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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

**Town of Seymour ~ Board of Selectmen**  
**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:00pm**  
**Zoom Teleconference - Call #646-558-8656 – ID#975-0189-6592**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Richard Buturla, Rory Burke, John Healey, Valley Independent Sentinel

**Item #1 – Call Meeting to order**

First Selectman Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

**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 April 7, 2020 Regular Meeting**

Motion to approve Minutes from April 7, 2020 Regular Meeting

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

**Item #5 – First Selectman's Report**

- a. Updated numbers as of today at 4pm.... We have 127 confirmed cases in town and unfortunately have had 13 people pass away from the virus.
- b. Town Operations are going as well as can be expected. We continue to hold calls with staff each morning to discuss updates and review any changes that might be needed.
- c. We expect to continue with the modified schedule for town operations at least until the end of May, but could be longer depending on any new developments, recommendations, executive orders or changes that come through.
- d. DPW is continuing to run with staggered schedules and only one person per truck. They are following all protocols and adhering to proper social distancing.
- i. The Transfer Station remains open regular hours for residents but with very, very limited interaction with staff
- ii. We had planned to start bulk pick up at the end of April, but have decided to put that off a few more weeks for the safety of our staff as that is a very labor intensive operation.
- e. Budget wise, we seem to be on target, but will continue to monitor the situation. Our expense side is tracking ok but we will keep the spending freeze in place as a hedge against potential lost revenue. We are starting to see spots that are trending slightly below projections on the revenue side.... Nothing to be alarmed at yet, but things we will be keeping a close eye on. As an example, our total April 2020 tax deposits stand at \$95,048, with 9 days to go. We collected \$189,000 in April of 2019. The end of the month generally brings in more revenue than the beginning so we will see how that shakes

out. As of today, our total collection rate stands at 97.77% on the 2018 list. In comparison, we were at 97.87% on March 31, 2019.

f. Our First Responders continue to operate at their usual high level. The service Chiefs are very active and are communicating well with each other. We currently are in ok shape with supplies but continue to look for as many resource options as possible. The parades they are doing for residents have really taken off. I believe they had 8 scheduled for today and another 8 scheduled for tomorrow.

g. Finally, it was announced last night that we will be offering a new banner program called Seymour Strong. Residents and businesses will have the chance to purchase a banner with their name on it as a way of showing support for our first responders, Medical personnel and all essential employees. For each banner sold, we will be making a \$25 donation to the Valley Community Foundation COVID-19 Recovery and Relief Fund. Should you need additional information please let me know.

#### **Item #6 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Municipal Tax Deferment Program per Executive Order 7S**

Kurt Miller received a memo from Town Counsel, Richard Buturla regarding Executive Order 7S which reads, in part:

On Wednesday, April 1, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7S, (the "Order"). This Order suspended and/or modified a number of state statutes and regulations and set forth certain mandates. The following is a summary of the Order as such relates specifically to municipal tax collection, tax payment and tax assessment, summarized as follows.

Paragraph 6 of the Order suspends and modifies tax deadlines and collection efforts. In addition, two programs have been established to assist eligible taxpayers, businesses and nonprofits affected by COVID-19. These programs are known as the "Deferment Program" and the "Low Interest Rate Program". The Order requires that every Connecticut municipality participate in one or both programs, and to notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management ("OPM") no later than April 25, 2020 about such participation.

Here is a summary of each program:

- a.) Deferment Program- any municipality which participates in this program must offer "eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents" a 90 day deferment of any taxes on real property, personal property, motor vehicles, municipal water, sewer and electric rates (collectively the "Taxes") from the time that such Taxes become due.

"Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents" are specifically defined as "those that attest to or document significant economic impact by COVID-19, and/ or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic." The Order requires the Secretary of OPM to issue guidance as to which taxpayers are considered eligible.

Regardless of such guidance, a participating municipality may, upon approval of its legislative body (Seymour's Board of Selectmen), extend eligibility for the deferment program to other categories of taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents.

- b.) Low Interest Rate Program- any municipality which participates in this program must adhere to the following: (1) the delinquent portion of the Taxes shall be subject to interest at 3% for 90 days from the time when such become due until paid, for Taxes due and payable from March 10 through and including July 1, 2020 (unless such delinquent portion is subject to interest and penalties of less than 3%); (2) any Taxes that were delinquent on or prior to March 10 shall be subject to interest at 3% for 90 days from April 1, 2020 (unless such delinquent portion is subject to interest and penalties of less than 3%). Following the expiration of the 90-day period, the portion that remains delinquent shall be subject to interest and penalties as previously established.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS – DEFERMENT PROGRAM**

- Richard Buturla said that based on the deferral form, eligible people will be a resident, a household that has suffered at least a 20% reduction in income due to the COVID-19, the applicant would make a representation that since March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the applicant has either been furloughed without pay or had his or her hours significantly reduced or rendered unemployed.  
For the Businesses & Non-Profits, the revenue (for March to June 2020 period) should be decreased at least 30% from the March to June 2019 period.
- Chris Bowen – Is this an either/or situation? Richard Buturla said NO. We NEED to choose at least one, but can choose both
- Robert Findley – Is this a process that we have to take on at the Town level for the people? Who does the evaluation of if the person is qualified? Kurt Miller said that the applications would come into the Tax Collector and at that point determine if they are eligible. We do also have the option with the Deferral Program to defer ALL residents, which I would not recommend.
- Chris Bowen – Who would determine eligibility? Kurt Miller said that we (the Seymour Tax Collector) will be the decision maker as to who is eligible based on criteria set us by OPM.
- Al Bruno – Would it be the Tax Collector herself or a small group of people (committee) or would it be one person having the ultimate authority to make the decision? Kurt Miller said he was not sure if there was any guidance on this in the OPM information. Richard Buturla said at this time there was not this level of detail regarding this, but he would check with OPM. There will be further guidance on many issues as we get closer to the collection date (April 25<sup>th</sup>). Kurt Miller said that since every town is required to submit by the 25<sup>th</sup>, more information/clarification will be forthcoming.
- Chris Bowen – Is there an Appeals Process in place? Kurt Miller said there is not at this time. We haven't had information/guidance on this from OPM yet. Chris asked if we have the avenues to request guidance on this issue? Kurt and Richard Buturla said yes, we do.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS – LOW INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM**

Kurt Miller said that this program was created by people who have absolutely no idea how municipal governments operate. Having multiple interest rates going at one time would put a tremendous burden on our tax collector office, which only has two people. Plus, if you are behind and haven't paid your taxes yet, the reason most likely has nothing to do with the virus. This is just my opinion. I do not believe we should vote for this program.

- Chris Bowen – the reasoning behind my questions is that this is a tremendous burden, and potential liability for just one or two people to have to make the decisions. I understand that we need to adopt one of these programs, but to ask municipalities to put this burden on already understaffed offices is wrong. The State needs to clarify this a little bit better. I'm not comfortable going forward with either of these because it puts way too much burden on one person. Kurt Miller said that once everyone reports in by the 25<sup>th</sup>, at that point, OPM will take a look at what they have. Then they will provide the appropriate documentation needed. I agree with your concerns. Towns that are not financially stable could now be forced to take on more short-term debt just to cover day-to-day operating expenses. It will be a challenge, but we have a few months to organize – move people around if need be – to cover the needs.
- Al Bruno – it sounds like a program that is designed to help people, but we are in need of further guidance from the State which shall be forthcoming.
- Robert Findley – Is there any estimate you can provide as far as what the effect of these programs would be on our Town finances. From a staffing perspective this is an important piece of information. Kurt Miller said not at this time.
- Richard Buturla said that this will also impact the number of applicants and the impact upon the municipality in terms of finances – there could be taxpayers who are eligible due to household financial loss who are still current on their mortgages and still making mortgage payments and under the order of financial institutions mortgage services who hold property tax payments in escrow on behalf of the borrower are required under the Order to continue to remit the property taxes to the municipality so long as the borrower remains current on their mortgage or is in a forbearance or Deferment Program. This is regardless of whether the homeowner is eligible under the program. This will impact the extent and breadth of this.
- Trisha Danka asked if we have any leeway in presenting the guidelines so that it will be clear whether someone would qualify? So that this way we can sway people away that shouldn't be applying. Kurt Miller said that we will put out the information, as much as we can, when we receive it from OPM. Trisha said that the clearer we are with the information, it will hopefully deter people who clearly won't qualify from applying.
- Kurt Miller took a consensus as to who would be in favor of the Resolution for the Deferment Program or the Low Interest Loan Program. Everyone seemed to be in favor of the Deferment Program, not the Low Interest Loan Program. Kurt Miller read the Resolution for the Deferment Program into the record:

RESOLUTION REGARDING DEFERMENT PROGRAM

Sponsored by Seymour Board of Selectmen

WHEREAS on March 10, 2020 the Governor of the State of Connecticut declared statewide public health and civil preparedness emergencies; and

WHEREAS pursuant to such declaration, the Governor issued seventeen (17) Executive Orders to suspend or modify state statutes and to take other action to protect the public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS on April 1, 2020 the Governor issued Executive Order 7S, which, inter alia, established two programs to offer support to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents who have been economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically the Deferment Program and the Low Interest Rate Program; and

WHEREAS Executive Order 7S requires all Connecticut municipalities to participate in one or both of such programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Seymour will hereinafter participate in the Deferment Program as set forth in Executive Order 7S, by offering eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents a 90 day deferment of any taxes on real property, personal property, motor vehicles, and municipal water and sewer charges and assessments from the time that such become due and payable.

Such eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents shall be those that attest to or document significant economic impact by COVID-19, and/ or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as such may be further defined by Executive Order and any guidance received from the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.

Motion to approve the above referenced Resolution for the Deferment Program as presented

Motion: Robert Findley

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

Richard Buturla wanted to remind everyone that the official form needs to be sent to OPM by April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Kurt Miller said he would get together with Rich and Rory to do this tomorrow.

**Item #7 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Resolution to Authorize the Board of Finance to Adopt a Budget and Eliminate In-Person Town Meeting & Budget Referendum in Accordance with Executive Order 7I**

Kurt Miller received a 4-page memo dated March 24, 2020 from Town Counsel regarding the Town Budget Process. He read part of it into the record:

As you are aware, on March 10, 2020 the Governor issued declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States and its confirmed spread in Connecticut. Since the declaration, further Executive Orders have, among other things, extended deadlines for municipal budgets preparation and suspended certain open meeting requirements.

More specifically, Executive Order 7C states that, notwithstanding any provision of any municipal charter or ordinance, all municipal budget deadlines for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 that fall on any date prior to and including May 15, 2020 are extended by 30 days.

Further, pursuant to such Order, the legislative body of any municipality is empowered to alter or modify deadlines and schedules pertaining to preparation and submission of a proposed budget, as well as deliberations and actions on the budget by both the legislative body (i.e. the Seymour Board of Selectman) and any other municipal fiscal authority (i.e. the Seymour Board of Finance). This power to extend includes dates for required public hearings, publication, referendum and final budget adoption.

Executive Order 7I, issued March 21, 2020, further addresses and refines the budget process by provides that, notwithstanding any contrary provisions of the General Statutes, including Title 7, or any special act, municipal charter or ordinance, the legislative body of a municipality, or the board of selectmen in municipalities where the legislative body is a town meeting, shall authorize the budget making authority to adopt a budget for the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 fiscal year, and to set a mill rate. The mill rate must be sufficient to absorb the revenue deficit, if any, at the beginning of the fiscal year. This authorization of the legislative body or board of selectman, as applicable, shall be without the requirement of any in-person budget adoption requirements, including but not limited to annual town meetings requiring votes, referendum, and special town meetings. The order further requires that the budget-making authority comply with public meeting requirements consistent with Executive Order 7B, and take all reasonable steps to publicize the draft municipal budget and receive public comment thereon, including publication of the draft budget on the municipal website and providing an email address for the public to submit timely comments on the proposed budget.

The entire memo was included with the information packet for this meeting.

This is where we currently stand. The question before us is whether we want to turn the budget process over to the Board of Finance and let them make the decision. I have had several meetings with Bill Sawicki and will have another meeting with the Board of Finance tomorrow night. The Mill Rate will remain level at 36 Mills. If you look at the history of voting and approvals you will see a pattern:

- 2015 was the last year that the budget didn't pass on the first try; the municipal side passed on the first try; the BOE passed on the second try. Municipal = 621 Yes, 563 No
- 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 both budgets passed on the first try. What we saw was the % was almost two to one in favor but there were less and less people coming out to vote.

- In 2019 the vote was 542 Yes, 225 No; in 2018 the vote was 529 Yes, 180 No; in 2017 the vote was 626 Yes, 290 No. So, you can start to see the trend. As the Mill Rate has become level, people have become more confident with the teams that we have in place.

That being said, I am a little more comfortable than normal turning the process over to the Board of Finance. I would like to hear all of your comments.

- Rob VanEgghen – this does not indicate any lack of faith in the Board of Finance, they have done a fantastic job over the years. Even with the trend of people not coming out, I still want to make sure that there is the ability for people who want to be involved to have the opportunity to voice their opinion and be part of that process, even if it's only a few. I do have the utmost faith in the Board of Finance but wouldn't go that route first. Kurt Miller said that we will start with tomorrow night getting a firm number we can put out there to make everyone aware. Then we would hold a Public Hearing on May 2<sup>nd</sup> (3 weeks from tonight). We would make sure that all the documentation is out there by this Thursday or Friday, thereby giving the public 2 ½ weeks to make comments; we will compile them so that we can read them at the Public Hearing. There will be no vote at that Public Hearing, and the Board of Finance would vote at their regular May meeting (May 26<sup>th</sup>) – another two weeks after the Public Hearing – which would give folks a total of about 5 weeks to make comments on the budget number and any information they would like the Board of Finance to hear before they vote on the number.
- Chris Bowen – not only am I comfortable turning this process over to the Board of Finance but hope that we can use this as a “trial run” to see if we can get a charter revision to use this process permanently. I know that recently we have had good results at referendum, but this has not always been the case. One time the budget failed after 3 tries! Kurt Miller said that in 2012 the Municipal side failed 3 times, the BOE failed 4 times. In 2011 the Municipal side failed 2 times, the BOE failed 3 times. Chris Bowen said that when the BOE failed those 4 times, they could not LEGALLY go lower. Our Board of Finance is elected and there are checks and balances in effect for them. The Board of Finance is empowered by Charter and by the voters and we should hold to that. So, let's see how this 5-week process works going forward. Kurt Miller said that for the last nine Town Meetings, we have not had a quorum. This means that we have to add a step in the process. So, we will see how the process works this year and maybe we can circle back and have the Charter Revision Committee revisit this possibility.

Kurt Miller read the Resolution regarding the Budget Process into the record:

RESOLUTION REGARDING BUDGET PROCESS

Sponsored by Seymour Board of Selectmen

WHEREAS on March 10, 2020 the Governor of the State of Connecticut declared statewide public health and civil preparedness emergencies; and

WHEREAS pursuant to such declaration, the Governor issued numerous Executive Orders to suspend or modify state statutes and to take other action to protect the public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS Executive Order 7B allows a municipality to suspend open meetings and hold meetings remotely by conference call, videoconference or other technology; and

WHEREAS Executive Order 7C provides that all budget submission dates may be postponed until approval and modification by the legislative body; and

WHEREAS Executive Order 7I provides that, notwithstanding any contrary provisions of the General Statutes, municipal charter or ordinance, the legislative body of a municipality shall authorize the budget making authority to adopt a budget for the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 fiscal year, and to set a mill rate; and

WHEREAS Executive Order 7I further provides that such authorization of the legislative body shall be without the requirement of any in-person budget adoption requirements, including but not limited to annual town meetings requiring votes, referendum, and special town meetings; and

WHEREAS Executive Order 7I further provides that the budget-making authority comply with public meeting requirements consistent with Executive Order 7B, and take all reasonable steps to publicize the draft municipal budget and receive public comment thereon, including publication of the draft budget on the municipal website and providing an email address for the public to submit timely comments on the proposed budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Seymour Board of Finance, as the Town’s budget-making authority, is hereby authorized, following public hearing in compliance with Executive Order 7B, to adopt the Town budget and set the mill rate in accordance with Executive Order 7I.

Motion to approve the above referenced Resolution for the Budget Process as presented

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

**Item #8 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes in an Amount Not to Exceed \$4,000,000 to pay the Town’s Expenses and Obligations for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020**

Kurt Miller said that we talked at the last meeting about having this Resolution approved in advance just in case it was needed to go out and get these Notes. Especially now with the Tax Deferral Program we don't have any idea what the impact will be to our cash flow so that we can keep our operations running. We have with us tonight, John Healey the underwriter for the Town. He has been with us for five or six years and is very well versed in the Town's finances. If you have any questions, he will be happy to answer them.

John Healey said that this Resolution is acting as a hedge against the unknown impact of the Coronavirus is going to be for the Town. The position you DON'T want to be in is to have to scramble to get an authorization if you need to act swiftly. Conversely, you don't want to issue the Notes if you don't need them. This Resolution tonight just gives authorization to the First Selectman & Treasurer to pursue that course if needed. It is important to impress on the Board and public listening that there are no immediate plans to issue them. If they need to be issued, we will pursue all avenues to achieve the lowest rate.

- Rob VanEgghen – just to clarify – we would just use this to “keep the lights on” for cash flow issues this year. These funds could not be used by a future Board of Selectmen for a “project”. John Healey said this is correct. The State of CT statutes strictly govern the issuance and usage of TAN's. You have to link them to specific amount of taxes in a specific tax-year. Those notes have to be repaid in that tax year in which they are being applied. So, we are looking to cover any deficiency that might occur, especially during July to October (the deferral period). So these would need to be repaid before the end of Fiscal Year 21.
- Al Bruno – asked if John could give us a brief summary of how you arrived at the \$4 million cap amount. The Town figured the potential worst-case scenario when you look at Deferral Program, what percentage of homeowners escrow their property taxes with their mortgage so that the Town can reasonably expect to get that, as opposed to homeowners who directly pay their property taxes, what if 100% of those don't come in. We are dealing with an unknown quantity here; we looked at revenues: building fees, health fees, permit fees, conveyance taxes, and other revenues. Right now, we don't know what will really happen. So, we got together with Kurt Miller, Doug Thomas, and the rest of the Financial department and came up with a number between \$2.5 and \$3 million. What you don't want to do is UNDER- estimate and not get enough for what we need (otherwise, what's the point of getting the money). So, we went with a not-to-exceed of \$4 million. The Town would only issue what it actually needs and reasonably expects to pay back within that timeframe. Kurt Miller said that Doug did some best estimates and came up with \$3 million /month to keep the operation flowing. We have about \$7 million right now in our Fund Balance, so we can afford to carry two months. Initially we were going to ask for the \$3 million, but bond counsel recommended asking for a little more. That is where the \$4 million number came from. And to address Rob VanEgghen's question, we would use our Fund Balance first before issuing the TAN's. We would bring our Fund Balance down to \$1 million and then go out for the TAN's.
- Kurt Miller said that per Matt Ritter, we do not need to read the entire resolution for approval, just the title. Many thanks to John Healey for all his diligent work for the Town over the years.

Motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes in an amount not to exceed \$4 million to pay the Town's expenses and obligations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 as presented

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

Kurt Miller thanked John Healey for his time on this call and for the many years of diligent work you put in for the Town of Seymour; it is greatly appreciated. I don't think we'd be in as great a position as we are today were it not for your guidance. John said he appreciated that and was happy to be here.

### **Item #9 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Economic Development Commission Recommendation**

Kurt Miller said that we had a contract with CERC to provide an Economic Development Director – change of leadership and philosophy at CERC and they pulled all those contracts from all municipalities. Now they only do Project-based work. We had Sadie (since December 2019, who has been available via phone to answer questions) but once we tasked the Economic Development Commission with charting a new path forward; something they think will be successful. Kurt Miller read into the record a letter he received from the Economic Development Commission Chairwoman Christine Aliman:

Dear First Selectman Miller:

After careful consideration and deliberation, We, the Seymour Economic Development Commission, recommend hiring Shelia O'Malley as a consultant for Seymour Economic Development Director. This was voted, approved and recorded in our Feb 2020 meeting

We support the idea of bringing Shelia O'Malley onboard to represent Seymour in our pursuit to continue (or in Seymour's case to renew) our town's economic development. She has the knowledge and the skill set that we feel will benefit our town for growth and also to maintain and continue to cultivate the existing business relationships in Seymour.

With our newly updated Strategic Plan as a template and Shelia's experience we feel that this will be successful venture.

Shelia has a proven record that shows her commitment to economic development in the Valley. We also feel with Shelia's experience with grant writing she will be able to bring funds to our Town that will benefit us as a whole.

Kurt Miller said that all positions, particularly at a senior level, even a consulting position, we put together a Hiring Committee. This letter was only a recommendation. We have several options. We could: take the recommendation and hire her; ignore the recommendation and continue on as we are; we could take the recommendation under advisement and do additional interviews for the position.

- Robert Findley said that he would like to see some type of strategy or a plan as to what she would be considering doing; also, some measuring points where we can keep track of that. Would like a plan with structure and goal-attainment. Kurt Miller said that he agrees with that. Actually, any person that we would hire, we will expect a structured plan with goal-attainment criteria. Bob said that he would like to have some feedback on her plans directly from Sheila. Kurt Miller said that we could tie in this before any offer is made.

- Trisha Danka said that if we don't have a position created already and funded for this position, should we really be hiring right now? Kurt Miller said that they are looking for a consultant position which was budgeted for \$30,000 for this current fiscal year. Also, we can start this process at any time. Does not need to start immediately.
- Rob VanEgghen asked what her position is with Ansonia. If we moved forward today, and we just hired her for a consultant position and not as Economic Development Director, would there be any conflicts? Kurt Miller said that these would be conversations I would want to have with her and the Economic Development Commission before making any decisions and report back to this Board. Not sure what her schedule is. This would be another question to ask. I know with CERC contract, Sadie was in Beacon Falls as well and this did not seem to be problematic. The only area there may be an issue is in the grant area. Rob said that he absolutely supports having someone well-versed in this as a consultant. I do feel that a vote at this time is premature for what is asked for in the letter. We could vote to move forward with discussions. Right now, we could look at where everything is going. We need to get more information. Kurt Miller said that tonight we are just looking to find out if people are in favor of pursuing the position. We get more specific information moving forward and report back to the Board. Then in the future, possibly once this virus passes, we can re-visit a possible voting situation. We don't need this right now.
- Chris Bowen – I would preface my comments by saying this is about perception – the number one concern is that the Town of Ansonia, who had hired Sheila O'Malley, has had to hire a financial consultant – Kurt Miller. But their Fund Balance is now at a dangerous level. Due to this I think that there could be a concern that since you worked very closely with Ansonia, and therefore with Sheila, that there may be some type of conflict perceived. For her to come and work for the Town of Seymour does create perception issues. What I would ask the Board to consider is that if we are going to go forward with interviewing Sheila O'Malley and possibly entering into negotiations with her would it be possible to deputize Deputy First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis and Richard Buturla as the authority figures on this negotiation. I want to state that I fully 100% trust Kurt Miller. It is just a matter of perception (some close relationships) here. Kurt Miller said he would not have a problem with that and is not offended. Chris said he just wants to keep the level of perception that everything is on the level. Kurt said the objective is to get the best possible talent in the positions – the best of the best. Sometimes we need to "share" these people. Many of our very talented people working for Seymour also work with other towns: Richard Buturla, Bryan Nesteriak, Jim Gallagher, Jim Healey, etc. If the Board thinks that she has the potential to work. We can get the questions answered and turn it over to Annmarie and Rich Buturla.
- Annmarie Drugonis said she does not have a problem doing the interview with Rich Buturla. But I don't understand what fiduciary gain Kurt would be getting out of this. He did work with Ansonia, but I don't understand what the conflict is. Chris said he agrees with that, but his concern is with perception here and would like to eliminate any trust issues that the people in town may have in the future. (Chris said he thinks any perceptions would be wrong.)
- Robert Findley said that it sounds like Sheila O'Malley would be great, but we just need a plan that we can track better.
- Kurt Miller asked what the plan of action would be – would you like me to ask the questions of Sheila O'Malley and report her answers to the Board or would you like Annmarie and Rich to ask her the questions and report her answers back to the Board?

- Rob VanEgghen asked if we can send the questions over to Kurt, Annmarie and Rich to do the interview? Kurt said that would be fine. Rob said that he would like to have the EDC get back to us with maybe 3 other options (people). Kurt Miller said that Sheila was in on the initial conversation and we can also have Christine Aliman here to answer any questions.
- Robert Findley – it might be helpful to just have a 30-60-90 Framework for what she hopes to accomplish.
- Trisha Danka – asked if there is a need for the HR Director to be involved in these proceedings? Kurt Miller said that he certainly could be. We can run stuff by him.
- Kurt Miller said he will wait a few days to allow people to send him any thoughts, questions, concerns, issues, and then have the conversation with Sheila and get as many answers as I can. I will then bring it back to the Board for another discussion and we can make a determination of the validity and if we like the answers. If you want to move forward at that point, Annmarie & Rich can take over the negotiations, or we can go back to the EDC for more options and say the Board would like a different direction.

**Item #10 – Appointments**

None

**Item #11 – Tax Refunds & Abatements**

None

**Item #12 – Transfers**

None

**Item #13 – Correspondence**

- We have the check registers.
- We have an e-mail sent to Rory and me from Chris Pelosi regarding the Salary Study. He had planned to make a presentation to us in April, but with the virus situation, he has not been able to gather the needed information, so he is continuing to work on that but wanted the Board to know he needs a little more time than anticipated and should have something for us by May or June.
- We have a resignation letter from Christine Bourret who was the Democratic Registrar of Voters. She resigned effective March 31, 2020. Tom LaPaglia will replace her in this position as of April 1, 2020.
- We have two additional letters: one from Fire Marshal’s Office and one from the Board of Fire Commissioners regarding the appointment of William King as a Fire Inspector by the BOFC and requesting the Board of Selectman approval of this appointment. We will include this in the appointments at our next meeting.

**Item #14 – Public Comment**

None

**Item #15 – Selectmen’s Public Comment**

- Anmarie Drugonis –

- Would like to thank Rob VanEgghen very much from myself and Nicole for the very generous food donations and the donation to Pub 67
- I have taken part of the Parade Brigade and will tomorrow also.
- I wanted to talk about the Banners. There are the ones for Emergency Management, but also we would like to do banners for the Graduating Seniors. We have 185 seniors in Seymour, not including those from other schools (Emmett O'Brien, Sacred Heart Academy, etc.) Have the parents maybe pay for the banner and have them put in front lawn. This will be at least something since they probably won't be having a regular graduation. We will have them all come up the Seymour High School driveway in their cars (social distancing). Kurt Miller said that we can look into doing the banners. We have already 15 banners ordered for the Seymour Strong banners. Kurt said that the e-mail about graduation went out from the principal yesterday.
- Rob VanEgghen –
  - Thank you, Annmarie. For those of you who did not know, I gave \$1,000 to Pub67 for meals for First Responders and \$200 for tips for the staff. The people there always have been very supportive and good food, so it was the time to help out the restaurants we care about.
  - Themis Klarides retired today, so we thank her for her 22 years of service.
  - I'm continuing to be proud of the way that people are coming together and helping each other out; I'm continuing to be disappointed with how many gloves and masks I see in parking lots. It is frustrating. Please adhere to the regulations put in place to protect us all.
  - Regarding the sirens – there was a noise complaint after the parade (sirens) – let's let this go for now as the difficult situation going on – and I continue to support this!
- Chris Bowen – Thank you to Rob Van Egghen for all your charity work; thank you for getting me involved in TEAM; thanks to Annmarie for helping with the seniors and the banners; thanks to Al Bruno for the DPW efforts. This is an awesome town and I realize that more now that I am an adult. It is easy to dismiss or diminish the impact of the virus if you haven't seen it firsthand. We have a very close family friend who has been on a respirator for two weeks now. I ask the people who feel inconvenienced to **consider the fact that people are dying!** Please social distance, wear masks and gloves (AND THROW THEM AWAY AFTER USE).
- Robert Findley – Happy to see the Parade Brigade on my street this weekend – every house came out to support them. Great for the Community! Now is the time we should start to THINK about a plan to reopen; we should put a plan together now so we'll have a plan ready; we should consider what that plan is as a group.
- Al Bruno – Thanks to Trisha and Alex Danka for their ideas regarding the Seymour Strong banners. It's great to show solidarity around the Town. My wife and I will be participating in sponsoring a banner. This goes to what Rob and everyone was talking showing support for each other. Also, the Birthday Parades – one for Luke Carson (10 years old today) was very much appreciated today. Thank you also to Nicole Klarides-Ditria and Annmarie Drugonis for taking care of our Public Works Department with some food gift cards – everyone on the Board of Selectmen (including Nicole) chipped in. A small way to say "thank you" to Tony DePrimo and his crew what are keeping the Town pristine. He has them doing things the right way. Makes us proud. Thank you for your participations. Stay safe!
- Trisha Danka - I just wanted to mention that we have a lot of people in Town continuing to go to work: people at Town Hall, custodians, police department, our volunteer fire departments

and emergency departments. Making sure that everything in the buildings are safe for the people there. I am proud to be a resident of Seymour. Thank you to all of our residents who are helping their neighbors and going out to work. I am very appreciative and am keeping you all in my prayers. Just wanted to ask Bob Findlay if he got your appointment letter for Strategic Planning because I got mine! Kurt asked Bob to consider this notification your "letter". Now you just have to take your oath.

- Richard Buturla – Be well – Be safe – Stay strong! It's an honor & privilege to work with all of you!

Annmarie Drugonis also wanted to state that it has been on the Seymour Moms page – the Transfer Station is open with Regular Hours. They will be delaying the Bulk Pickup so that the DWP members can stay safe. Themis Klarides is retiring after 22 years in the Legislature. I am very proud – she is a wonderful role model!

#### Item #16 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:42pm

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Chris Bowen

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

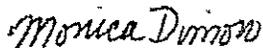
Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

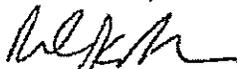
Chris Bowen – Yes

Submitted by:



**Monica Dimon**  
**Recording Secretary**

Reviewed by:



**W. Kurt Miller**  
**First Selectman**