

COPY RECEIVED
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**Town of Seymour ~ Board of Finance
MINUTES
Budget Deliberations
Monday, March 23, 2026 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall**

Members Present: Beverly Kennedy, Andy North, Quinn Levey, Bettyann Peck, Richard Demko, Kristyn Haniewicz; Robin Andrews, Tracy Rappa, Alice Levey (alternates).

Members Absent: Mary Kruger

Others Present: Jason Vieira, Monica Dimon, Annmarie Drugonis, Dr. Susan Compton, Jean Falbo-Sosnovich, Jack Jurkowski, Paul Varsenik, David Bitso

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order

Chairman Richard Demko called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Richard Demko introduced all members (and alternates) of the Board of Finance.

Item #3 – Seating of Alternates

Motion to Seat Tracy Rappa

Motion: Kristyn Haniewicz

Second: Bettyann Peck

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item #4 - Public Comment

None

Item #5 - Deliberation/Discussion of 2026/2027 Budget

- Quinn Levey asked Dr. Compton if she has a fallout plan if your budget doesn't pass. Same question for Annmarie with regards the Town side. Dr. Compton said that we can only get so low and survive. We need to meet contractual obligations. Most important are the kids and that the quality of their education doesn't suffer. I keep hoping that the ECS would come in. Dr. Compton said that since the budget went from 4.3% to 4.7% we will have to cut people's services. Annmarie Drugonis said originally her budget was a 2.68% but we had a police car go down so it went to a 2.8%. The Town is pretty much at its lowest operating force. My Plan B would be that my contract guys would not take raises, I would furlough one person, I would close Town Hall on Fridays, and Transfer Station would be shut on Saturday. I will not cut a police officer – that is public safety. Quinn asked if they would still keep their salary rate if we make these cuts. This is not the union people. Community Center and Library would also shut down on Fridays. We are going right back to where we were in 2006. We are not investing in our roads. We are not investing in our infrastructure. We could cut trash (\$1.2 million) but then the residents would need to pay for trash removal themselves with a private company. (\$150/month/person) We all have cessation plans. First person hired is the first person to go. Dr. Compton said that every year they have reduced personnel on the Board of Education or have not replaced people who have retired.
- Andy North said again that we have a revenue problem not an expense problem. Andy said he would like to know when all these union contracts are coming due. Annmarie Drugonis said that all our contracts are 5-year

contracts and are listed on our Town website. They go up 5 points every year. Annmarie said that the Town does have a hiring freeze.

- Beverly Kennedy asked about the shared services. Is the social security & benefits on the Board of Ed side at all or all on the Town side? Annmarie Drugonis said all on the Town side. Last year, the Board of Ed did not pay for ANY of the shared services salaries or social security or benefits. But the year before, they did give the \$150,000 surplus to the high school turf replacement fund. The year before that they did not pay for anything on the shared services either. Beverly said that we only budgeted for 50% of the shared services, so are we short the other 50%? Jason Vieira said yes. Through Fund Balance (or through the surplus first).
- Bettyann Peck said that the Board of Education is responsible for the \$180,000 shared services. Richard Demko said that the budget working on now is what took their budget from 4.3% to 4.7%. In 15 days we will have a Town Meeting. Last year they cut \$750,000 from Board of Ed. This year we will all need to have a preparation for something like this. Richard Demko said that he can send a text/email to Kristin Bruno (BOE Chair) suggesting that they schedule a meeting after the Town Meeting in the event they need to adjust their budget. I would like the Board of Ed to be prepared.
- Tracy Rappa said that on Facebook today she saw that Vox Church will be using the Community Center (renting short term lease with them). Annmarie Drugonis said would be in this budget. A discussion took place on where this would show up in the budget for next year and where the revenues would show up and the details. It was written up in the paper. Vox did inquire about going into the cinemas but would have to renovate there.
- Tracy also asked about the reduction of \$50,000 in interest income. She said that the EMD stipend was increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Last year the HR Director did the study showing the stipend was usually between \$5,000 and \$15,000. If another survey wasn't done, why are we increasing this stipend by \$10,000? I know that Chris Edwards does 3 jobs in this Town. But we are trying to save money. Andy North said that we don't want to lose people either. Quinn Levey said that he had just resigned as Asst. Fire Chief because he is busy in his personal life. So he understands how busy the volunteer positions can be. Derby just got fined because they were not up to code with everything. If we lose the volunteer positions and need to go out and HIRE people it will be a lot more expensive! Also, Jason said that cutting \$10,000 doesn't really have much of a bottom line effect on the budget and our first responders need to be taken care of. Tracy said that she is just trying to find some offsets for the \$50,000 interest reduction.
- A discussion about how much money would be saved by shutting down the Transfer Station, Community Center, Library, and Town Hall for a few days. No one on the Board of Finance wanted to decrease the stipend for EMD by \$10,000. Beverly Kennedy did note that Theresa Conroy mentioned in Public Comment at a previous meeting that the Board of Selectmen had approved the \$10,000. Annmarie Drugonis said that the Board of Selectmen set the base pay for that position.
- Jason Vieira said that Plan B for the First Selectwoman would include having the Town Hall closed on Fridays which would save the Town \$25,000 in utility costs. That shouldn't be included in tonight's discussion.
- Robin Andrews said that she is disappointed that we are sending these budgets to the Town Meeting knowing that they will fail. We are wasting everyone's time and all we are doing is kicking the can down the road.
- Richard Demko said that he feels good about the Town side of the budget. It is very conservative. It is contracts and salaries that we can't really touch. We will need to cut services which I don't think is a good idea. I am concerned about the Board of Education being at a 4.7%. I don't believe the residents will approve this.
- Dr. Compton still recommends that we leave their budget at 4.7% and see if the ECS money will come in.
- Annmarie Drugonis said that the Board of Education is not interested in cost sharing. Dr. Compton has tried. It is frustrating that they do not want to pay for these positions.
- Quinn Levey suggested that we cut the Board of Education budget \$180,000 which would bring their budget back down to 4.3%.
- Andy North, Beverly Kennedy, and Bettyann Peck agree with this.
- Kristyn Haniewicz asked what this will do the mill rate. Jason Vieira said it will be 29.26.
- Alice Levey, Tracy Rappa, and Robin Andrews all support this.

Motion to move Town revenues at \$70,747,523 for the 2026/2027 Budget to the Town Meeting

Motion: Bettyann Peck

Second: Kristyn Haniewicz

Yes: Bettyann Peck, Kristyn Haniewicz, Richard Demko, Andy North

No: Quinn Levey, Beverly Kennedy, and Tracy Rappa

Abstain: 0

Motion carried

Motion to move the Mill Rate of 29.25 for the 2026/2027 Budget to the Town Meeting

Motion: Kristyn Haniewicz

Second: Andy North

Yes: Bettyann Peck, Kristyn Haniewicz, Richard Demko, Andy North

No: Quinn Levey, Beverly Kennedy, and Tracy Rappa

Abstain: 0

Motion carried

Total Increase is 6.4%

Item #6 – Public Comment

Jack Jurkowski – said that he gets a **5.5% increase** – 29.25/27.72 doing mill rate. Jason said he is doing tax revenue.

An unnamed resident asked if he could contribute to committees. (such as the RTC). Richard Demko said no, the Board of Finance does not accept donations.

Item #7 – Correspondence

None

Item #8 – New Business

Regular Board of Finance meeting for tomorrow, 3/24/26 has been cancelled.

Annual Town Meeting is April 7, 2026 @ 7pm @ Seymour Middle School.

Richard Demko asked Jason Vieira to send out the monthly reports to the Board of Finance members.

Item #9 – Adjournment

Richard Demko adjourned the meeting at 9:13pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Monica Dimon

Recording Secretary