

MINUTES
Board of Selectpersons
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 – 7:00 PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, Trisha Danka, Phil Wilhelmy, Scott Andrews and Bob Findley

Members Absent: Brianna Girard

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; John McKenzie, Blight Officer; Police Chief, John Bucherati; Dave from Northwest

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order

First Selectwoman, Annmarie Drugonis, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to add to the agenda - John McKenzie sidewalk discussion to the agenda

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No **0-Abstain**
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Al Bruno – Yes Phil Wilhelmy – Yes
Bob Findley – Yes Trisha Danka – Yes Scott Andrews – Yes

ITEM #3: Public Comment

None.

ITEM #4: Approval of minutes from the January 6, 2026 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the January 6, 2026 Regular Meeting

Motion: Scott Andrews **Second: Al Bruno**

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No **1-Abstain**
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Al Bruno – Yes Phil Wilhelmy – Yes
Bob Findley – Abstain Trisha Danka – Yes Scott Andrews – Yes

ITEM #5: Appointments

Motion to appoint Thomas LaPaglia to the Police Commissioners for a term expiring on December 6, 2027 replacing Steven Kulas

Motion: Trisha Danka	Second: Phil Wilhelmy
Vote: 6-Yes	0-No
Annmarie Dragonis – Yes	0-Abstain
Bob Findley – Yes	Al Bruno – Yes
	Trisha Danka – Yes

ITEM #6: Tax refunds/abatements

This item was tabled for the February 3rd meeting.

ITEM #7: Correspondence

- Letter of resignation from John Stelma from the Seymour Parade and Events Committee
 - Letter of resignation from Steven Kulas resigning from the Seymour Board of Police Commissioners

Added Item: Sidewalks Discussion with John McKenzie:

John McKenzie stated that the goal of the Sidewalk Ordinance memorandum is to promote pedestrian safety while encouraging cooperation and compliance from property owners. He presented the Board with proposed revisions to the ordinance, including a recommendation to increase fines. He explained that enforcement would be complaint-based only.

The Board discussed revising the “reasonable effort” language and emphasized the importance of ensuring sidewalks are cleared to their full width during snow events. It was also noted that fire code requires fire hydrants to be cleared with a 36-inch space in all directions. Following discussion with Town Counsel, the Board decided to further review the draft language with counsel and will follow up with Blight Enforcement Officer John McKenzie at the next meeting.

ITEM #8: Discussion and possible action regarding the Bungay School Building Committee

- a) Appointment of a Co-Chairperson
 - a. Fred Stanek
 - b. Pete Kubik

Motion to appoint Fred Stanek as the Chairperson of the Bungay School Building Committee

Motion: Trisha Danka	Second: Bob Findley	
Vote: 6-Yes	0-No	0-Abstain
Annmari Drugonis – Yes	Al Bruno – Yes	Phil Wilhelmy – Yes
Bob Findley – Yes	Trisha Danka – Yes	Scott Andrews – Yes

Motion to appoint Peter Kubik as the Co-Chairperson of the Bungay School Building Committee

Motion: Al Bruno	Second: Bob Findley	
Vote: 6-Yes	0-No	0-Abstain
Annmari Drugonis – Yes	Al Bruno – Yes	Phil Wilhelmy – Yes
Bob Findley – Yes	Trisha Danka – Yes	Scott Andrews – Yes

Motion to Empower the Committee to seek three (3) quotes and hire a firm for the completion of a Phase I Environmental Assessment in an amount not to exceed \$5,000

Motion: Scott Andrews	Second: Al Bruno	
Vote: 6-Yes	0-No	0-Abstain
Annmari Drugonis – Yes	Al Bruno – Yes	Phil Wilhelmy – Yes
Bob Findley – Yes	Trisha Danka – Yes	Scott Andrews – Yes

ITEM #9: Discussion with Police Chief Bucherati

- a) Update on the Seymour Police Department
- b) Potential for Dispatch Transition for the Seymour Police Department

Police Chief Bucherati provided an update on the Police Department, highlighting the following:

- Staffing: The department experienced staffing shortages in 2025 but expects to be fully staffed by September.
- Accreditation & Policies: The department achieved Tier 3 Accreditation, which required a comprehensive rewrite of departmental policies.
- Private Duty: Certain private duty fees were increased to better align with rates in surrounding municipalities.

- **Special Assignments & Equipment:** One officer is currently assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). This assignment may generate monetary benefits through asset forfeiture. Using these funds, the department purchased new rifles.
- The department expressed high satisfaction with the new body cameras, noting improved access to necessary video footage.
- **Labor Agreement:** The police union has signed a two-year contract extension.
- **Crime Statistics (2024 vs. 2025)**
 - Aggravated assaults decreased from 6 to 1
 - Burglaries decreased from 12 to 5
 - Drug violations increased from 9 to 17 due to increased enforcement
 - DUI arrests increased from 62 to 69
 - Larcenies decreased from 66 to 40
 - Motor vehicle thefts decreased from 27 to 13
 - Motor vehicle stops increased from 2,659 to 3,188, reflecting increased officer presence
 - Domestic incidents increased slightly from 53 to 54
 - Murders increased from 0 to 1
- **Traffic Enforcement:** Chief Bucherati discussed the potential implementation of automated traffic enforcement cameras for speed and traffic violations.
- **Noise Enforcement:** Noise complaints were also discussed; there were 106 noise complaints in 2025. Board members asked questions regarding the noise ordinance and enforcement practices, and it was noted that officers typically use discretion when responding to complaints.
- **K-9 Program:** The department plans to add a K-9 officer this year.
- **Dispatch Transition:** Chief Bucherati discussed the potential transition of emergency dispatch services. Seymour is one of the few remaining towns where police officers handle emergency dispatching.
 - Transferring dispatch services to Northwest Regional Dispatch would create operational efficiencies, free up an officer for other duties, and reduce municipal liability.
 - Northwest currently provides EMS and Fire dispatch services for Seymour at a cost of \$121,344 annually. Adding 911 direct-answer services would increase the total cost to \$462,753.
 - A \$300,000 state transition grant is available to assist with the change.
 - Dave from Northwest discussed the benefits of transitioning to their services. He provided background information on the organization and reviewed relevant operational statistics.
 - The board continued a discussion with the Chief and Dave.

ITEM #10: Update from the Ordinance Subcommittee

- a) **Housing Authority – need for new committee based on recently passed state law**
 - a. Move forward to Ordinance Committee for discussion and possible action
- b) **Review, discussion and possible action**
 - a. Senior Citizen Tax Incentive
 - b. Noise
 - c. Disabled Veterans Exemption
 - d. Firefighters
 - e. Vehicle Booting

A. **Housing Authority-** The State of Connecticut passed a new housing bill, creating the need for a new committee. Annmarie explained the changes within the bill related to fair housing.

Motion to move forward Housing Authority to the Ordinance Committee

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

B. Review, discussion and possible action

- a. **Senior Citizen Tax Incentive** – waiting for session to start in Hartford to see what can be done at the state level.

- b. **Noise** – have to look at the State regulations. Town Counsel added insight to the discussion.

Motion to have the noise ordinance sent back to the Ordinance Committee for repeal

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Phil Wilhelmy

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

- c. **Disabled Veterans exemption** – Town Counsel is going to forward two (2) draft ordinances for consideration

- d. **Firefighters** – discussion will be at the next ordinance meeting

- e. **Vehicle Booting** – no action taken

ITEM #11: Public Comment

None.

ITEM #12: Selectperson's public comment

Scott Andrews asked whether the Town could utilize additional medical facilities for physicals and testing and reminded residents to remain safe during the upcoming storm.

Bob Findley reminded everyone to be safe and prepared for the approaching storm.

Trisha Danka echoed reminders about storm safety and preparedness and emphasized the importance of the Board of Finance understanding each department's strategic plan during the budget process.

Al Bruno thanked the Department of Public Works for their work during recent storms and noted that garbage pickup has remained timely.

Phil Wilhelmy encouraged residents to continue looking out for their neighbors.

ITEM #13: Comments from the First Selectwoman

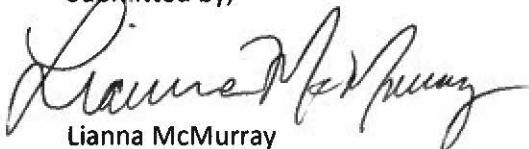
- **CodeRed:** website is working again.
- Discussed an issue with looking at agendas/minutes on the phone vs a computer.
- **Kinneytown Dam:** Letters were sent to residents regarding the Land Bank's plan to remove the dam. Annmarie discussed the concerns raised by residents related to potential impacts on their properties.
- Budget Workshop meetings start February 9th. They will live stream. The budget process is very open to the public
- She discussed the impending weekend storm, including freezing temperatures, and provided reminders regarding storm safety.

- Fire Chief Edwards ordered the installation of First Alert devices through HAAS Alert on fire apparatus. These devices connect to the vehicle's lights and sirens and provide real-time alerts to motorists. When a fire apparatus is approaching or ahead, drivers using navigation apps such as Waze, Google Maps, or Apple Maps in 2023 and newer vehicles will receive a notification that an emergency vehicle is nearby.
- DEEP/DESPP meeting next meeting regarding Hoadley's Pond
- Elderly/Disabled Home tax assessment will be available in the Assessor's Office beginning February 1st.
- Appeals forms for those who wish to appeal their car or property tax is available and must be in the Assessor's Office by February 20th.
- Grand openings coming up for Fitness Zone and Valley Pharmacy.

ITEM #14: Adjournment

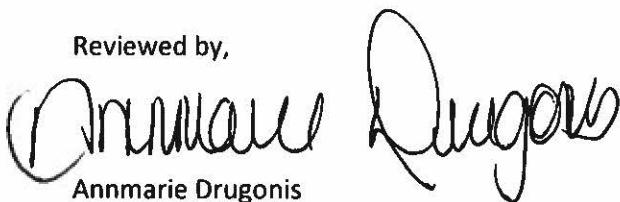
Annmarie Drugonis adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM

Submitted by,



Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



Annmarie Drugonis
First Selectwoman