positions. We will confer with the Board of Education.
- Trisha Danka said that Chris is the best person to do this, but obviously, with regards to the salary range and performance review for the Director of Human Resources, I would want to see a lot of "meat" or background that he pulled what he would recommend to us just to make sure that there is no conflict there. Kurt Miller said the intention for this has to do with anyone that is currently on staff. Trisha said that she understands, but in a larger company, someone else would review that. She just wanted to make sure that when we get it there is a lot of background and "meat" to it so that we can ensure that there is no conflict. The Human Resources Director has a contract and so will abide by that. We are in the process of finishing up with the contracts for the other positions. The Chief of Staff serves the First Selectman (is a political appointment position) but still there should be some structure to that. The First Selectman's salary can only change with each election. It starts at $82,500 for beginners and the can increase up to $2,500 per term after that. The information of how he did should be given to the people before they make their decision so they can make their assessment. Kurt said we are those people.

Item #8 - Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding 6 Colony Street Extension Drainage Easement Resolution

Kurt Miller read the resolution into the minutes.

Resolution:

The Town of Seymour shall purchase, take or otherwise acquire the real property known as 6 Colony Street Extension in Seymour, Connecticut for the purpose of the construction and/or expansion of the Town of Seymour Sewer and Drainage System

Where as… In accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-148(c)6(B) *et seq.*, the Town has the power and authority to layout, construct,

reconstruct, repair, maintain, operate, alter, extend and discontinue sewer and drainage systems.

Where as... the provision of sewer and drainage systems and services is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of Seymour.

Where as... The existing sewer and drainage system is inadequate to provide these necessary services and there is a need to expand the infrastructure of the existing sewer and drainage system.

Where as... The acquisition of an easement for sewer and drainage on, under, over and across the real property located at 6 Colony Street Extension in Seymour, Connecticut (the "Drainage Easement") is required in order to expand the infrastructure of the existing sewer and drainage system.

Where as... The Drainage Easement has an appraised market value of $2,700.00.

Resolve that... The Town of Seymour immediately purchase, take or otherwise acquire at its then appraised market value the Drainage Easement on the real property located at 6 Colony Street Extension in Seymour, Connecticut for the municipal purpose of the construction and/or expansion of the Town of Seymour's sewer and drainage system and if the Town of Seymour cannot agree with any owner of said real property upon the amount to be paid for any Drainage Easement taken hereby, the Town of Seymour shall proceed in the manner provided by Section 48-12 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Motion to approve the above Resolution as presented
Motion: Annmarie Drugonis Second: Al Bruno

Discussion:

- Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, said that this Resolution will authorize the Town to negotiate with the property owner for the purpose of acquiring an easement. In the event that the Town is unable to acquire the easement for the then appraised value of the property, the Town will take an easement through condemnation for the purpose of constructing this municipal improvement. 48-12 CT Statute requires two appraisals from the Town and the Town will move forward with this project.
- Kurt Miller said that the issue is that there was a development on Patton Avenue that we are not sure met all of the zoning requirements (from the 1960's). Unfortunately, because of the way it was set up, we now have to deal with a drainage issue on Patton Avenue. The most cost-effective way to do this (we will still end up spending about $100,000) is to run drainage down to Colony Street Extension. When we re-did Colony Street Extension recently, we put in a catch-basin specifically for this purpose. We have been actively negotiating and discussing this situation the landowner. We offered to re-landscape his lawn, we offered to put in curtain drains, we offered a lot of things, but it has not worked out. So, this is the most prudent course of action recommended by our attorneys to get this project done. We will be running a pipe along the edge of their property from Patton Avenue right down to Colony Street. It does jut out a little bit into the landowner's yard because of ledge, but the project will be as unobtrusive as possible.
- Chris Bowen asked what the homeowner's main concern is. Kurt Miller said that he is concerned that we are going to destroy his lawn. We have said that we would plant trees, re-landscape the yard. Actually, we would really be improving his lawn.

- Trisha Danka asked if we did take it by condemnation, we would still live up to our obligations? Kurt Miller said that yes, we would live up to our obligations that the property was returned to its present conditions. And I would still entertain putting the curtain drains because it's the right thing to do.
- Chris Bowen asked if we would then own that sliver of property where the easement is. Richard Buturla said we are not actually acquiring the property (ownership), just acquiring an easement.
- Rob VanEgghen said that because it will jut into his lawn by about 10ft because of ledge rock, will we be needing to blast? Kurt Miller said no, that is beyond what we are going to do. Rob asked if it comes to using the 48-12 to complete the project, can we expect any fighting back from the homeowner that would incur legal costs for the Town? Richard Buturla said that there could be a dispute over the valuation of the easement – the $2,700 is a blending of two appraisals. This has been going on for a while. The homeowner has a right to dispute. Kurt Miller said that if we don't do this project, we may get sued by the residents on Patton Avenue.
- Robert Findley asked if there was anything else, we could offer this homeowner (6 Colony Street Extension) against future potential long-term problems to assure him. Al Bruno said that he would not recommend doing anything other than what Town Counsel has recommended. Trisha Danka asked if there is a REASONABLE GUARANTEE that this would solve the problem. Kurt Miller said that he could not say 100%, but both Brian Galligan and Bryan Nesteriak have come up with this same plan that should fix the problem. We will do the work in the most un-obtrusive way. Kurt Miller said that he believes, much of this work can be done by Public Works.
- Chris Bowen asked if there is a budgetary line in case costs over run on our work. Kurt Miller said that we have a total of $100,000 budgeted (over the last three years). Nothing past that.

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 add to the Agenda to Set the Date, Time, & Place for a Public Hearing on 128 West Street for Tuesday, February 18th 2019 @ 6:45pm in the Norma Drummer Room @ Town Hall

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis 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

Set the Date, Time, & Place for a Public Hearing on 128 West Street for Tuesday, February 18th, 2019 @ 6:45pm in the Norma Drummer Room @ Town Hall

Motion: Robert Findley Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Discussion:

- Kurt Miller said that we need to notarize this and have the Public Hearing scheduled.
- Richard Buturla said 128 West Street is the property that we took for delinquent taxes, had an eviction. State statute requires that we have a Public Hearing that was published at least two times in a newspaper with general circulation in the Town of Seymour, and post a sign on the property with the Public Hearing date, time, and location for the purpose of complying with state statute for sale of municipally owned property. This property was taken through a tax deed coming out of a tax collector's warrant which is a specific statute. If the tax liens had been foreclosed upon versus using the other

method, we would not have had to have a public hearing or post anything. Based on the assessed value of the property, it will not be less than $10,000.

- Rob VanEgghen asked what the purpose of the Public Hearing is. Richard Buturla said it is required by the State Statute. At this hearing, we will state that the property is a municipal property for sale, and we have complied with all the requirements. Then there is public comment. They can agree or disagree with the sale, put forth suggestions on possible methods for selling the property (sealed bids, listing with real estate broker, auction, etc.) We talked about this at a previous meeting and had one person suggest auction as the proper way to go.
- Chris Bowen said that after the Public Hearing we can set the methodology for selling the house.
- Kurt Miller asked if we have enough time to get this done before the February 18th date. We should change the date to March 4th.

Asked to Amend the previous Motion to Amend the Date from Tuesday, February 18th, 2019 to Tuesday, March 3rd, 2019
Motion: Robert Findley Second: Annmarie Drugonis

The Public Hearing date is set for Tuesday, March 3rd @ 6:45pm in the Norma Drummer Room, Town Hall

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 #9 - Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding NEMBA
Kurt Miller said that this is the New England Mountain Bike Association and they would like to build mountain bike trails in the Keith Mitchell Forest area to connect with existing trails in Oxford. We approved this project to move forward. We authorized Town Counsel to enter into negotiations with NEMBA. We have hit a little snag.

- Richard Buturla said that we had two concerns: 1. Liability and 2. Insurance. When this idea first surfaced about 2 ½ years ago from a group out of the Oxford Conservation Group, they were not organized. Recently, they became affiliated with NEMBA and we put together a Revocable License Agreement between the Town of Seymour and the Town of Oxford. At that time, they promised that NEMBA would assume the liability & insurance. Mr. Buturla was not sure what , if anything, is happening in the Town of Oxford side of this thing currently. Then we (Seymour) put together our own resolution. There was a provision in there that NEMBA would provide the insurance and name the Town as Additional Insured. The snag is that they came forward and communicated that they will not and cannot provide insurance. They said that the do not enter into agreements that say they will provide insurance and showed examples of other contracts where they provided no insurance. Mr. Buturla said he has a real concern about Seymour going forward with this project without insurance. He did cite a case from 2014 in Hamden where someone had gotten hurt while biking. There were some liability issues and the outcome did not go well for Hamden. I would definitely get some information on coverage from our insurance broker. Mr. Buturla said that he is not sure that we CAN get insurance for this.
- Chris Bowen asked about the 2014 case. Richard Buturla said that this was a trail put together on municipal property done by a group of teenagers. The Town (of Hamden) became aware of it when they put in a dog park on adjacent property and then a series of mayors tried to figure out a way to make this thing work and protect the Town from liability and in the end they were not successful.

- Ricard Buturla suspects that the liability environment has changed since NEMBA agreed to provide insurance. This project was only moved forward because they were providing insurance. Now they are not.
- Chris Bowen said that we could reach out our insurance broker to see IF we can provide insurance for this project and how much it would cost.
- Rob VanEgghen said we could find out what our insurance broker says.
- Chris Bowen said that we could also tell NEMBA to provide the insurance or it is a NO GO.
- Kurt Miller said that we could hold off until February 18th and get a quote from our insurance broker.
- Trisha Danka said that she would not support this project if we are not held harmless. But we can get the information.

Item #10 – Appointments

Appointments February 4, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Name	Board	Type	Term	Expiration Date
Leon Sloat	Planning and Zoning Alternate	Reappointment	2 years	2/4/2022
Brian Nesteriak	Transportation Tech Advisory Committee	Reappointment	2 years	2/4/2022
Mary McNelis	Valley Transit District	Reappointment	2 years	2/4/2022
Tim Connors	Inland Wetlands	Reappointment	4 years	2/4/2024

Kurt Miller had two notes:

1. Spelling of BRYan Nesteriak's name is incorrect. Should be BRYan.
2. Mary McNelis is an out of town resident, but she serves as the Director of Community Services in Seymour.
3. Chris Bowen noted that Leon Sloat is very professional, very good – he has worked with him on the Planning & Zoning Board

Motion to approve the above Appointments as presented, with the above name spelling correction

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

Item #11 – Tax Refunds & Abatements

Motion to approve the Tax Collector Refunds Report dated January 30, 2020 as presented by Sue Boland

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

Item #12 – Transfers

None

Item #13 – Correspondence

- Check Registers

Item #14 – Public Comment

Alex Danka – 203 Pearl Street – Two things: 1. With regards to the bike trail, there is a lot of property (65 acres) in that area that is owned by the Seymour Land Trust, so the trails that abut the Oxford trails probably belong to the Land Trust and not the Town. 2. Regarding the fireworks, I have spoken to Kurt Miller and we are planning August 15th for a Summer Bash @ Chatfield Park. We are looking for volunteers, please see either Kurt Miller or myself.

Item #15 – Selectmen's Public Comment

- *Chris Bowen* – We, whether paid professional staff or elected, are to our residents, a necessary evil. We are something that people don't want to deal with until they have to. And in that case, we have a lot of power to affect the lives of our citizens, and in negative ways. I want to urge everyone who works for the Town of Seymour and any public servant to show a little bit of empathy towards the situation that some people might have. And select knowledge the public would have about government which they are not really schooled on. It's very easy to get jaded. One negative comment or one negative ruling or one overcharge on something can have a very catastrophic effect on how people view government as it is. We just need to be reminded of the effect we have on the people.
- *Rob VanEgghen* – Sunday April 19th is a Mini-Golf Event @ the Ansonia Boys & Girls Club sponsored by the Shelton Exchange. The money goes to many Valley non-profits. Tickets are $100/person. Maybe we can do something with the Boys & Girls Club in Seymour in the future.
- *Al Bruno*
    - Asked if we could get an update on what Eversource promised to do with the cutting of the trees. What has been done? When will they start? Kurt Miller said he believed it was early March.
    - Seymour High School Boys & Girls Indoor Track Team did really well at the NVL's last night; girls took second place and the boys scored eight times the points they scored last year. Congratulations to Coach Jenny, Coach Burns, & Coach Cunningham!
      Kurt Miller said that Katie Bruno won the NVL Championship with over 300 hurdles. Congratulations!
- *Annmarie Drugonis*
    - We are doing the Mission22 Walk for Suicide for Veterans on June 13th & 14th @ the High School. Kurt Miller has said he would walk for 22 hours straight. The next planning meeting is on February 13th at the Seymour Firehouse @ 7pm. We can use all the help we can get! Please come.
    - Congratulations to the Seymour High School Cheerleaders on another well-done competition.
    - Congratulations to the Seymour High School Track & Field as well, and also Katie Bruno on her achievement.
    - I will be there to participate & help on August 15th for the Mini-Golf Event.
- *Robert Findley* – Seymour High School Softball – the Lady Wildcat Diamond Club are doing a Cornhole Tournament @ Total Sports Academy on February 15th from 7-10pm, $25/pp, pizza & refreshments.

- *Trisha Danka*
  - Congratulations to Seymour Middle School Cheer Squad – came in first place.
  - Trisha asked if Richard Buturla had any update on the 96 Haddad Road Blight Lien situation? He has no update.

Item #16 – Adjournment
Motion to adjourn at 8:29pm

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis 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

Submitted by:
Monica Dimon
Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:
W.Kurt Miller
First Selectman