

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES –June 8, 2009**

### **SUNDERLAND TOWN OFFICES**

**Present: Mr. Bergeron, Mr. Fydenkevez and Mr. Wissemann**

**Others: Margaret Nartowicz**

**Behind the Camera: Tom Zimnowski**

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- Call to order at 7:04 p.m.
- Pole Hearing-Walter Chudzik, WMECO representative. Hearing called to order at 7:06pm. Legal ad read by Clerk, Mr. Wissemann. Installing one pole to reduce span on Plumtree Road and relocating one pole back. Installing standard 40” poles. Mr. Fydenkevez-In future, have written confirmation from Highway Superintendent. Mr. Fydenkevez-Disagree with having pole hearing on night of important budget discussion. Add Highway Superintendent recommendation to pole hearing guidelines. Motion to approve as presented by Mr. Wissemann, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Mr. Bergeron-Letter from Chip. Hearing closed at 7:13pm.
- SBA Investment Interest-Mr. Bergeron gave an overview of SBA investment interest and application to school debt. Mr. Sanderson-Town could appropriate some SBA interest and still remain on target to call the bond in January, 2014. Could spend at \$70,000/yr. and still remain on track. Could go to \$140,000 this year, but would have to go back to \$70,000 next year. Discussion regarding use of range of interest amounts and special legislation. Mr. Fydenkevez-Taxpayers have been burdened with payments over first four years of debt, but school will be used in future years. Mr. Sanderson-Recommends increasing the application of SBA interest over the next five years. Mr. Fydenkevez-Important for residents to know that application of interest will result in reduction to tax rate. Mr. Zeoli-His opinion is to use whatever can be used over next five years while staying on track for the 2014 payoff. Mr. Sanderson-\$90,000 per year for next five years would allow that. Motion by Mr. Fydenkevez to use up to \$90,000 of SBA interest, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0. Mr. Bergeron-Budget impacts with failed override. State revenues have continued to decrease. Very little growth on budget side. Mr. Zeoli-Want to be sure that all information is on website, including budget growth beyond local control. Mr. Bergeron-Overview of sources of growth. Mr. Duby-Would like “impact” handouts available at town meeting. Mr. Fydenkevez-Cuts done at school in March don’t reflect current gap. Numbers have been fluid and gap is much larger now than in March. Discussion regarding cuts in failed override scenario and motion to be presented at town meeting. Discussion regarding municipal cuts and proportionate budget cuts. Mr. Bergeron-Perception that cuts fall disproportionately on the elementary school. Mr. Bergeron-Overview of budget gap analysis. Discussion regarding budget motions. Ms. Maglione-All sides would have to be in agreement regarding level of cuts from each line if cuts are to be presented in budget option. Mr. Fydenkevez- it’s very difficult to do what’s right for the Town. Concerned that Board of Selectmen and School Committee weren’t together enough in making cuts. Layoffs may have significant impact on town budget in unemployment costs. Discussion regarding possible impact of \$25,000 increase in budget. Discussion regarding line-by-line cuts in motion versus number to be contingent on override. Mr. Bergeron-Process at town meeting should remain in place. Mr. Fydenkevez agreed. Could recreate budget in different format and remove some lines. Discussion regarding importance of maintaining process. Discussion regarding emphasizing impact of cuts more than number reductions. Mr. Fydenkevez-Important to hear residents’ input and concerns. Maybe there has to be discussion and more participation in union contracts. Mr. Zeoli-Finance Committee budget shows same gap as Board of Selectmen. Mr. Veal-Board’s cut list is exactly what residents need to see. Discussion regarding impact of cuts. Mr. Bergeron-need simplified narrative with respect to reductions. Discussion regarding value of trash collection and town services. Mr. Tripp-Should emphasize passage of the override. Mr. Bergeron-agreed, but residents have asked about contingency plan.

- Annual Town Meeting Motions:

Article 2: Discussion regarding elected officials salaries contingent on override. Move to recommend by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0.

Article 3: Motion to recommend by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0. Mr. Bergeron-References to Free Cash will be removed.

Article 15: Overview of capital stabilization establishment and maintenance of capital stabilization fund. Motion to recommend by Mr. Wissemann, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0.

Article 16: Discussion regarding sum to support capital stabilization and override mechanism to get there. Discussion regarding appropriating from stabilization to capital stabilization. Motion to change the sum to \$50,000 by Mr. Wissemann, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Fydenkevez for discussion. Thinks the \$100,000 would be fine. Town has been remiss for many years in not adequately funding capital. Agrees with Mr. Wissemann that it's difficult time to present another override question.

Article 22: Motion by Mr. Wissemann, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0.

- June 1, 2009 Minutes-Motion by Mr. Fydenkevez to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0.
- FY10 Appointments-List attached. Motion by Mr. Wissemann to appoint the list presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0.
- Overview of town meeting/override schedule.
- Congratulations to all recent high school and college graduates.
- Warrant by signature.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Wissemann, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Z. Nartowicz  
Town Administrator