

Ordinance Committee

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 – 5:00 PM – Norma Drummer Room

Minutes

Members present: Kurt Miller, Theresa Conroy, Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Others Present: Jeanne Falbo-Sosnovich

1) Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM by First Selectman Kurt Miller.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Public Comment - none

4) Discussion of Telecommunications at Town of Seymour municipal board meetings.

Kurt Miller said that under his direction Christine Conroy did some research on the CT FOIA and other legislation that deals with technology use during meetings. From what she found, not many states have telecommunication written into their sunshine laws.

Christine Conroy reached out to Tom Hennick at CT FOI Commission to obtain his opinion on the matter or what we are legally bound to do in this situation.

Hennick said that Seymour would certainly be allowed to create an ordinance prohibiting telecommunication during meetings, but he would not recommend it because we would box ourselves in with a law stronger than the state's.

Kurt mentioned that he attended a meeting that day where a mayor from another town phoned into the meeting so it is becoming more common practice.

Theresa questioned if CCM would have any guidance for us or if any other towns in the state have done something like this.

Further investigations and questions to CCM and COST will be conducted by the First Selectman's office to see if there are policies from other towns we can work from.

Kurt asked both Nicole & Theresa what the reactions are from the public they are speaking to. Nicole says that she is getting mixed feelings from the public she spoke to on whether or not teleconferencing should be allowed. Theresa said she's gotten overwhelmingly negative responses because people would like their elected members to be present to vote.

Area towns do not have any policies and procedures or need to put in place a policy on meeting telecommunication. Kurt has spoken to area mayors but Seymour might be on the forefront with this.

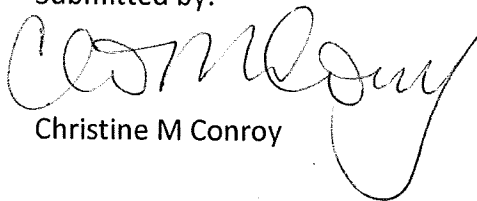
Kurt will check to see if Tom Hennick will be available for further consult on the issue.

At the next meeting, Kurt hopes to decide on whether this issue should be dealt with by creating an ordinance or policy & procedure guideline.

All members felt comfortable making a decision at the next meeting with further information and research.

5. Adjournment. Theresa Conroy made the motion to adjourn at 5:22 PM. Second by Nicole. Motion carries 3-0-0.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. M. Conroy', written in black ink.

Christine M Conroy