



Office of the First Selectman

Town Seymour

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W. Kurt Miller

First Selectman

As First Selectman of the town of Seymour, it is my privilege to present this 2018-2019 budget for your consideration.

This packet contains a format we adopted several years ago based on overwhelmingly positive feedback we received about it. Our goal in this packet is to provide our residents with as much information as possible in an easy, understandable format. We worked hard to create a resource that can be utilized by our residents to make the difficult decisions regarding funding our government services and schools and we hope you will find it useful.

The focus of the 2018-2019 budget is staying the course we selected when I assumed office. We are working hard to continue to improve the services offered by the town while always keeping an eye on our future, striving to keep taxes as low as possible. Our job has been difficult given the lingering effects of the 2008 economic downturn with State and Federal funding showing no signs of returning to their prior levels. Nevertheless, our commitment to achieving a higher level of financial security for the town remains strong and we have made significant progress over the past year.

The town's fund balance continues to grow and is up to 12.72%. Our debt ratios have been stabilized and will be decreasing steadily over the next several years. Most importantly, Standard and Poor's has reaffirmed our bond rating at AA+, it's second highest level. This rating puts us just one level below towns like Darien and Greenwich. We have spent a great deal of time working to improve our financial foundation and this is proof we are headed in the right direction.

I began this year's budget process in late September and again challenged all departments and committees to come as close to a zero increase as possible. The documents enclosed are the Board of Finance's best attempts to stay within these admittedly difficult constraints. The priorities I have selected over the last few years represent a shift to an emphasis on long term planning. These include our proactive road program, our commitment to technological advancement and our long-term capital upgrade program to name just a few. Following the direction of the 10 Year Strategic Plan, we continue to move forward in a systematic and organized fashion. By maintaining steady progress, we can achieve our goals and create a better future through proper planning.

This document represents what the Board of Finance thinks is our best course forward but now we need to hear from you, the residents of Seymour. This document is still subject to change and we need your feedback to let us know whether and how it should be changed. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

W. Kurt Miller