

COPY RECEIVED
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**Town of Seymour
Board of Selectmen
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 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: Brian Lima, Rory Burke

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order

First Selectman Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

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 February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting

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

Item #5 – First Selectman's Report

- S&P has reaffirmed our AA+ rating once again. This reflected their opinion of Seymour's very strong economy & stable property tax base, continued balanced operations & strong budgetary flexibility. We have strong financial management with good financial policies & practices. We have very strong liquidity and strong institutional framework score. We have gotten the GFOA award for 5 years in a row. We have a strong debt and contingent liability profile. We are proactively issuing these refunding bonds to smooth the effect of its new-money issuance on debt, maintain manageable debt-service costs, provide future capital-project flexibility without new debt issuance, and use state legislation that allows municipalities to issue GO bonds with 30-year maturities that should expire next year. They took notice and liked that we have companies (Thule, Basement Systems, Kerite) that are reinvesting in the Town – looking to expand. They recognize that we are not in financial distress. They think we are in very good shape.
- Last night I presented my budget to the Board of Finance. I am proposing a mill rate increase for the first time in five years. From 36 to 36.1. The difference in cost is about \$120,000. But I recommended the increase in the interest of moving our Town forward. The tax impact: take your assessment, divide by 100. Even though the Mill Rate doesn't move, that doesn't mean that taxes don't move. It comes down to the amount of tax increase that the residents pay each year, which this year is 0.81%. Over the last five years

the increase has been 0.796%. We should be very proud that we have been able to move this Town forward with very little impact to our residents.

- The Budget for FY 21 will go up \$651,586 (1.14%). The municipal side will go up 0.60% or \$139,215; the Board of Education will go up 1.5% or \$512,371. Two main parts of the budget are:
- 1. Fund Balance – which has grown to 12.10%. As part of the Strategic Plan, the goal is 15% which will take us several more years to reach. Based on the Strategic Plan, I will recommend us to “lock in” a number. Currently our Fund Balance is \$6,751,984. I would like to lock in at 11%. . If we go below the 11%, then that triggers the Strategic Plan proviso where a plan needs to go to the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. This is to protect the Town long-term.
 - Per the Strategic Plan if we go below 11%, we will need to get approval from the Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, and need to have a plan to get us back above the 11%. At 11% the Fund Balance would be \$6,311,316. This gives us a cushion of \$440,668. and
 - 2. Debt Ratio (the amount of debt we pay in comparison to our total budget). S&P likes communities to be between 6 to 8%. For FY20 we are at 6.03% and for FY21 we will be at 5.06%. While our debt ratios have come down, we have made massive reinvestments in our infrastructure and roads. In 2015, our debt ratio was 9.32%. Almost 10% of our budget was spent on repaying debt.
- Our Financials are stable, steady and solid. We are in the financial position. This is due to all the members on this Board, the Board of Finance, the Strategic Planning Committee, and our Financial Advisors.
- I will be out of the country from March 7th to March 14th. Annmarie Drugonis will be available in my absence. For day-to-day issues, Rory Burke will be available. Also, Doug Thomas and Tony Caserta. The Emergency staff is also aware of this.

Item #6 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Regional Performance Incentive (RPI) Resolution

This is a grant for money that the COG will receive from OPM for TWO projects: One is a Regional Open Space Inventory, which will go the Naugatuck Valley and the second is for a Statewide Municipal Boundary Survey.

These are both at no cost to the Town. We are just showing support.

The Board of Finance sets the Town Hearing date and the Budget Workshops, the Board of Selectmen set the dates for the Town Meeting and Referendum dates. If there is not a quorum of 50 people at the Town Meeting, we close the Town Meeting and we have a Special Board of Selectmen Meeting to move the budget forward to Referendum.

OPM Regional Performance Incentive Program: 2019 NVCOG Proposal Summary

Regional Open Space Inventory

- The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) proposes to create a regional inventory of open space parcels in the NV region. The proposed inventory would include, at a minimum, ownership, type of open space, primary function (use), whether it is protected, and whether there is public access. NVCOG currently has a fairly accurate open space inventory, compiled over the last several years, but there is a real need to identify how the open space is used, whether or not it is preserved, and the manner in which it is preserved (deed restriction, conservation easement, etc.) This will

require deed research to ascertain whether or not an easement or restriction has been placed on the property.

- Municipal staff often struggle with updating their open space inventories because of the lack of a clear definition of open space. This project will help address this problem by collecting information on all perceived open space and categorizing it based on the Sustainable CT standards which will be consistent across the state as municipalities participate in the program.
- Identifying open space and active recreation resources that are available to the public, and making the information available online, will enhance the health and quality of life in the region.
- Viewing open space in a regional context will allow decision makers to identify areas where their open space properties/corridors complement open space resources in neighboring communities.
- This inventory will also assist NVCOG with an online Physical Activity Guide, a shared resource that is being developed for the region. NVCOG developed "Active Valley CT" along with the Yale-Griffin Prevention Resource Center to feature low-cost and no-cost physical activity resources in the Lower Naugatuck Valley communities (Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Naugatuck, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton.) We plan to expand this resource to cover all nineteen towns in the Naugatuck Valley Region. In-depth "use" information about open space in the region will provide the location of various activities.

Funding (from OPM) Requested: \$150,000

Motion to approve the plan as presented: to provide support to NVCOG's request to OPM for \$150,000 for an RPI grant

Motion: Chris Bowen

Second: Rob VanEgghen

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danko – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – N/A

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Al Bruno was not present.

Statewide Municipal Boundary Survey (Class D) Update

Western Connecticut Council of Governments will serve as the lead agency for this project, which will create a statewide municipal boundary layer that meets Class D survey standards, as defined in Sec. 20-300b-11 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. It will benefit the state and all local governments, which currently use a variety of boundary layers, most of which are not based on survey, and often differ among municipalities. As a result, GIS applications are often grossly inaccurate, placing the boundary up to a quarter mile from where it should stand, and acreage is often depicted as being in two municipalities or no municipality.

The project will rectify this by establishing a single municipal boundary based on survey (class D), consistent with the FGDC Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata, that to be shared among all governments (state, regional, and local) in Connecticut. Agreement on and use of a single set of municipal boundaries is a prerequisite for effective intergovernmental data sharing, pooling of state and municipal data, and sharing of GIS and spatially-aware IT resources. Once the boundaries are developed, it is expected that municipal layers will be adjusted as needed to conform to reflect the boundaries. When this process is complete, it will be possible to 'stitch' together parcel data from all municipalities in Connecticut to create a statewide parcel map, from which a single, state parcel data set can be built.

Funding requested: \$600,000

Motion that the Seymour Board of Selectmen support the Statewide Municipal Boundary Survey Update request of the NVCOG through the WCCOG's for an RPI grant in the amount of \$600,000

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Discussion: Bob Findley said he is amazed that we do not already have this in place. It is an urgent need.

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

Al Bruno has returned to the room.

Item #7 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Girl Scouts Resolution



Sample State Proclamation for 2020

A Proclamation on the Importance of the All-Girl Space Offered by Girl Scouts

WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 108th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, the largest and most successful leadership program for girls in the world; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts unleashes the G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)TM in every girl, preparing her for a lifetime of leadership; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts combines time-tested, research-backed methods with exciting, modern programming that speaks to today's girls and is designed to cater to the strengths of girls' leadership development; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts offers girls 21st century programming in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); the outdoors; entrepreneurship; and beyond, helping girls develop invaluable life skills and take the lead early and often; and

WHEREAS, as the world's premier leadership development organization for girls, Girl Scouts welcomes girls of all backgrounds and interests who want to develop the courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, research shows that girls learn best in an all-girl, girl-led environment in which their specific needs are addressed and met; and

WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest and most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, calls on Girl Scouts in grades 9 to 12 to take on projects that have a measurable and sustainable impact on a community by first assessing a need, designing a solution, completing a project, and inspiring others to sustain it; and

WHEREAS, with more than 100 years of experience, Girl Scouts brings a wealth of knowledge to programs that deliver girls cornerstone experiences with benefits that last a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, today, more than 50 million women are Girl Scout alums, and 2.6 million girls and adults are current members.

NOW, THEREFORE, I W. Kurt Miller, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby applaud the Girl Scout Movement and Girl Scouts of Connecticut for providing girls with a safe, inclusive, all-girl space where they can hone their skills and develop leadership abilities, and I declare the day of March 12th 2020 to be "Girl Scout Day."

Motion to approve the above Resolution as presented

Motion: Chris Bowen

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Discussion: Chris Bowen said that there is a full week filled with activities celebrating Girl Scouts. The 12th falls in that week.

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 #8 – Appointments

Appointments March 3, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Name	Board	Type	Term	Expiration Date
Robert Newton	Commission on Aging	Reappointment	2 years	3/3/2022
Don Smith	Strategic Planning	Reappointment	2 years	2/4/2022
Kathy Vrlik	Strategic Planning	Reappointment	2 years	2/4/2022
James Garofolo	Board of Ethics	Reappointment	4 years	3/20/2024

Item #13 – Selectmen’s Public Comment

- Chris Bowen – Congratulations to the Emmett O’Brien Boys Basketball Team – they did make States! Regarding Girl Scouts, my wife works for GSA, and their program of getting the girls into STEM is tremendous! Girl Scouts build girls of Confidence, Courage, and Character that make the world a better place. I recently went to Quaker Farms School to help get the cookies to the girls’ troops. Everyone, PLEASE WASH YOUR HANDS!
- Rob VanEgghen – Everyone, PLEASE WASH YOUR HANDS! I want to mention that I have been working with TEAM – they have been working with Bozzuto’s and Basement Systems monthly food drop. Bozzuto’s brought a box truck FULL of fresh fruits & vegetables – we separated into five tables and distributed to the five area food banks. There is a lot more need than people in the Valley realize. Reminder: Sunday April 19th is an Indoor Mini-Golf Event @ the Ansonia Boys & Girls Club, 28 Howard Avenue, Ansonia. Sponsored by the Shelton Exchange. It is Luau themed. The money goes to many Valley non-profits. Tickets are \$100/person.
- Al Bruno – None
- Annmarie Drugonis
 - o Mission 22 - we have another meeting coming up on March 12th at the Citizen Engine Company at 7pm. Kathy has the website up. We are putting together swag bags; we are using gemstones for donors; our goal is to raise \$22,000. Mission 22 Gala is on Friday the 20th Masquerade theme; Black Tie – from 6:30pm to midnight; in Prospect; buy tickets online. The National Guard will be bringing items for activities for the kids to do. We are having a candlelight walk. Starting Saturday, June 13th at 4pm until Sunday, June 14th at 2pm.
- Robert Findley – Thank you to Kurt and team for your efforts to get our S&P Bond Rating renewed. It’s nice to see the results.
- Trisha Danka - Thank you to Kurt and team as well for the S&P Presentation. Great job! Just want to be very clear, I don’t expect anything, but I think it’s important to bring up – not hype – but my company and many others are planning in case there’s a pandemic. I presume the Town is taking steps. Kurt said yes, the buildings are cleaned every day, there are wipes and hand sanitizer in every office now. The custodial staff wipes down the rooms every day now. Trisha asked if it is a hydrogen peroxide-based solution. Kurt said that whatever they got from Naugatuck Valley Health. And our Safety Committee, just in case there is a pandemic, is planning for how they will handle? Kurt said yes, there was a large meeting on Monday; I was informed by our Emergency Management Director that we need to put some money aside; so, they are planning & preparing.

Item #14 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:15pm

Motion: Trisha Danka

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

Submitted by:

Monica Dimon
Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:

W. Kurt Miller
W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman