

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES – August 10, 2009

SUNDERLAND TOWN OFFICES

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

Others: Margaret Nartowicz

Behind the Camera: Tom Zimnowski

- Call to order at 7:06 p.m.
- Public Hearing on Meals and Rooms Taxes-Hearing called to order at 7:06pm. Mr. Bergeron-Overview of local options taxes. Scott Werme and Rose O'Hagan-Surrounding towns' adoption could help Sunderland restaurants gain business. Al Koblinski-Suggest waiting to see what other towns will do. Mr. Fydenkevez-Wary of State's involvement in process (distribution back to cities and towns). Mr. Werme-Concerned that tax will impact servers getting very little per hour. Mr. Wissemann-State sales tax burdens restaurants, then additional local options tax creates added burden. May be worth waiting to see how this plays out with other towns. Mr. Fydenkevez-Don't know if Town needs to jump on this right now. Could review it every quarter to see what other towns are doing. Discussion regarding what constitutes a restaurant. Ron Rodak-Doesn't think the .75% will kill anybody. Mr. Fydenkevez-Hearing that restaurant owners don't necessarily want to be trend setters, but .75% won't kill them. Peter Kulesa-Hasn't heard one customer complain about sales tax increase. No discussion regarding rooms' tax.
- STM Motions -
 - Article 3-Local option meals tax. Motion to recommend Article 3 to be effective October 1, 2009 by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Mr. Fydenkevez-Uncomfortable with tax on one segment of business in town. Vote 0-3.
 - Article 4-Rooms occupancy tax. Motion to recommend at 6%, to be effective October 1, 2009 by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 0-3.
 - Article 5-Senior tax work-off abatement program. Mr. Bergeron gave an overview of Senior Tax Work-Off Abatement Program and chapter acceptance. Liz Foster-Uncomfortable with perception of seniors working for their taxes. Increases liability to the Town. Requires management and additional administrative work. Mr. Fydenkevez-Thinks that with restructuring in Town Hall, departments may need help with tasks. Brush pile may be opportunity. Mr. Sanderson-totally voluntary program. Mr. Koblinski-Good idea. Discussion regarding involvement in the community. Discussion regarding moving effective date. Motion to recommend Article 5 by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0.
 - Article 1-Elected Officials Salaries-Mr. Bergeron-Overview of Article format. Discussion regarding Board of Selectmen reduced salaries and other salary reductions. Motion to recommend by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0.
 - Article 2- FY10 Budget-Discussion regarding development of budget cuts. Discussion regarding motion at town meeting and ability to raise bottom-line budget number-Moderator's jurisdiction. Discussion regarding moving money around within the budget. Paul Korpita-Wants to know if previous Town Clerk salary article needs to be rescinded. Mr. Fydenkevez-Budget presented to town meeting was worked on among town departments to try to cause least interruption to town services. Motion to recommend by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0.
- Highway Superintendent Search Committee-Mr. Bergeron-7 applicants, 5 interviews. Four names to Board of Selectmen. Names read by Mr. Bergeron. Would be comfortable bringing these names forward for 2nd interviews. Cindy Hubbard compiled composites for each of the candidates. Mr. Fydenkevez-Would like to survey the committee to identify a question or two they would like the Board of Selectmen to ask. Board of Selectmen interviews will be public. Discussion regarding qualifications of candidates. Schedule interviews for August 26th and 27th evenings. (2 each)
- FY11 Budget-Mr. Bergeron-Letter to instruct departments to stay within 2.5% growth, keeping in mind what's happened in FY10.
- Brush Pile-Mr. Fydenkevez-Suggest contractor purchase sticker and then pay by load. Residents could do the same for neighbors. Justine Rosewarne-Brush pile is a luxury. Mark Zinan-Doesn't want to see the brush pile go, but if it has to go, it has to go.

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- August 3, 2009 (a.m.) Minutes-Motion to approve by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0.
- August 3, 2009 (p.m.) Minutes-Motion to approve by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0.
- Election Officers-Motion to appoint slate recommended by Town Clerk by Mr. Wissemann, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. See attachment.
- Budget Memo-Memo to Town boards, departments and committees from Board of Selectmen. Read by Clerk, Mr. Wissemann. Mr. Fydenkevez made a motion to sign and send, 2nd by Mr. Wissemann. Vote 3-0.
- Reminders-Mr Bergeron-Special Town Meeting, August 17, 2009 at 7:00pm. Mr. Fydenkevez-Talk to Moderator about use of Stabilization and Town Counsel will be available before STM if he has any questions. Discussion regarding letter to departments, boards and committees. Discussion regarding importance of dialogue in community.
- Warrant by signature

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Wissemann, and 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Z. Nartowicz
Town Administrator