

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, February 17, 2009 @ 7:30PM
Norma Drummer Room/Seymour Town Hall

Members present: First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski, John Conroy, Annmarie Drugonis, Paul Roy and Town Counsel George Temple.

Not present: Frank Conroy, John Putorti, and Roberta King.

Others present: Frank Loda, Alex Danka, Trisha Danka, John Leon, Jeff & Sue Simmons, Vin Pompa, John Colagiovanni, Emily Boylon, Ed Boylon, Roger Foster, and Brian Koskelowski.

- The First Selectman opened the meeting at 7:30PM.
- Everyone saluted the Flag and stated the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen meeting on 2/4/09.

Motion: John Conroy

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 4-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

First Selectman's Report:

- The First Selectman states that Frank Conroy and Roberta King will not be attending due to being under the weather and John Putorti is on vacation.
- On Thursday, February 12, 2009 the First Selectman went to Griffin Hospital where the Town of Seymour was presented with an award for all of the work we have done to support Women's Heart Health through several projects. Officer Joe DeFelice was instrumental in his hard work for this cause.
- There have not been any snow storms in over a week, although there is one in the forecast for tomorrow, 2/18/09. The Town of Seymour has spent over \$200,000.00 on the winter storms so far this year, which is far more than any other year. This is due to the rising cost of salt & sand, and also all of the storms that were time and a half and double time since many were on weekends.

Public Comment:

- Many residents came out in support of the residents at 11 Walter Road, who are being harassed by an anonymous person concerning blight. Town officials and police have been to the property and have found no violations. They also have concerns about being watched and have filed a police report on the matter.
- The First Selectman states that he feels there are not any violations at 11 Walter Road and if the anonymous party that is complaining would come forward then he would explain this to them. He also states that the anonymous complaints consisting of letters and emails have inundated the First Selectman's Office, but everything has been turned over to the police for them to investigate. He is also considering amending the blight ordinance to allow one unregistered motor vehicle on a property, as long as it is in good condition. No Action Taken.

ITEM # 1 - Discussion and possible action on Contingency Fund.

The First Selectman would like to propose a minimum of \$100,000.00 to be put into the contingency fund for the 2009/2010 budget. Due to the economy it is hard to predict what will be needed.

Motion to propose a minimum of \$100,000.00 to be placed in the contingency fund for the 2009/2010 budget.

Motion: John Conroy

Second: Paul Roy

Vote: 4-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 2 - Request from Parks Commission for long term Capital Plan.

The Parks Commission submits a list of long term capital projects to the Board of Selectmen, which total \$45,000.00 for the 2009/2010 budget season. The projects include restroom restorations for French Park and Matthies Park for \$20,000.00, Security Cameras for various parks for \$15,000.00 and a Dog Park for \$10,000.00. At this time the Town cannot consider any projects due to the economy, but may consider the dog park within Gary Park's 10 acres of land at a minimal cost. The Parks Commission did present a lower budget than last year.

ITEM # 3 - Discussion and possible action concerning Town Counsel's presence at Board of Selectmen meetings.

- The First Selectman refers to the Charter Section 10.17. Town Counsel and Assistant Town Counsel and quotes, "Town Counsel shall be legal advisor to the First Selectman and the Board of Selectmen, and as such advisor shall attend meetings of the Board of Selectmen, Town Meetings, Annual Town Meetings and other meetings as the First Selectman shall designate." He feels that shall means will and that is his interpretation of the Charter Section. He also states that Town Counsel George Temple has averaged approximately \$69,000.00 per year in legal fees and of that approximately \$5,200.00 is from Board of Selectmen meetings. He feels that it is worth the money to have him there. Also, Town Counsels from prior administrations cost the Town more money.
- Paul Roy states that maybe to save money we can have items requiring the Town Counsel be put earlier on the agenda so that he does not have to stay at the entire meeting if not needed.
- John Conroy agrees with Paul Roy's suggestion.
- Annmarie Drugonis also agrees with Paul Roy's suggestion.
- Town Counsel George Temple states that he has saved the Town of Seymour a lot of money all along due to charging less than he used to for the Town of Oxford.
- Frank Loda, 27 Osprey Drive: Does not feel that it is a Charter violation to not have Town Counsel at every meeting because he was the Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission in 1994 when the language in Section 10.17 was changed to be interpreted that Town Counsel does not have to be there and only when needed. He also feels Paul Roy's suggestion is a good one.

The Board decides that Town Counsel will be at each Board of Selectmen meeting and if he is no longer needed he will be dismissed. On the occasions that there is Executive Session, it will still be at the end of the agenda for the convenience of the public attending the meetings.

No Action Taken.

ITEM # 4 - Request from Registrar of Voters concerning salary increases.

The Registrar submitted a request for an increase from \$22,000.00 for two part-time Registrars up to \$30,000.00. The Board of Selectmen feels at this time they cannot approve a salary increase for the Registrars.

They discuss the part-time employee and the fact that her pay is very low compared to all of the hours she puts in. They decide that they would like to increase her salary from \$3,500.00 to \$4,000.00, which is a \$500.00 increase from last year.

Motion to approve salary increase for part-time Registrar of Voters employee from \$3,500.00 to \$4,000.00.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: John Conroy

Vote: 4-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 5 - Take action on 16 & 17 Maiden Lane.

The property on 16 & 17 Maiden Lane was a tax foreclosure by the Town of Seymour. There was a public tax sale held and no one came. The Town had the property appraised at approximately \$100,000.00, but the appraisal was not correct due to the many structural problems on the property and the appraiser did not consider them. An interested party had another appraisal done, which included the problems with the property and made an offer to the Town in the amount of \$33,000.00. Town Counsel stated that with taxes owed, marshal fees and legal fees the total would be \$31,711.72, which will leave the Town a minimal profit.

Motion to approve the contract for sale of the property at 16 & 17 Maiden Lane to Patrick M. Lydon DBA, Lydon Investments LLC in the amount of \$33,000.00.

Motion: John Conroy

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 4-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Motion to withdraw the above motion.

Motion: John Conroy

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 4-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Due to Charter Section 13.2 Special Town Meeting, the motion was withdrawn.

Motion to set a Special Town Meeting per Charter Section 13.2, on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 @ 7:00PM in the Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall for the purpose of approving the sale of a Town owned property at 16 & 17 Maiden Lane to Lydon Investments, LLC.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Paul Roy

Vote: 4-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

- Town Counsel George Temple was dismissed and left the meeting at 8:30PM.

ITEM # 6 - Recommendations and action on Economic Development Director Position.

The First Selectman states that he will not seek to fill the vacant Economic Development Director position at this time. He will personally be taking over the duties of that position with the help of the Economic Development Secretary. This will save the Town approximately \$45,000.00. This is due to the economic issues in Town.

No Action Taken.

ITEM # 7 - Appointments.

None at this time.

ITEM # 8 - Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$4,309.38.

Motion: John Conroy

Second: Paul Roy

Vote: 4-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 9 - Transfers.

Motion to transfer for the Public Works Department \$18,000.00 from the Contingency Acct # 1-001-410-1950-530-872 into Snow Plowing - Materials Acct # 1-001-430-3110-570-422 for snow-plowing materials sand and salt. Purchase price of sand is \$17/yard and salt mixture is \$92/ton. Usual number of snow and ice storms has produced a shortage of budgeted funds. To be referred to the Board of Finance.

Motion: John Conroy

Second: Paul Roy

Vote: 4-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

(Note: There is only going to be approximately \$2,000.00 left from this \$18,000.00 transfer due to supplies needed. Contingency Fund balance will be approximately \$16,000.00 from original \$90,000.00.)

Motion to transfer for the Library \$3,300.00 from Books & Periodicals Acct # 1-001-450-5500-640-640 into Oil Acct # 1-001-410-1940-510-624 to cover oil expense due to the decreased investment proceeds from the Wooster Fund. (See attached letters and invoice.) Previous transfer of \$4,500.00 from town contingency fund did not cover the attached invoice. It was agreed that if the \$4,500.00 did not cover the oil expense then the remainder would be transferred from the books account. Refer to the Board of Finance.

Motion: John Conroy

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 4-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 10 - Correspondence.

#10a: Check Registers.

ITEM # 11 - Other Business.

Motion to place on the table take action on Public Works and Town Surplus Inventory.

Motion: John Conroy Second: Paul Roy
Vote: 4-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

A list of surplus inventory from the Town and the Public Works Department has been given to the Board members. The Town would like to go out to receive quotes for the surplus inventory to sell.

Motion to go out for quotes for Town and Public Works Surplus Inventory to be received in the First Selectman's Office on 3/17/09 @ 4:00PM.

Motion: John Conroy Second: Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 4-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

ITEM # 12 - Public Comment.
No Action Taken.

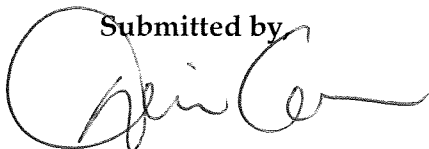
ITEM # 13 - Selectmen's Public Comments.

- Robert J. Koskelowski: States that he is in the process of preparing a budget with the Finance Director to be presented to the Board of Finance with their recommendations. He discusses the requests that were made to the departments to bring in 0% or less increases this year. He discusses the current economy throughout the State and Nation. He has also asked the unions to forego their 2.99% increases for the next fiscal year and if they do not there will be a possibility of layoffs.
- The First Selectman will be out of the office for 7 business days and will not be at the next Board of Selectmen meeting, but will be in constant contact with the office during that time. Deputy First Selectman John Conroy will be in charge during that time.

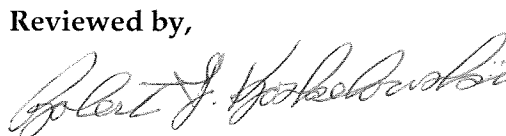
ITEM # 14 - Executive Session (Contract Negotiations, Pending Litigation, Personnel).
None at this time.

ITEM # 15 - Adjournment.
Motion to adjourn at 9:12PM.
Motion: Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 4-Yes 0-No

Second: Paul Roy
0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

Submitted by


Deirdre Caruso,
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


Robert J. Koskelowski,
First Selectman