

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 9/4/20
TIME: 11:45am
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Town of Seymour ~ Board of Selectmen
MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 7:00pm

Zoom Teleconference - Call #646-558-8656 – ID# 820-112-18646

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Richard Buturla, Rory Burke, Tom Eighme, John Duke, Monica Dimon

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 August 18, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from August 18, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Item #5 – First Selectman's Report

1. Update on finances for FY 21: we had a lot of protections built into the budget due to the COVID crisis – wanted to make sure we could weather any storms – particularly a shortage on the Revenue side. As a comparison, last year through the end of August we had collected 46.89% of what we needed to. This year through the end of August (and we still don't have everything in yet) we have collected 46.83% - we are just 6/10 of a % from last year and have about \$211,000 left to collect. We expected that it would be substantially worse. We will keep the spending freeze in place until at least the end of October and re-evaluate where we are at that point. We will remain cautious.
2. Update on finances for FY 20: was a bit of a challenge. We started making plans in January of last year. We were able to have a surplus of \$682,000 on our expenses. That was spread throughout the budget. The problem was on the Revenue side – we had a deficit of \$966,000. The biggest driver in that was the grant we expected to get for \$300,000 for the Chatfield/LoPresti School Closeout. We also had some revenue shortages with Recreation and our overall tax collection was short about \$188,000. So, the projected total deficit will be

about \$284,000. On a \$56 million budget, that is not bad, considering everything going on. We will be able to absorb that with the use of General Fund. Will not affect out finances at all. We did discuss this with Standard & Poors and they are aware of this. No effect on Bond Rating. The final deficit number will come out once the Audit is completed (probably December or January).

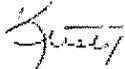
Item #6 - Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding George J. Hummel Little League Tax Abatement

- Kurt Miller read the Letter from GJHLL Treasurer:

On behalf of the George J. Hummel Little League, I would like to request an abatement of the property tax on our property at 12 Chestnut Street. As you know, we are a 501(c)3 non profit organization. The issue which causes the tax collector to bill GJHLL stems from the stipulation in the agreement in 1950 in which Dr. John Casagrande donated the property to GJHLL with the understanding that, in the event of the dissolution of our league, the property reverts back to the Casagrande family.

In previous years, you granted an abatement of the tax and we are requesting a similar abatement this year.

Sincerely,



Kristy Novitski
Treasurer

Also attached was the tax bill; it has been a practice of this Board to abate the taxes.

REAL ESTATE TAX BILL 2020				TAXPAYER COPY		
 Make checks payable to: TOWN OF SEYMOUR PO BOX 150428 HARTFORD, CT 06115 203-588-0517				14 CHESTNUT ST SEYMOUR, CT 06427 44-551		
<i>Online Printed</i> 2019 01 0800230				OCTOBER 1, 2019		
TAX RATE	GROSS ASSESSMENT	EXEMPTION	NET ASSESSMENT	TOTAL TAX DUE	PAYMENT DUE	PAYMENT DUE
36.0000	170,310	0	170,310	6,131.16	July 1, 2020	January 1, 2021
					3,065.58	3,065.58
					<small>REPAYMENT AFTER 1 YEAR</small>	<small>REPAYMENT AFTER 1 YEAR</small>
500230 GEORGE J HUMMEL LITTLE LEAGUE						

Motion that the Town of Seymour abate the property taxes on 12 Chestnut Street for George J. Hummel Little League for the Grand List October 2019 in the amount of \$6,131.60

Motion: Robert Findley

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Item #7 - Executive Session

- Kurt Miller asked Town Counsel, Richard Buturla to comment.
 - Richard Buturla said that he does not require 7a to be an Executive Session per my letter to the Board about forming the WPCA.
 - Item 7b – something a little different – in the future it will be handled differently. No action will need to be taken – the Police Union Contract – that’s not to say that we don’t have business tonight. We do not need a vote to go into Executive Session in a duly noticed non-meeting under Connecticut State Statutes. The definition of meeting under Section 1-200 was changed. A meeting under the FOI Act does not include a discussion concerning the strategies or negotiations with collective bargaining. It includes some other things. What that means is that when we want to talk about negotiations, strategies concerning collective bargaining we can do it as a group, full Board, anytime it need not be noticed as a meeting under the FOI Act and you do not need to go into Executive Session because you are holding a non-meeting according to Connecticut State Law. The topics should remain confidential. The way many municipalities and Boards of Education are dealing with this is to hold a non-meeting AFTER a regular meeting (according to State Law).
 - Item 7c – we do require an Executive Session – for the purpose of attorney/client privilege communication under Section 1-210 as permitted by Section 1-200.
 - Item 7a – does anyone on the Board have any questions on the document – there is an attorney/client privileged document that I did send at the last meeting and before that. Same basis of 1-210 as permitted under 1-200.

Motion that the Board of Selectmen go into Executive Session at 7:16pm to discuss items 7a and 7c as presented We will invite Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; Chief of Staff, Rory Burke; and Emergency Management Director, Tom Eighme to join us.

Motion: Chris Bowen

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 7 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – Yes

Chris Bowen – Yes

Kurt Miller said that we will address item 7c first, and then will ask Tom Eighme into the waiting room. We will discuss item 7a and then come out of Executive Session.

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:56pm and stated that no motions or actions were taken in Executive Session

Item #13 – Transfers

None

Item #14 – Correspondence

- We have the check registers.
- There are two different check registers – the style you are used to is for FY 20 – this is the old system; the ones that look different are from the new system and are for FY 21.

Item #15 – Public Comment

None

Item #16 – Selectmen’s Public Comment

- Annamarie Drugonis –
 - I wanted to give a big shoutout to our Fire Departments, Ambulance, and surrounding towns’ mutual support at the fire on Saturday. If it was not for the swift work of the Fire Departments and surrounding towns, we could have lost that whole block! It was unfortunate for the 20 families that were displaced, but Timm Willis was right there calling the Red Cross to come and help them. The heat and the amount of people involved was absolutely incredible. They were able to save that whole block! We are so thankful! Our Fire Department and Ambulance Department have been pushed to their limit in 2020. Big round of applause to these volunteers.
 - I spoke to Alex Danka from the Land Trust. They usually do a Halloween show, this year he is thinking of doing a Holiday show. We can still distance people and do this. Maybe we can reach out and give Alex a hand with his plans and any ideas. Kurt Miller said that he is planning a fireworks show. Last year’s show didn’t go as planned but still came out wonderful. Can’t wait to see what it will be this year.
 - Also, another big shoutout to the Public Works Department during this latest round of storms. They were out there clearing roads – making sure people can get home and the roads are passable. There have been some complaints and issues with curbside pickup and issues at the Transfer Station. Rest assured that the Department is working on them!
 - The WPCA did receive a letter from the COG – they are still looking at regionalization.
- Trisha Danka –
 - Thank you, Annmarie, for helping Alex.
 - On Rimmon Road, there is a very large tree leaning on a wire. Not sure if this has been reported. Kurt Miller said that it has. It only feeds streetlights so it is not a priority to Eversource. Trisha said that we really should, if we do not already, start tracking when calls are made to Eversource and the response times. Kurt Miller said that Tom Eighme and Tony DePrimo are already doing this.
- Bob Findley – Thank you to the Fire Departments and Ambulance and First Responders who assisted with the fire on Saturday and the serious accident on 313. Can’t thank you all enough for all that you do.
- Chris Bowen -
 - Echoing my sincere thanks for EVERYTHING that the Fire Departments and Ambulance have done during 2020. Thank you to TEAM for helping all the people who were displaced. The thing that stood out to me was that these people who were displaced and homeless, their number one concern was for each other. That is the way the people of Seymour are. They really come together when it counts! Kurt Miller said that Timm Willis and Jim Baldwin did a lot

of “behind the scenes” work to make sure that those buildings were properly secured. One of the first calls I got on Saturday was from David Morgan of TEAM asking what they could do to help. It was a great team effort by all!

- Al Bruno –
 - Asked parents to show some patience with the educators and wish the best to everyone going back to school. It is stressful for everyone.
 - Thank you to everyone who came out to the Seymour High School Girls Soccer Car Wash on Sunday and who bought tickets. It was a beautiful day. I wanted to thank Diane Valdes, Mario Roxo, Victor Biblekaj and all the other parents who pitched in. The girls worked hard all day, but it was a great turnout and a successful day!
- Rob VanEgghen –
 - I wanted to echo the thanks to Fire Departments, First Responders for all their work during 2020. Also, as Chris Bowen said we live in an amazing community. During the fire on Saturday, I was at Stop & Shop for the DTC Food Bank Collection. I was expecting (because of COVID) that we would collect a few carriages of food, but we collected 3 TRUCKS FULL of donations and \$1,600 in cash!
 - I would be happy to help Alex with his Holiday show at the Land Trust.
 - We should definitely follow up with Eversource!
- Kurt Miller – Said a big THANK YOU to the custodial staff (they are down a full-time custodian due to injury) and they have been working hard since March (Tom Eighme, Alex Danka & Andrew Satkowski) with no end in sight. Just doing what needs to be done.
- Rory Burke – Said that a Public Comment did come in on the chat, but the file was damaged. I will attach this printed copy to the minutes from tonight and then it will be in “Correspondence” at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Item #17 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:19pm

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:

Reviewed by:

Monica Dimon

Recording Secretary



W. Kurt Miller

First Selectman

Brian Koskelowski

130 Pearl St

TO the Board:

About a month ago, you excepted the resignation from an elected official for a post a small few people found offensive. Yet, you have a member sitting on this board who has made several offensive racial posts and posts threatening the taxpayers of Seymour.

We do not need the hypocrisy of the National Democratic party in small-town Seymour. I am therefore demanding the resignation of Selectman Bowen for these racist and threatening comments.

