

Town of Seymour
Board of Finance

DATE: 3/24/11
TIME: 5:10 PM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes

Special Meeting / Budget Deliberations
Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 7pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Robert Koskelowski, Bill Paecht, Peter Jezierny, Bill Sawicki, Jay Hatfield, Kristen Harmeling and Michelle Walsh

Others Present: Paul Roy, Doug Thomas, Tony Caserta, Tom Eighmie, MaryAnne Mascolo, Bruce Baker, Peter Kubik, Ed Stramello, Sean Walsh, Dennis Rosum, Cindy Dion, Bill Ferris, Bill Brown and Frank Loda

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order

The Chairman, Robert Koskelowski, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3 – Appointment of Alternates if needed

No Alternates seated.

Item #4 – Public Comment

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent of Schools: Wants to clear up some comments from a BOS meeting. A comment regarding the BOE budget presentation and line items not discussed—the BOE budget books are handed out on February 1st and no questions of substance were asked at the meeting. A comment regarding custodial supplies are more than kids' supplies—they are required to use green products per a mandate. The textbooks line item of \$150,000 will be replacing textbooks at the end of the year, because the BOE has no contingency fund, they hold this line item for use at the end of the year and they added \$4,500 to this line item to build it up. Athletic supplies line item was \$70,000 at one time and has been cut yearly to \$39,000. The cost of EdJobs if eliminated would be \$200,000—the cost would come nowhere near that amount. There is a clear lack of understanding of the usage of the BOE money. The BOE is hiding grant money—ECS money is \$10 million of the \$30 million budget. We are happy to answer questions, but don't say we don't provide information.

Cindy Dion, 18 Carriage Drive: Listened to all the people in support of the \$1.1 million BOE budget. Has the right to vote on the entire proposed budget. Hopes we consider Mr. Ferris's offer and re-instate the full BOE budget.

Item #5 – Discuss and take action on 2011/2012 budget to be presented at public hearing

Motion to remove the line item Salary – Chiefs (4) 420-2200-550-102 from the Fire Department 2011/2012 budget a total expenditure of \$5,000.00

Motion: Kristen Harmeling Second: Bill Sawicki

Motion and Second rescinded

Motion to reduce the line item Salary – Chiefs (4) 420-2200-550-102 from the Fire Department 2011/2012 budget from \$5,000.00 to \$0.

Motion: Kristen Harmeling Second Bill Sawicki
Yes: 7 No: 0 0: Abstain

Motion to reduce the line item Machinery and Equipment 420-2200-550-745 from the Fire Department 2011/2012 budget by \$7,500.00

Motion: Kristen Harmeling Second: Bill Sawicki
Motion and Second rescinded

Motion to reduce the line item Machinery and Equipment 420-2200-550-745 from the Fire Department 2011/2012 budget by \$7,500.00 and increase line item Education/Meeting/Seminars 420-2200-550-350 by \$7,500.00.

Motion: Kristen Harmeling Second Bill Sawicki
Yes: 7 No: 0 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Fire Department 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$373,138.00

Motion: Jay Hatfield Second: Bill Sawicki
Yes: 7 No:0 0: Abstain

Motion to reduce the line item Stipend 420-2153-542-105 from the Emergency Management 2011/2012 budget from \$2,000.00 to \$0.

Motion: Bill Paecht Second Peter Jezierny
Yes: 7 No: 0 0: Abstain

Motion to create a line item Travel for the Emergency Management 2011/2012 budget in the amount of \$1,000.00

Motion: Peter Jezierny Second Kristen Harmeling
Yes: 7 No: 0 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Emergency Management 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$12,331.00

Motion: Jay Hatfield Second: Bill Sawicki
Yes: 7 No:0 0: Abstain

Motion to reduce the line item Salary: Director of Human Resources – Part Time 410-1310-430-102 from the Selectman’s Office 2011/2012 budget from \$40,000.00 to \$0.

Motion: Jay Hatfield Second: Bill Paecht
Yes: 6 No: 1 (Kristen Harmeling) 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Selectman’s Office 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$192,904.00

Motion: Bill Sawicki Second: Bill Paecht
Yes: 6 No:1 (Kristen Harmeling) 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Economic Development 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$43,500.00

Motion: Bill Sawicki Second: Kristen Harmeling
Motion and Second rescinded

Motion to accept the Economic Development 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$44,500.00
Motion: Bill Sawicki Second: Kristen Harmeling
Yes: 6 No:1 (Michelle Walsh) 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Economic Development Commission 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$15,900.00
Motion: Bill Sawicki Second: Kristen Harmeling
Yes: 6 No:1 (Michelle Walsh) 0: Abstain

Motion to amend the Town Clerk 2011/2012 budget total expenditure to \$190,180.00
Motion: Bill Paecht Second: Peter Jezierny
Yes: 7 No:0 0: Abstain

Motion to amend the Printing & Legal Ads 2011/2012 budget total expenditure to \$16,000.00
Motion: Kristen Harmeling Second: Bill Sawicki
Yes: 5 No:2 (Jay Hatfield, Michelle Walsh) 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Town Buildings 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$344,342.00
Motion: Bill Paecht Second: Peter Jezierny
Yes:7 No:0 0: Abstain

Motion to amend the Police Department 2011/2012 budget total expenditure to \$3,630,661.00
Motion: Kristen Harmeling Second:
No Second received; motion failed.

Motion to reduce the line item Salary: Part Time 420-2230-560-120 and line item Equipment 420-2230-560-740 from the Fire Marshal 2011/2012 budget to \$0.
Motion: Bill Paecht Second Kristen Harmeling
Yes: 7 No: 0 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Fire Marshal 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$108,672.00
Motion: Jay Hatfield Second: Bill Paecht
Yes:7 No:0 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Highway Wages & Maintenance 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$1,581,513.00
Motion: Peter Jezierny Second: Bill Paecht
Yes:6 No:0 1: Abstain (Michelle Walsh)

Motion to accept the Highway Materials 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$167,907.00
Motion: Bill Paecht Second: Jay Hatfield
Yes:7 No:0 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Sanitation 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$90,923.00
Motion: Bill Paecht Second: Peter Jezierny
Yes:6 No:0 1: Abstain (Michelle Walsh)

Motion to reduce the line item Salary –Part Time (2) 440-4432-615-120 from the Services to the Elderly 2011/2012 budget by \$14,205.00 removing the bus driver salary.

Motion: Kristen Harmeling Second: Bill Sawicki
Yes: 1 (Kristen Harmeling) No: 5 1: Abstain (Bob Koskelowski)

Motion to accept the Parks Department 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$118,400.00

Motion: Bill Sawicki Second: Jay Hatfield
Yes:4 No:2 (Michelle Walsh and Kristen Harmeling) 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Valley Council of Governments 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$14,000.00

Motion: Kristen Harmeling Second: Bill Paecht
Yes:6 No:1 (Jay Hatfield) 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Social Security 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$306,818.00

Motion: Bill Paecht Second: Bill Sawicki
Yes:7 No:0 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Longevity 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$81,607.00

Motion: Peter Jezierny Second: Bill Paecht
Yes:7 No:0 0: Abstain

Motion to reduce the Contingency 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$75,000.00

Motion: Bill Paecht Second: Kristen Harmeling
Yes:6 No:1 (Bill Sawicki) 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Senior Freeze 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$50,000.00

Motion: Kristen Harmeling Second: Bill Paecht
Yes:7 No:0 0: Abstain

Motion to accept the Debt Service 2011/2012 budget total expenditure of \$4,905,482.00

Motion: Bill Sawicki Second: Bill Paecht
Yes:7 No:0 0: Abstain

Recess of meeting at 8:40pm for a 5 to 10 minute break.

Open of meeting at 8:48pm.

Review of goal to have a 1 mill increase. 1 mill is equal to about \$37,423,339 at a 98% collection rate.

Town departments' budget total: \$15,824,337

Debt Service: \$4,905,482

Senior Freeze: \$50,000

Contingency: \$75,000

Amount of funds available to reach a 1 mill increase: \$222,312

Motion to amend the Board of Education 2011/2012 budget total expenditure to \$29,839,803.00

Motion: Jay Hatfield Second: Peter Jezierny
Yes: 6 No:1 (Michelle Walsh) 0: Abstain

Bill Sawicki requested Doug Thomas to provide a spreadsheet containing the tax revenue at a 98.01%, 98.02% and 98.03% rate for the next meeting on Tuesday March 22, 2011. Doug Thomas also asked to review all reimbursements to confirm accurate revenue.

Doug Thomas to check all 2011/2012 budget totals for the next BOF meeting on Tuesday March 22, 2011 for BOF to set for the public hearing on either April 5 or 6, 2011.

Item #6 – Public Comment

Bill Ferris, 13 Spruce Brook Road: Has been a town resident for 30 years. He voted last year for the education and town budgets. At the past referendum vote, he thought any item for school would fail and because of this he voted against items not for school. It is nice that you added \$200,000 but wants the BOE presented budget to go to vote. If he does not see this, he will no longer vote for any town, non education items again.

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent of Schools: Does not think the BOF is acting fair and equal. The town received a 3% when the BOE received a 0% last year. Would like you to consider putting out the presented BOE budget as it was.

Bruce Baker, 68 Greenwood Circle: (Board of Education Member) 1 mill is an arbitrary number and disappointed to hear the BOE will get the difference. It is nice to get more, but not enough.

Kristen Harmeling, 27 Patrick Drive: (Board of Finance Member) The BOE receiving close to its level services budget is not enough. There is no fluff in the budget and all items are necessary. Wants more for her kids than a level services budget.

Michelle Walsh, 126 Pearl Street: (Board of Finance Member) Regarding the BOE budget and why she voted for a \$500,000 increase over last year; she asked questions of substance at the BOE budget presentation regarding the use of the \$513,000 EdJobs grant. Asking specifically about what the plan would be for the next year. No plan was provided by the BOE and feels the use of the one-time grant to create new jobs is irresponsible. If the \$513,000 is used for existing salaries and add the \$500,000 increase, the BOE would receive an overall increase of over \$1 million—more than their level services budget.

Cindy Dion, 18 Carriage Drive: The BOE must use the EdJobs grant for certain things. Questions why Mr. Ferris's money cannot be used. With media and technology, everyone knows how you voted. Asks for an opportunity to vote on proposed BOE budget.

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent of Schools: Budget is irresponsible? We are professionals and it is unnecessary to make this comment. Has not seen any BOF members at the BOE meetings.

Bill Sawicki, 13 Lantern Drive: Thinks education did not get enough money. If there is revenue he has no objection to saying it could go up.

Frank Loda, 27 Osprey Drive: Town Council gave an opinion at the BOS meeting regarding Mr. Ferris's donation. Suggests the BOF ask counsel provide in writing where her opinion came from.

Bob Koskelowski, Chairman Board of Finance: Would not need the BOF if we put all the requested budgets out to vote. The \$5,000 cost of a referendum vote never entered his mind. He cares as much about education as all other budgets, we do not have the extra. Michelle Walsh did ask questions regarding the EdJobs grant and now we are hearing the money cannot be used to retain jobs. It was explained at the BOE budget presentation, unemployment would cost about \$5,000 per person for 39 weeks totaling over \$150,000. He would not be bitter to not vote in other areas because he did not get what he wanted. Please do not be bitter if we disagree and be courteous to others.

Bill Brown, 24 Dauria Lane: Let the people vote.

Jay Hatfield, 25 Patton Ave: He is an educator, went to Seymour schools and has seen some of the sacrifices. He does not want to see another 0% increase to the BOE.

Item #7 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Motion: Bill Sawicki

Second: Jay Hatfield

Yes: 7

No: 0

0: Abstain

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

Submitted by:

Michelle Walsh
Board of Finance