

Town of Seymour



2nd Quarter 2016 Executive Summary

First Selectman's Office

- CERC conducted study on developmental potential of 3 parcels including Tri-Town Plaza
- Selectmen approved tax incentive applications for Basement Systems & 29 Maple St.
- Bond refunding saves money on Town debt
- \$56 million budget passed, approximately 1% increase over last year
- Town finances unscathed by State budget cuts
- Town underwent rating review by S&P, maintained AA+
- Joined regional Animal Control in Woodbridge
- Municipal offices now open 5 days per week
- New ordinances concerning blight and adult businesses adopted
- Began discussions with TEAM, Inc. about adult daycare facility in Seymour
- Finished roadwork begun last year and began plans for future work

The second quarter of 2016 was a very busy one for the Town of Seymour. CERC, the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, conducted a study on the developmental potential of 3 parcels: the Tri-Town Plaza & Derby Avenue, former sites of Seymour Lumber & Housatonic Wire, and Franklin Street. behind Stop & Shop. The Economic Development Director will continue to work with CERC to enact the report's recommendations and continue economic development in Seymour.

The Board of Selectmen also approved tax incentive applications for projects at Basement Systems and 29 Maple St. 29 Maple, the former location of Anna LoPresti Elementary School, has been converted into 42 luxury apartments. Basement Systems recently completed a \$6 million upgrade to their headquarters in the Silvermine Industrial Park. Both projects will bring good jobs and generate tax revenue that will help mitigate the tax burden on residents.

Seymour also recently completed bond refunding, effectively refinancing debt and saving money on interest. This was possible because of Seymour's upgrade to AA+ bond rating a few years ago. The money saved will allow Seymour to bond more money to continue to address roads without impacting taxes. Residents will have the opportunity to voice their opinion on whether to bond more money to address Town buildings and roads.

In May, residents passed a \$56 million budget. Both the Town and schools were kept to an approximately 1% increase due to cost-saving measures and the renegotiation of employee healthcare. In spite of a small increase, some citizens may actually see a small decrease in their taxes due to a State-mandated revaluation that was completed this year.

The Town's finances have, thankfully, remained unscathed despite budget cuts from the State of Connecticut. Due to the Town's financial planning in the form of the mill rate stabilization fund established in 2015, Seymour can absorb these cuts without further impacting taxpayers. Seymour recently underwent a ratings call with the S&P ratings agency, where it retained its AA+ rating.

The report lauded the Town's financial planning and management, and states that Seymour is on its way to receiving a AAA rating, the highest possible if it continues on its current path.

Seymour joined regional Animal Control in Woodbridge, deciding to no longer conduct its own operations. Although it will result in a slight cost increase overall, it will afford 24/7 coverage by moving from two part-time ACOs to two full-time ACOs and part-time kennel staff. The facility is located at 135 Bradley Road in Woodbridge. The agreement with Woodbridge is for 1 year and is set to be reevaluated before it is re-signed. Talks are ongoing with CARES, a local animal rescue group, to utilize Seymour's former facility.

In response to residents' concerns, Seymour's municipal offices are now open 5 days per week. The new hours are 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday-Thursday, and 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Friday. The Board of Selectmen hopes that these new hours will improve the Town's ability to serve residents' needs.

The Town also made adjustments to its code of ordinances this quarter. The Board of Selectmen tweaked the blight ordinance to better protect residents with interior lots. It also adopted a comprehensive ordinance banning adult businesses.

Seymour also is looking forward to the quarters ahead and is making preparations to continue improving infrastructure and quality of life. The Town began discussions with TEAM, Inc. about the possibility of establishing an adult daycare facility in Seymour. This proposal is contingent upon receiving bonding funds from the State of Connecticut and discussions are ongoing.

Under the supervision of the Town Engineer, contractors wrapped up the road work which was started in 2015. Charles Road, Mayfair Avenue, James Street, Hine Street, and Lane Street were all repaved. The Board of Selectmen is now working with the Town Engineer on developing a comprehensive plan to address all roads in Seymour.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Kurt Miller', with a stylized, cursive script.

W. Kurt Miller

Finance

- Finance Department awarded Excellence in Financial Reporting for second year in a row for the 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Reporting. This award is issues who go above and beyond in the field of fiscal transparency.

Projections

Revenues	\$56,092,676	Expenditures	\$55,681,073
Budgeted	\$55,846,702	Budgeted	\$55,846,702
Variance	\$245,974	Variance	-\$165,629
Total Variance: \$411,603			

- Positive variance is due to collection of back taxes and education block grants.
- Positive variance is due to a spending freeze implemented mid-March

Economic Development

- Final-design submission for Greenway Trail Phase One submitted to ConnDOT; construction bids should be ready in August
- Tax Incentive application for \$16 million project fore Basement Systems' expansion submitted and approved by the Board of Selectmen
- CERC feasibility study for Tri-Town & Derby Avenue, the former Seymour Lumber & Housatonic Wire sites and Franklin Street behind Stop & Shop was presented to the Board of Selectmen
- Downtown parking signs were installed to aid residents and visitors in finding free parking

Seymour Schools

- NEASC visited Seymour High School as a part of the reaccreditation process.
- Maryn Casey (Middle School), Devin Cronin (Bungay School), Jacob Hunnicutt (High School), and Tyler Lang (Chatfield-LoPresti School) recognized by Secretary of the State Denise Merrill as going above and beyond in their community
- Seymour High School's Electrathon Car team received 2nd and 3rd place finishes out of 36 in the spring race at Lime Rock Park
- Created parental evenings at all schools for education budget as well as mathematics, literacy and poetry

Seymour Police Department

- Completed 2015-16 budget with surplus
- Citizen's Academy conducted
- Community Outreach Program for Senior Center well-received

- Trainee Jasmine Vega successfully completed her training and should be certified in the third quarter
- John Oczkowski and K9 Sage recognized as best canine unit in CT for 2015
- Shortly after her commendation, Sage was retired due to an unforeseen medical condition and her replacement, Zoar, will be operational in the third quarter

Community Services

- Established \$40/h charge for for-profit businesses to utilize Community Center as a revenue generator
- Began summer camp one week earlier to provide an additional week of childcare for residents

Membership

Number of Accounts Created Res/NonRes	208	56
Number of Members Created Res/NonRes	509	89
Number of Registrations Res/NonRes	1821	197
Total Income	\$88,575.00	
Number of Refunds/Amount	17	\$1,138.00
Number of Credits Issued/Amount	58	\$2,628.00
Number of Activities Run	67	
Number of Reservations	18	
Number of Senior Memberships Created	34	

Programming

Program Name	Total	Program Name	Total
"The Taffetas" A Musical	-\$80.00	Golf League	-\$10.00
2016 Summer Field Trip Program	\$1,641.00	Gypsy at Tri Arts Theatre, Sharon, CT	\$450.00
2016 Summer Playground Program	\$49,458.00	Karate (Youth)	\$3,600.00
9/11 NYC Memorial & Museum Trip	\$535.00	Las Vegas (Sept. 18-23, 2016)	\$3,869.00
Annual Senior Picnic - Senior Land Trust	\$120.00	Mets Baseball Game	\$2,356.00
April Vacation Camp - Wizard's School Of MAGIC!	\$225.00	Monthly Senior Luncheon	\$335.00
Aquatics - Open Swim	\$80.00	Pre-School Jump Bunch	\$155.00
Aquatics - Summer Swim Lessons	\$730.00	Qigong	\$240.00
Aquatics - Swim Lessons - Spring 2016	\$0.00	Stormville Flea Market & Antique Show, Stormville, NY	\$85.00
Aquatics - Swim Lessons - Spring/Summer Session	\$5,790.00	Summer Football	\$715.00
Atlantic City Tropicana Hotel & Casino	\$1,453.00	TechStars by Computer Explorers - Children's Technology Workshops	\$1,820.00
Basketball - Recreational Youth League	\$389.00	Tennis Adult Open/League	\$40.00
Basketball Camp - Wildcats	\$5,500.00	Tennis Lessons (Adult)	\$154.00

Basketball Clinic, Girl's Skills and Drills	\$595.00	Tennis Lessons (Children)	\$308.00
Basketball Men's Open	\$130.00	Theater in a Box	\$420.00
Casino Trips (Last Monday of Every Month)	\$2,720.00	Yoga Classes	\$870.00
Total Receipts: \$84,693			

Seymour Public Library

- Celebrated National Library week in April with raffles, scavenger hunt, and snacks
- Scheduled 30 programs for Children/YA Summer Reading Program
- Re-arranged some areas of the library to make it more user-friendly
- Purchased 5 computers
- Matthew Haggarty created a library sign as his Eagle Scout project

Total patron visits	11,946	
Circulation Adult/Children	5,440	5,216
Inter-Library Loan Borrow/Loan	888	430
Total Holdings	81,888	
Computer Sessions	1,317	
Registered Users	6,900	
Adult Programs/Attendance	19	219
Children's Program/Attendance	22	583

Human Resources

- Created online employee engagement survey
- Held employee benefits fair in May
- Coordinated and administered healthcare open enrollment for all Town employees
- Recruited and hired seasonal Public Works staff

Tax Collector

Collections April	\$217,753.16
Collections May	\$216,927.69
Collections June	\$96,508.33
Total Collections	\$531,189.18
Current Year Outstanding	\$761,650.86
Current Year Collection Rate	98.21%
Back Taxes Owed	\$813,095.35
Collections via Card	\$43,086.81
Percent Using Cards	8.1%

Building Enforcement

Fees Collected		Permits Issued
April	\$8,070.66	59
May	\$12,138.00	68
June	\$11,035.00	65
Total	\$31,243.66	192

Fire Marshal

- Masuk High School intern completed internship
- Handled 2 hoarding issues
- Conducted annual fire safety training with various local businesses and public housing facilities

Current Projects

- 29 Maple St. – Apartment conversion almost complete; some occupants are in building
- 50 Cogwheel Ln. – Basement Systems project is complete
- 38 Columbus Ave. – Apartment conversions ongoing
- 33 Progress Avenue – Basement Systems project is ongoing
- 600 Derby Avenue – Haynes Construction retail store project ongoing

Inspections

New Construction	21	Fire Code Complaints	10
Initial, Existing Buildings	37	Detail Code Reviews	6
Re-Inspections	26	Detail Follow-up Activities	25
Underground Tanks	0	Burning Permits	4
Blasting Permits	0		

Fires

- 8 Karlak Street – RV Camper fire with total loss of it and some fire damage to the house. This was an accidental fire.

Town Clerk

- Began preparing for November Presidential election
- Requested Board of Selectmen change Justice of the Peace ordinance

Dog Licenses	672	Marriage Licenses	35
Hunting & Fishing Licenses	35	Recording Income	\$3,569
Absentee Ballots Issued	67		

Assessor

- Processed 255 homeowners' applications
- Processed 106 rental rebate applications
- Visited Callahan House to assist disabled renters in applying for Rental Rebate
- Changed assessments based on decisions made by Board of Assessment Appeals