

Town of Seymour  
Board of Finance

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 3-15-2011  
TIME: 1:00 P.M.  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes

Special Meeting / Budget Deliberations  
Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 7pm  
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

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

**Others Present:** Paul Roy, Doug Thomas, Tony Caserta, Frank Loda, Nicole Klarides-Ditria, John Stelma, Richard Belden, Maryanne Mascolo, Alfred Bruno, Bruce Baker, Christine Pelletier, Bill Brown, Rhonda Geffert, Cindy Dion, Bill Ferris, Kelly Baker, Theresa Dunlop, Stephanie Golebieski, Rebecca Trzaski, Jennifer Magri, Joe Carrafiello, Eileen Faustich, Alison Brett, Mort Conlan, Amy Adamo, James Garofolo and Kristen Bruno

Non-town residents: Beth Lombardi, Malory Newton, Megan Kriscenski, Jennifer Battington and Gina Wenlin

**Item #1 – Call Meeting to order**

The Chairman, Robert Koskelowski, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**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**

Rebecca Trzaski, 41 Johnson Avenue: Unhappy the BOE has not received full funding in 8 years. Urges the BOF to leave the proposed budget as is and become supporters.

Bill Ferris, 13 Spruce Brook Road: His daughter has spent January and February in a coat in school because she feels it is too cold. Both his daughters complain about no paper for handouts and assigned books are not available to the class. Now the BOE is cutting corners, the professionals in this room are the BOE members and staff. BOF does not understand how education costs work and supports budget as is.

Jennifer Magri, 16 Union Street: No longer feels a sense of community. People are leaving, no spirit to work together. Our youth needs a solid foundation and this can start with funding education.

Cindy Dion, 18 Carriage Drive: People should be able to decide the budget.

Christine Pelletier, 4 Fawn Hollow Drive: Responsible to take care of our children. We see a bunch of people that care, hear us and kids that can not speak – keep budget as is for a vote.

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

Motion to allocate an additional \$500,000 over 2010/2011 Board of Education budget for a total expenditure of \$29,617,491.00

Motion: Peter Jezierny

Second: Michelle Walsh

Yes: 5

No: 2 (Bill Sawicki and Kristen Harmeling)

O: Abstain

**Item #6 – Public Comment**

Stephanie Golebieski, 36 First Avenue: Stood outside polls last year stating to support the budget, will not do it this year.

Theresa Dunlop, 24 Clifton Street: We need money to run our schools, now needs to tell her son the money is not there. You should put it out to the people.

Kelly Baker, 145 Maple Street: Her child receives special education, now she is worried he will not receive it.

Bill Ferris, 13 Spruce Brook Road: Did not discuss what the education system needs and there is nothing that prevents this from happening again. The BOE has failed to protect the minority who support education in town.

Cindy Dion, 18 Carriage Drive: She cares enough to be here. Let us vote.

Malory Newton: (Not town resident): Teacher in Seymour. Need a positive attitude to build a community.

Rhonda Geffert, 26 Shari Drive: Disappointed and disgusted with what occurred tonight. The JobsEd grant money is for jobs and not to off-set the budget.

Bill Brown, 24 Dauria Lane: Believes members are not listening. He is not happy.

Beth Lombardi (Not town resident) Teacher in Seymour. People will not support this if they are not educated. Making decisions on history does not work.

Christine Pelletier, 4 Fawn Hollow Drive: Think about Economic Development having the ability to advertise a strong town with strong schools. Has faith the budget would have passed this year. Staff at BOE has made a strong effort to send information and has not heard a voice against the budget. Voters do not always know what they are voting on.

Bruce Baker, 68 Greenwood Circle: (BOE Member) Disappointed, this decision was made before they walked in the door.

Alfred Bruno, 10 Mac Connie Court: Remember this moment in November, there was no discussion on budget use.

**Item #7 – Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn

Motion: Bill Paecht

Second: Michelle Walsh

Bruce Baker, 68 Greenwood Circle: (BOE Member) The problem is BOE has been making the lower budgets work. The budget on buildings was cut to the bones, snow took away this year's technology. If this budget does not pass, will see "butts on the streets", loss of sports. If the cuts keep going we will not see system at all.

Joe Carrafiello, 52 Briarwood Drive: He is a coach disappointed with passing out novels for the children that had pages ripped out. It was all we had.

Rhonda Geffert, 26 Shari Drive: Need to be positive toward the BOE. There is no more money left, please let the budget go forward. Listen and vote how people feel.

Eileen Faustich, 33 Davis Road: Supports the budget. Has seen cuts through her son, the referendums have brought more cuts than others. Put to the voters and let them decide.

Alison Brett, 11 Stanley Drive: Put forward this budget and please provide reasons why you may or may not be in favor.

Mort Conlan, 73 Brookfield Road: Supports budget as is. Has heard in the past that departments need to sell their budgets, start to tell us why. BOF members, don't let yourself get miss-quoted. Believes elected officials need to be louder.

Amy Adamo, 4 Cross Creek Lane: Pass budget as is. We will get slammed with a huge tax increase. Need to see smaller increases, pass forward.

Megan Kriscenski: (Not town resident) Teacher in Seymour, please support the budget.

James Garofolo, 163 Bungay Road: (BOE Member) Board of Education are stewards of children, Board of Finance are stewards of finances; need to come together. We cannot increase the pain on the children by decreasing the pain on the taxpayer. Put forward the budget and stop increasing the pain on the children.

Malory Newton: (Not town resident): Teacher in Seymour trying to give the children what they need to become future leaders.

Jennifer Battington, 33 Bunting Road: Teacher in Seymour. We have necessary increases, everything is going up. We spend more on groceries than the increases to the BOE.

Bruce Baker, 68 Greenwood Circle: (BOE Member) I am a senior and may think to sell soon. Real Estate agents get asked, How are the schools? This is not a good thing to wreck.

Gina Wenlin: (Not town resident): Teacher in Seymour. Pages are falling out of books. In the past 2 years everything positive is gone and larger class sizes are draining on her teaching.

Kristen Bruno, 10 Mac Connie Court: Has not heard a single voice in the negative regarding the budget. Listen to the people that come out.

Yes: 7

No: 0

0: Abstain

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Submitted by:

Michelle Walsh  
Board of Finance