

Town of Seymour ~ Board of Selectmen  
MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 7:00pm  
Zoom Teleconference - Call #646-558-8656 – ID# 895 5656 5877

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

**Members Absent:** Robert Van Egghen

**Others Present:** Bryan LeClerc, Rory Burke, Jean Falbo

**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 June 16, 2020 Regular Meeting**

Motion to approve Minutes from June 16, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion: Chris Bowen

Second: Trisha Danka

**Discussion:** Al Bruno would like to correct the word "CURB" in his Selectmen's Public Comments section – should have been "CURVE". **been great to watch the curb get flattened.**

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Chris Bowen – Yes

**Item #5 – Approve Minutes from June 23, 2020 Special Meeting**

Motion to approve Minutes from June 23, 2020 Special Meeting

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 4 – Yes

0 – No

2 – Abstain (Bob Findley & Trisha Danka)

Trisha Danka – Abstain

Robert Findley – Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Chris Bowen – Yes

**Item #6 – First Selectman's Report**

- With regards to the budget, our projected deficit is down to about \$60,000 – which includes a potential \$290,000 surplus from the Board of Education. They have asked the Town to create a reserve fund for

them which can be done. We will have discussion on this at our next meeting. We are heading in the right direction.

- At the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> I will have an update on how the Tax Collections are progressing. We have been busy these past few days.

**Item #7 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding 8-24 Referral for Holbrook Road Reconstruction Project**

We have a \$3.5 million project to reconstruct Holbrook Road. We are now in the process of finalizing all of the easements that are required by the State of Connecticut. We hope to have that done in the next week or two. A lot of the easements have to do with the Town of Oxford. We are waiting for information back on them. We still need to get 8-24 approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Motion to forward to the Planning & Zoning Commission the Holbrook Road Reconstruction Project for an 8-24 Referral

Motion: Robert Findley

Second: Chris Bowen

**Discussion:** Chris Bowen asked if the Planning & Zoning Commission was even meeting at this time due to COVID. Kurt Miller said that they have not been, but we will have them call a meeting to address this.

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Chris Bowen – Yes

**Item #8 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Tax Abatements for:**

**a. 8 Frances Drive**

There was a letter from Dana Flach, Tax Collector in the packet which reads, in part:

The Town of Seymour, per TAX COLLECTOR'S DEED, vo. 584 pg. 736, recorded on May 28, 2020 is now the owner of 8 Frances Drive.

Please abate the following Delinquent Real Estate taxes:

2015 Grand List	\$ 231.84
2016 Grand List	\$ 231.84
2017 Grand List	\$ 231.84
2018 Grand List	\$ 231.84
2019 Grand List	\$ 231.84

Total - \$1,159.20

The property was included in a Tax Sale held on November 12, 2019 with no bidders and the redemption period of 6 months has expired.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Motion to move 8 Frances Drive off of the delinquent tax rolls for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 as recommended by Dana Flach, Tax Collector

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Robert Findley

**Discussion:** Al Bruno asked if this was for sewer usage fees or real property taxes. Kurt Miller said that it is for real property taxes.

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Chris Bowen – Yes

**b. 36 Emma Street**

There was a letter from Dana Flach, Tax Collector in the packet which reads, in part:

The Town of Seymour, per TAX COLLECTOR'S DEED, vo. 584 pg. 739, recorded on May 28, 2020 is now the owner of 36 Emma Street.

Please abate the following Delinquent Real Estate taxes:

2013 Grand List	\$ 154.88
2014 Grand List	\$ 157.38
2015 Grand List	\$ 153.72
2016 Grand List	\$ 153.72
2017 Grand List	\$ 153.72
2018 Grand List	\$ 153.72
2019 Grand List	\$ 148.68

Total - \$1,075.82

The property was included in a Tax Sale held on November 12, 2019 with no bidders and the redemption period of 6 months has expired.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Motion to approve the recommendation from Dana Flach as presented above.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Chris Bowen – Yes

**Item #9 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Non-Union Salary Memo**

Included in your packets was a memo TO Payroll FROM Kurt Miller regarding budgeted salary increases.

We (Board of Selectmen) are required to do this memo every year as a procedural matter as these are non-contractual employees. These are the increases that have been budgeted and approved during the budget process. Kurt Miller read the information into the record:

To: Payroll  
Cc: Doug Thomas, Finance Director  
From: W. Kurt Miller  
Re: Budgeted Salary Increases  
Date: June 29, 2020

**Message:**

The following salaries or monthly payments will be in effect as of July 1, 2020. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Enforcement Officers \$516 per week	First Selectman's Assistant \$62,171
First Selectman \$90,000 (Eff. 12/1/2020)	Human Resources Director \$84,051
Director of Operations \$91,289	Finance Director \$126,004

Motion to approve the memo as presented above

Motion: Robert Findley

Second: Chris Bowen

**Discussion:**

- Trisha Danka asked what the previous salary and the job functions for the Enforcement Officers. Kurt Miller said that they are handling Blight, Zoning and Inland/Wetlands. They received an increase of 2.49%. Trisha asked if this is a full-time position. Kurt Miller said that they are stipend positions – 19.5 hours per week. Trisha asked if they are reporting to anyone to quantify the work that is being done. Kurt said that they report directly to Jim Baldwin – he handles their schedule and all of their reporting. Trisha asked if Jim Baldwin was satisfied with the increase based on the work that he sees is getting accomplished in that 19.5 hours and how many Enforcement Officers are there? Kurt said that yes, Jim recommended the increases and there are TWO Enforcement Officers.
- Annmarie Drugonis asked who are the Enforcement Officers? Kurt Miller said that they are Mike Marganski and Bill Paecht. Annmarie also asked how big an increase was the HR Director. Kurt said it was 2.49% - as his contract states.
- Trisha Danka questioned why we have an increase in stipend positions. She does not believe in a yearly increase in a stipend position. It should be looked at yearly and based on the work that's being accomplished and what is required/needed of the position, same for hours. Kurt Miller said that they have not had an increase for a year and a half. And the last increase they got, we took the mileage & cell phone expenses and rolled that all into a lump sum payment that was lower than they were averaging. So, it made sense for the Town at the time. Trisha Danka clarified that they are not getting reimbursed for mileage, cell phones, etc., just the one all-encompassing payment. Kurt Miller said yes.
- Robert Findley just wanted to clarify that Jim Baldwin thought it was appropriate to give them increases this year and recommended the increases. Kurt Miller said yes.



SECTION 2. That the First Selectman is authorized to execute such agreements and other documents on behalf of the Town for the Project; and Town officials and employees are authorized to take all actions necessary and proper to carry out the Project.

Dated at Seymour, Connecticut as of the 7th day of July, 2020.

Motion to approve the above Resolution as read

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Anmarie Drugonis

Discussion: Kurt Miller said that the State was looking for some clarifying language; we have two more of these that have to do with the Seymour Middle School.

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

**Second Resolution**

**TOWN OF SEYMOUR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWN OF SEYMOUR BOARD OF  
SELECTMEN ON JULY 7, 2020**

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2018, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Seymour, Connecticut (the “Town”) authorized the Town to enter into a performance contract agreement (the “Agreement”) with Johnson Controls, Inc. (“JCI”) for energy savings improvements in various Town facilities and in the Seymour Public Schools (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Town and JCI amended the Agreement to modify and add to the scope of work for additional Project costs in an amount of \$5,272,392 for a total Project cost of an amount of \$14,465,000; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with anticipated reimbursements from the State of Connecticut, the Town and JCI desire to further modify and/or reduce the scope of work to be performed by JCI pursuant to the Agreement related to the Project, including, but not limited to the elimination of the installation of solar photovoltaic at Seymour Middle School and related energy savings improvements.

BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION 1. That the Town amend the Agreement with JCI for energy savings improvements in various Town facilities and the Seymour Public Schools (the "Project") to modify and/or reduce the scope of work to be performed by JCI pursuant to the Agreement related to the Project including, but not limited to, the elimination of the installation of solar photovoltaic at Seymour Middle School and related energy savings improvements.

SECTION 2. That the First Selectman is authorized to execute a further Contract Amendment to the Agreement, other agreements and other documents on behalf of the Town for the Project; and Town officials and employees are authorized to take all actions necessary and proper to carry out the Project.

Dated at Seymour, Connecticut as of the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.

Motion to approve the Resolution as read

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Robert Findley

**Discussion:** Kurt Miller said that initially we did not think that the roof at the Seymour Middle School would be eligible for reimbursement, but through some conversations with the State and discussions with other towns, it has now become available, so we need to make these Resolutions to make the appropriate changes to satisfy the State of Connecticut.

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Chris Bowen – Yes

### Third Resolution

#### TOWN OF SEYMOUR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

#### RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWN OF SEYMOUR BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON JULY 7, 2020

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2018, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Seymour, Connecticut (the "Town") authorized the Town to enter into a performance contract agreement (the "Agreement") with Johnson Controls, Inc. ("JCI") for energy savings improvements in various Town facilities and in the Seymour Public Schools (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Town and JCI amended the Agreement to modify and add to the scope of work for additional Project costs in an amount of \$5,272,392 for a total Project cost of an amount of \$14,465,000; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2020, the Town approved the further modification of the Agreement related to the Project to eliminate the installation of solar photovoltaic at Seymour Middle School and related energy savings improvements and work.

WHEREAS, in conjunction with anticipated reimbursements from the State of Connecticut, the Town desires to confirm the allocation of appropriated funds from the Project to use these funds (\$1,606,442) in order to update school lighting, roofs, and solar photovoltaic solar project at Seymour Middle School.

BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION 1. That the Town allocate the appropriated funds from the Project and use these funds (\$1,606,442) in order to update school lighting, roofs, and solar photovoltaic solar project and related energy savings improvements at Seymour Middle School. The allocation of these appropriated funds is as follows:

Seymour Middle School - \$1,606,442

SECTION 2. That the First Selectman is authorized to execute such agreements and other documents on behalf of the Town for the Project; and Town officials and employees are authorized to take all actions necessary and proper to carry out the Project.

Dated at Seymour, Connecticut as of the 7th day of July, 2020.

As in the previous two resolutions, the first three sections are the same so I will skip to the fourth section and read from there.

Motion to approve the Resolution as read

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Chris Bowen

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Chris Bowen – Yes

Kurt Miller said that this should do everything we need to have a positive approval from the State of Connecticut. We ran into some bumps, but we reached out to State Representative Klarides-Ditria and her sister Representative Themis Klarides – they had a connection with the people who run this project, so they made some calls and helped move this project along. Thank you to them for that help!

**Item #10 – Appointments**

**Appointments July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting**

Name	Board	Type	Term	Expiration Date
Richard <del>Peck</del> <sup>PECK</sup>	Planning and Zoning	Appointment	Until Election	12/04/2023
Thomas Shutte	Board of Assessment Appeals	Appointment	Until Election	12/04/2021
Michael Lombardi	Fire Chief	Reappointment	1 year	6/30/2021
Christopher Edwards	Asst. Chief	Reappointment	1 year	6/30/2021
David Van Wart	Asst. Chief	Reappointment	1 year	6/30/2021

- Please note the spelling correction for Richard Paecht should be **PECK**.
- Kurt Miller said that the first two people, Richard Peck and Thomas Shutte are replacing elected officials who had to step down.
- In your packets you received correspondence from the Board of Fire Commissioners reappointing Chiefs Mike Lombardi, Chris Edwards and David Van Wart for another year, expiring 6/30/21.

Motion to approve the Appointments dated 7/7/20 as presented above, with spelling correction to Richard PECK.

Motion: Robert Findley

Second: Al Bruno

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

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

Motion to approve the Tax Refunds & Abatements Report dated 7/2/20 as presented by Sue Boland, Assistant Tax Collector

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Trisha Danka

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

**Item #12 – Transfers**

None

**Item #13 – Correspondence**

- We have the check registers.
- Letter from the Board of Fire Commissioners recommending the reappointment of the Chief and two Assistant Chiefs
- Letter from Richard Buturla regarding the ability of the Fire Commissioners to reappoint the Chiefs based on everything that’s going on with the pandemic. Rich gave an opinion on that.
- Resignation letter from Paul Wetowitz stepping down as an alternate for the Board of Finance.
- Governor Lamont’s signed Executive Orders to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This is from the Connecticut COVID-19 Prevention Task Force.
- A breakdown of Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 7BBB from Berchem & Moses.

**Item #14 – Public Comment**

None

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

- Trisha Danka – I just want to state publicly with the state of the Nation and what’s taking place – we are a diverse Town. I’m sure the Town is doing something, but I want to make it abundantly clear for anyone who is appointed to a committee, elected to a board or who is working for the Town, that we are not going to fool around with anything that is being posted on social media. People need to be very careful about perception because it’s everything. I will publicly support the removal of any individual from a committee, board or from a paid position if anything is posted directly/indirectly, intentionally/unintentionally that’s going to offend a member of our community or others.
- Al Bruno – No comment; enjoy your summer; have a good week.
- Chris Bowen – Be safe; be careful; be kind.
- Annamarie Drugonis – we have a couple of weeks before we move into Phase 3 (with COVID); I’m very proud of our Seymour residents for doing their part in keeping our numbers down and wearing masks. Hopefully Seymour and the Valley will have no new cases and no hospitalizations soon. I’m proud of Seymour and Public Works – they were out there this morning mowing grass and picking up the debris along the entrance/exit ramps on Route 8. Kurt Miller said just to follow up on both those things – I just got a text right before our meeting – Seymour has no new cases again – so I believe we’ve had 2 total cases in 2 ½ weeks. Our curve has definitely been flattened! So, we need to have everybody just keep doing what they’re doing and be a little patient. We will get through this on the other side. Talking to a lot of my peers – they struggled with the Parks needing to be re-opened because they had not been paying attention to their Parks and kind of left them to the side – that was not an issue in Seymour. As soon as the decision was made to open the Parks, they were ready to go the next day. Kudos to Tony, Frank, Jordan and the rest of the crew at Public Works for making this happen!
- Robert Findley – Just wanted to mention that the Food Drive that happened in June was VERY successful; we were able to donate \$1,500 to the Food Bank and 60 boxes of food were donated. Glad that everybody turned out; this Town always shows up and does a great thing – everyone chips in. Stay Safe!
  - Kurt Miller – said that it was nice of the Community Center staff to kind of spearhead that project; they had a ton of volunteers and we had a bunch of people from the Board of Selectmen show up with their families. My son even showed up! As Bob said, we had a ton of food and the Food Bank people were extremely grateful – not only for the food, but the monetary contributions as well.
  - Trisha Danka – wanted to add that I spoke to someone that works at the Food Bank at the Community Center and they were very grateful to be given the larger space considering the pandemic and their ability to spread out a little more. What are the chances that they are going to be able to keep that space long-term? Kurt Miller said that by contract that space belongs to the Boys & Girls Club so once that operation starts back up, they are probably going to have to move back inside unless they can work something out with the Boys & Girls Club. Chris Bowen said he was there, and that extra space was a life saver – they really need the space. Kurt Miller said that we will have to work through the contract issues. By the same token, the Boys & Girls Club is bursting at the seams, they need the space too. What this tells us is that we really need to build a new Community Center. That has been put on the back burner with the pandemic going on. The biggest concern is – our discussions on building the Community Center was based on a very complex and elaborate way of financing it and I don’t want to take the Town down that road until we have a good understanding of the financial impact of this virus and what its going to have on our tax dollars. I did spend about a half hour on the phone with some folks from the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA – they managed the YMCA in Ansonia until it’s permanent closure very recently. They are looking for other spaces to develop and people to partner with in building a new YMCA. I let them know that Seymour was extremely interest in that and if they wanted to consider partnering with us, that’s something we could discuss and

that I have two developers in Seymour interested in building mixed-use developments around a project like that. They were going to go back to their development committees and “run it up the flagpole” take a look at the two properties that might be of interest and hopefully we’ll hear back from them in the upcoming weeks. We definitely need a larger space.

- o Trisha Danka – Depending on the Boys & Girls Club opening, we should consider if there is a larger space available anywhere else in Town for the Food Bank. They made need the space through 2021. Kurt Miller said any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Daily usage may be down once the Boys & Girls Club opens up in the fall. So, they may be able to use the space a little longer.

**Item #16 – Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 7:43pm

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 6 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Chris Bowen – Yes

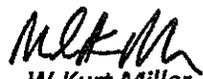
Submitted by:



Monica Dimon

Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:



W. Kurt Miller

First Selectman

