

MINUTES
Board of Selectpersons
Tuesday, September 2, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, Frederick Stanek, Theresa Conroy, Bob Findley and Scott Andrews

Members Absent: Trisha Danka

Others Present: Town Counsel Richard Buturla, CAO, Kurt Miller; Tom Gardella, John Stelma, Kristen Harmeling, Dr. Susan Compton and Debbie Alterio

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order

First Selectwoman, Annmarie Drugonis, called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment

Kristen Harmeling, 134 Davis Rd., current member of BOE, provided comments on the Charter Revision Report. She expressed her gratitude for removing the proposed new Section 8-1 shared services from the proposed Charter changes. She stated she is happy to see Parks Commission and Recreation Commissions combining. With regard to Section 14.3 – Annual Town Meeting, she is happy to see language regarding budget request forms. She stated legal obligations are still supposed to be submitted to the Town by the 3rd Thursday. She recommended to remove that language as it pertains to February 1st. She discussed her disappointment in not changing the nature of the Town Meeting. She also discussed her disappointment in not introducing combining Town and Board of Education budgets.

ITEM #4: Approval of minutes from the August 19, 2025 Meeting

- Motion to approve minutes from the August 19, 2025 meeting.

Motion: Theresa Conroy

Second: Scott Andrews

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

ITEM #5: Discussion and possible action regarding the Frank and Ann Conroy Outstanding Community Service Award and the Roberta M. King Excellence in Governmental Service Award

Fred stated the Awards Committee is recommending the following nominees:

- Frank and Ann Conroy Outstanding Community Service Award: Peter Rzasa
- Roberta M. King Excellence in Governmental Service Award: Colleen Fries

- Motion to accept nominees Peter Rzasa for the Frank and Ann Conroy Outstanding community Service Award and Colleen Fries for the Roberta M. King Excellence in Governmental Service Award.

Motion: Fred Stanek

Second: Al Bruno

Discussion: Theresa stated that both nominees are appropriate recipients for these awards. She expressed admiration for both Peter Rzasa and Colleen Fries.

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

ITEM #6: Discussion with the Ordinance Subcommittee and possible action

- a) **Solicitor's Ordinance**
- b) **Senior Citizen Tax Incentive**

Solicitor's Ordinance

- The Police Department is tightening up the ordinance then will come before the Ordinance Committee then the revised Ordinance will come back to the Board of Selectpersons
- Annmarie discussed the current process for a solicitors permit

Senior Citizen Tax Incentive

- Town Counsel, Richard Buturla is going to get some information from OPM
- This will be discussed further at the Ordinance Committee next month.

ITEM #7: Discussion and possible action regarding Final Report from the Charter Revision Commission

Tom Gardella, 8 Lantern Drive, Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission. He discussed the Final Report that was brought to the Board of Selectpersons. He discussed the summary of the proposed changes to the Seymour Charter.

Differences between the draft and the final report:

1. No longer a recommendation for shared services.
2. The proposed amended charter contains, in general, the current budget process with the exception of the addition of the provision providing the annual town meeting with the power to also increase a proposed appropriation.
3. The proposed amended charter modifies the required training and education of the town treasurer.
4. The proposed amended charter changes references of "First Selectman/First Selectwoman" to "First Selectperson"

There was some confusion on the draft report and final report. Charter Revision Commission Chairman Gardella clarified.

The board members made varying comments regarding the removal of the proposed shared services section, the Annual Town Meeting and the quorum requirements for the Annual Town Meeting. Al, Fred and Theresa thanked the Commission for all their hard work and effort.

Town Counsel, Richard Buturla, stated that the board can approve or reject in whole or part. He discussed the process.

1. Section 14.3- Town Budget Process: The Proposed Amended Charter maintains in general the current budget process with the exception of the addition of a provision providing the Annual Town Meeting with the power to also increase any proposed appropriation. Minor amendments have been proposed for purposes of clarity, and to make required submission and meeting dates more specific.

- a. Motion to accept Section 14.3

Motion: Scott Andrews

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

2. Section 15.2 Special Town Meetings: The Proposed Amended Charter provides for increasing the appropriation threshold for requiring a Special Town Meeting from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

- a. Motion to approve Section 15.2 Special Town Meetings

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Bob Findley

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

3. Section 12.9 and 12.10 – Parks Commission & Recreation Commission: The Proposed Amended Charter combines these two commissions for efficiency of operations and services.

- a. Motion to approve Section 12.9 and 12.10

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Al Bruno

Discussion: Theresa asked when that would take effect. Town Counsel, Richard Buturla will get back to the board with the exact date. Most likely December.

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

4. Section 5.2 - First Selectman/First Selectwoman- Specific Powers and Duties: The Proposed Amended Charter adds a new provision requiring the First Selectperson to develop and implement a multi-year strategic plan for presentation to the Board of Selectpersons.

- a. Motion to approve Section 5.2

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

5. Section: 12.17 Treasurer – The Proposed Amended Charter modifies a requirement regarding the education and training of the Treasurer.

- a. Motion to approve Section 12.17

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Scott Andrews

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

6. Entire Charter: The Proposed Amended Charter changes references from “First Selectman/First Selectwoman” to “First Selectperson.”

- a. Motion to approve

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Theresa Conroy

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

ITEM #8: Discussion and possible action regarding ballot questions related to the Charter Revision Final Report

1. Shall the Town charter be amended (a) to change the current budget process to allow the voters at the Annual Town Meeting to increase any proposed appropriation and (b) for purposes of clarity, and to make required submission and meeting dates more specific?

- a. Motion to approve

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Theresa Conroy

Discussion: Al suggested creating two questions out of this one question

– “Shall the Town charter be amended (a) to change the current budget process to allow the voters at the Annual Town Meeting to increase any proposed appropriation?” and “Shall the Town Charter for purposes of clarity, and to make required submission and meeting dates more specific?”

-Richard Buturla suggested amending to “Shall the Town Charter be amended to change the budget process to “ALSO” allow the voters at the Annual Town Meeting to increase any proposed appropriation?”

-The board decided to make this two questions.

-Discussion regarding the second question ensued. Richard Buturla suggested making “Shall the Town Charter be amended to clarify the budget process and make meeting dates more specific?”

- Motion to approve the first question as stated “Shall the Town Charter be amended to change the current budget process to allow the voters at the Annual Town Meeting to also increase any proposed appropriation?”

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Theresa Conroy

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

2. Shall the Town Charter be amended to clarify the budget process and make meeting dates more specific?

- Motion to approve Question 2: “Shall the Town Charter be amended to clarify the budget process and make meeting dates more specific?”

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

3. Shall the Town Charter be amended to increase the appropriation threshold for requiring a Special Town Meeting from \$100,000 to \$150,000?

- Motion to approve Question 3: “Shall the Town Charter be amended to increase the appropriation threshold for requiring a Special Town Meeting from \$100,000 to \$150,000?”

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

4. Shall the Town Charter be amended to combine the Parks Commission and Recreation Commission for efficiency of operation and services?

- Motion to approve Question 4: “Shall the Town Charter be amended to combine the Parks Commission and Recreation Commission for efficiency of operation and services?”

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

5. Shall the Town Charter be amended by adding a new provision requiring the First Selectperson to develop and implement a multi-year strategic plan for presentation to the Board of Selectpersons?

- Motion to approve Question 5: "Shall the Town Charter be amended by adding a new provision requiring the First Selectperson to develop and implement a multi-year strategic plan for presentation to the Board of Selectpersons?"

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

6. Shall the Town Charter be amended to modify the requirements regarding the education and training of the Treasurer?

- Motion to approve Question 6: "Shall the Town Charter be amended to modify the requirements regarding the education and training of the Treasurer?"

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

7. Shall the Town Charter be amended to change references from First Selectman/First Selectwoman to "First Selectperson"?

- Motion to approve Question 7: "Shall the Town Charter be amended to change references from First Selectman/First Selectwoman to "First Selectperson"?"

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Scott Andrews

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

8. Shall the Town Charter be amended to correct grammar, spelling, terminology, statutory references, outdated provisions of the Town Charter, renumber sections, and make other technical changes as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission?

- Motion to approve Question 8 with changes discussed – "Shall the Town Charter be amended to correct grammar, spelling, terminology, statutory references, outdated provisions, renumber sections, and make other technical changes as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission?"

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Bob Findley

Discussion: Al suggested taking out "of the town charter"

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

ITEM #9: Discussion and possible action regarding setting the vote on potential charter changes for Tuesday, November 4, 2025 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM at all polling locations

- Motion to set the vote on potential charter changes for Tuesday, November 4, 2025 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM at all polling locations

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Bob Findley

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

ITEM #10: Transfers

None.

ITEM #11: Appointments.

- Motion to appoint JoElle Anderson to the Beautification Commission replacing Rick Bednar with a term to expire in April 2026.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Scott Andrews

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

- Motion to appoint Marietta Sabetta to the Conservation Commission replacing Rick Bednar with a term to expire in April 2028.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Theresa Conroy

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

- Motion to appoint Collean Toupin to the Affordable Housing Committee replacing Gene Chapman with a term to expire in December 2025.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Theresa Conroy

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

ITEM #12: Tax refunds/abatements.

- Motion to approve tax refunds/abatements as presented

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Fred Stanek – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

ITEM #13: Correspondence.

- Letter from Rick Bednar resignation
- Warning for Special Town Meeting and Referendum for October 9th
- Memo from Blight Enforcement Officer
- Open space report from Naugatuck Valley Council of Government

ITEM #14: Public Comment.

Kristen Harmeling, 134 Davis Road, thanked the board for the general consensus regarding decrease or increase for the budget. She asked for help from the Town to help the Board of Education at the Annual Town Meeting. She asked for help in explaining to the public why they can't get out a revised budget out in two weeks. She asked the board for support.

Debbie Alterio, Oxford, spoke about Hoadley's Pond. She asked to spend money now to take care of it. She stated what would happen if that pond floods and it's not being addressed correctly. She discussed various scenarios.

ITEM #15: Selectperson's Public Comments.

Scott congratulated Jay Uliano to Commander at the Seymour Police Department. He stated he is a very positive asset in the administration. He offered praise to the Public Works Department for their paving they have been doing on specific areas around town.

Al thanked the Charter Revision Commission. He stated they did a great job and had great debates. He is happy they took into consideration the board's comments and recommendations.

Fred stated September 16th will be the Special Town Meeting for the funding for Bungay school. The Adjourned Town Meeting (Referendum) to vote will be held on October 9th. Everyone has a vote on October 9th.

Theresa wished everyone a happy school year. She discussed her concerns about speeding on Skokorat Street and Maple Street. She asked for some more police presence on those streets. She asked about a position that was posted – Housing Ordinance Enforcement Officer. Kurt explained what the position encompasses. This would be a part of the Land Use Department. Kurt stated they anticipate this position to be 100% budget neutral based on the production they have seen from the Blight Department.

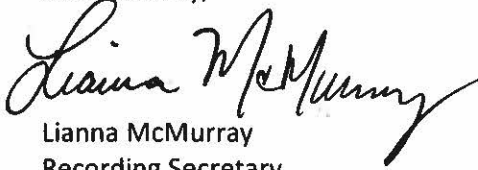
ITEM #16: Comments from the First Selectwoman.

- Annmarie spoke about and gave a little update on Hoadley's Pond
- Wished everyone a great school year
- Enforcement is being conducted on roads now that school is open
- She is happy about the budget workshops. She stated that if a resident wants to increase or decrease a line item, it is important to have the department heads and Board of Education there to explain and answer questions.

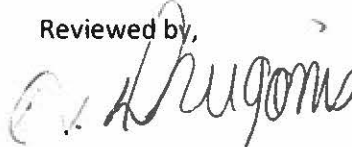
ITEM #17: Adjournment.

Annmarie Drugonis adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM

Submitted by,


Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


Annmarie Drugonis
First Selectwoman