

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES –July 13, 2009

SUNDERLAND TOWN OFFICES

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

Others: Margaret Nartowicz

Behind the Camera: Kevin Gates

- Call to order at 7:04 p.m.
- Mr. Bergeron-Overview of meeting. Absentee ballots for the override are available; overview of absentee voting process. Override is Saturday 10am to 5pm at the Elementary School. 2 ballot questions. Mr. Bergeron-plea to be civil. Mr. Wissemann-Hopes that people are informed before voting. Mr. Bergeron-overview of the Special Town Meeting/budget reduction process if failed override. Discussion regarding impacts of budget cuts. Shana Deane-discussion regarding cuts to elementary school budget. John Sackrey-interested if there are ways to reduce elementary school less and general government more. Discussion regarding impact on tax rate, and the 1993 override and tax rate increase. Ms. Deane-suggests marketing the senior tax exemptions recently passed at town meeting. Discussion regarding historic local tax exemptions. Mr. Sackrey-interested to know Board's individual positions on override. Discussion. Mr. Fydenkevez-would like to have had more participation in dialogue back in January/earlier in the budget process. Discussion regarding commercial and economic development. David Pierce-Town's updated Master Plan is overdue. Needs to be a top-down directive. Discussion regarding importance of participation.
- DCR Heritage Landscape Inventory Application-Thanks to Stuart Beckley for preparing the application. Motion to submit application to DCR by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0.
- Brush Pile-Issues had caused the Board to direct temporary closure of the existing brush pile. Mr. Wissemann-Hazardous waste had been dumped there, and the pile has recently been ground by the contractor. Mr. Fydenkevez-issues have been ongoing for a number of years. Something had to be done. Mr. Bergeron-There had been discussion about moving brush area to Bull Hill Rd. Discussion is now more on modifying current location and issuing stickers to residents. Access gravel road is owned primarily by the Town. Discussion with farmers regarding access to use the fields. Mr. Fydenkevez-Police Dept. is there and it's an easily monitored area. Suggest putting up posts with chain. Discussion regarding using Senior tax work program to staff the area during open hours, and using 2 people at a time to staff it. Mr. Wissemann-Need to address commercial dumping at the area. Something should also be put on the south side of the area to block access. Mr. Bergeron-Direct Highway Dept. to identify location to install poles, including on south side of area. Ms. Nartowicz to contact Brown & Regan regarding farm access to fields. Move forward on fee structure. Mr. Bergeron-suggest possibility of 2-tier fee structure. Mr. Fydenkevez-put signs up for hours it will be open. Discussion regarding dumping at night, etc. Mr. Fydenkevez-Should talk with Water Commissioners about spill containment at Bull Hill Rd. area. Continue discussion on permanent brush disposal system to next meeting. Motion to direct Highway Dept. to temporarily reopen area during Highway Dept. hours by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0.
- Rt. 47 Kiosk Update-Historical Commission and Carolyn Herrick have worked with the FRCOG on revising signage. Mr. Fydenkevez-Motion to submit the revised kiosk information to the FRCOG. Clarify that this is a federal grant funding this scenic turnout; not town funds, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0.
- Senior Center-Want to see Deerfield Board's vote in support of a 3-town initiative. Motion to send correspondence by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0. Mr. Wissemann-Continue to explore Hadley Senior Center. Discussion regarding survey to seniors. Mr. Fydenkevez-Would like to get completed surveys back. Would also like to talk with Leverett, Whately, etc. regarding interest. Pursue possible locations. Historical overview of Senior Center operations. Mr. Fydenkevez-Before mailing survey, talk with Recreation Coordinator about suggestions for survey.

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- Resignations-All letters read by Clerk, Mr. Wissemann. Marion Markwell resignation from Council on Aging. Discussion regarding Ms. Markwell's work on the COA and commitment to Sunderland Seniors. Mr. Fydenkevez-Will support her resignation, but has concerns about participation in survey. Motion to accept with regret by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Part-time Police Officer Michael Romano resignation from SPD. Motion to accept with regret by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Janet Thomas resignation as Highway Clerk. Motion to accept with appreciation for hard work over the years by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0.
- Appropriation Transfers – Overview of payroll formula error. All Board votes contingent on FinCom approval and Accountant Certification. Motion to transfer from Highway OT to Highway Laborer Wages by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Motion to transfer from Highway OT to Highway Secretarial by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Motion to transfer from Ambulance Wages to Full-time Fireman Wages by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Motion to transfer from Town Employee Medical to Medicare by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Motion to transfer from Highway OT to Highway Superintendent Wages by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Motion to transfer from Highway Maintenance Expense to Highway Seasonal by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Motion to transfer from Fire Department Replacement Equipment to Public Safety Complex by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Motion to transfer from Police Department Expense to Public Safety Complex by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Motion to transfer from Fire Department Replacement Equipment to Fire Department Wages by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0.
- State Police/Town Memorandum of Agreement-Discussion regarding State Police dispatch, response and Mutual Aid Agreements. Motion to enter into MOA with Department of State Police by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0.
- Highway Superintendent Search Committee-Charge to review applications, preliminary interviews for qualified applicants. Discussion regarding composition of Search Committee. Mr. Fydenkevez suggests having Russ Cranshaw in place of Charlie Hepburn. Mr. Bergeron willing to serve as Selectmen's designee. Motion to appoint Ann Dorr, Russ Cranshaw, Cindy Hubbard, Paul Korpita and Scott Bergeron to Highway Superintendent Search Committee by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Ms. Nartowicz to develop format to identify qualifications. Board will meet on July 20th, rather than July 27th. Highway Superintendent finalists should go before the Board on August 3rd.
- June 29, 2009 Minutes-Motion to approve by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0.
- Special Municipal Employee Designation-Town Clerk request to appoint Planning Board as Special Municipal Employees. Request read by Clerk, Mr. Wissemann. Motion to appoint members of the Planning Board as Special Municipal Employees by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0.
- Mr. Bergeron-Election on Saturday from 10am – 5pm. Board encourages involvement. Mr. Wissemann-Residents should educate themselves. Important to know what's at stake. Mr. Fydenkevez-Encourage residents to be informed. Please understand what you're voting for. Call Board members, Town Administrator or Finance Committee with questions. School questions should be directed to the School Committee. If a resident has an issue with a particular department, he/she should address their concerns with the Board after discussing them with the department. Ms. Nartowicz to talk with Moderator about posting Finance Committee vacancies.
- Warrants by signature. Correspondence to be signed.
- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0. Adjourned at 9:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Z. Nartowicz
Town Administrator