

**Annual Town Meeting
MINUTES
Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 7:00 PM
Bingo Room, Seymour Community Center**

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 4-25-24
TIME: 8:45am
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Members Present: Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, Trisha Danka, Patrick Lombardi, Fred Stanek

Members Absent: Theresa Conroy, Robert Findley

Others Present: Town Attorney Bryan LeClerc, Steven Ditria, CAO Kurt Miller, Finance Representative Jason Vieira, Town Clerk Lianna McMurray and members of the public.

Item 1 - Call Meeting to order

CAO Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He stated that he was appointed as the moderator for tonight's meeting.

He then showed how the members in the audience need to hold the green and red cards when asked how they wanted to vote.

He then stated that the first order of business was to appoint two clerks to assist with the meeting. Town Clerk Lianna McMurray and Assistant to the First Selectwoman, Steve Ditria were appointed to assist.

Item 2 - Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Miller read the following meeting notice:

"Notice of Annual Town Meeting, Town of Seymour, Wednesday, April 17, 2024. The Annual Town Meeting of the Electors and Citizens qualified to vote in the Town meeting of the Town of Seymour, Connecticut, will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bingo Room of the Seymour Community Center, 20 Pine Street, Seymour, CT 06483.

1. To consider the 2024/2025 Budget as recommended by the Board of Finance. Town incomes are \$66,602,286 and expenses are \$66,602,286 (Board of Education \$39,968,781 and Town \$26,633,505). This meeting will be adjourned until Thursday, May 2nd, 2024 when the town voters will act on the Budgets. This action will occur by machine vote at the Seymour Community Center, 20 Pine Street, Seymour Connecticut, from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

There will be a Town vote on Thursday, May 2nd, 2024 at the Community Center, 20 Pine Street, from 6 AM until 8 PM.

Questions:

- a. Shall the Town general government budget, as recommended by the Board of Finance, of \$26,633,505 for the fiscal year 2024-2025 be adopted?

Options:

"Yes" or "No"

- b. Shall the Board of Education budget, as recommended by the Board of Finance, of \$39,968,781 for the Town of Seymour for fiscal year 2024-2025 be adopted?

Options:

“Yes” or “No”

Dated at Seymour, Connecticut this 4th day of April, 2024 by the Seymour Board of Selectpersons.

Mr. Miller then stated that per Section 14.3 of the Town Charter states that the Annual Town meeting shall have the power to decrease or delete any appropriation or item within an appropriation except those listed in section which are: revenues, debt service, and all legal obligations. In Section 15.1§h the Town Meeting action shall be by majority vote of those present and voting.

Mr. Miller then stated that tonight’s actions will be to moving questions forward to be voted on at the referendum vote on Thursday, May 2nd, 2024. Public comment may be made by any person eligible to vote at this meeting when discussion is called. He then stated that he asks that you come forward to the microphone in the middle of the room and state your name and address for the record. Each person speaking will be given two minutes for comments and/or questions. If you ask questions, we do have department heads in the room. You will be allowed a little bit more time based on the length of the answers.

He then called the first question. “Shall the Town’s general government budget as recommended by the Board of Finance of 26,633,505 for the fiscal year 24-25 be adopted?” The options are either Yes or No.

Motion to approve the question as presented

Motion - Scott Lazurek Second - Trish Danka

Discussion

Lisa Cinquino of 29 Moss Avenue, unit 12, (Hickory Hill Condo Complex) stated that there are 24 units at the Condo. There are healthcare professionals, graphic designers, administrative office personnel and retired individuals. Those 24 units generate revenue of approximately \$89,000 in property taxes. They receive no free municipal services such as garbage and snow removal. As unit owners we pay approximately \$87,000 in maintenance fees for all of their peripheral needs to support the six acres of property. She asks that all of the individuals with oversight to review the town budget and ultimately finalizing it to please review each line and give consideration to the impact any increase in the mill rate will have on all of the community condos that are deeply rooted in our town and in addition to the new complex that is currently under construction that will attract new residents.

There were no other public comments.

The vote was taken and there were 53 people that voted yes. The motion passed.

Mr. Miller then called the second question. “Shall the Board of Education budget, as recommended by the Board of Finance, of \$39,968,781 for the Town of Seymour for fiscal year 2024-2025 be adopted? The options are either Yes or No.

Motion to approve the question as presented

Motion - Chris Champagne Second – Nickie O’Toole

Discussion

Jennifer Stevens, 10 Dolan Circle, stated that she feels that an Education budget for nearly \$40 million dollars is excessive for a town of this size. This is an increase of over 4.7% and an increase over last year budget of over \$1.7 million. She then stated that she feels that a 3% increase would be more reasonable. She would like to have the Board of Education budget reduced by \$600,000.

Motion to add an amendment to the presented question stating to approve a reduction of the Education Budget of 3% or \$600,000.

Motion – Jennifer Stevens

Second – Cory Firmender

The vote was taken and there were 6 people that voted yes. The motion failed.

Selectman Fred Stanek, 22 North Benham Road, stated that he requests that both this body and at the referendum vote be in favor of the budget that has been presented. He feels that this is a well-reasoned budget that is necessary and is in the best interests of the children of Seymour.

Selectman Al Bruno, 10 MacConnie Court, stated that he would like to echo Selectman Stanek's sentiments. He feels that this is a well-reasoned budget that has gone through many machinations and discussions. Many people have provided their input regarding this budget. He asks that the budget question be brought forward, not only for the children of the town but also for the property values. Without a good school system, the property values will not continue to climb.

No one else wished to speak.

The vote was taken and there were 48 people that voted yes. The motion passed.

Mr. Miller stated that there was no other business for this Town meeting and declared the meeting adjourned at 7:33.

Submitted by:

Carol Sardinha
Carol Sardinha
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:

Annmarie Drugonis
Annmarie Drugonis
First Selectwoman