

SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Place: Sunderland Town Offices, 12 School Street

March 4, 2024

Attending: N. Waring, C. Drake-Tremblay, D. Murphy, G. Kravitz

Others: Joshua Sparks-SCEMS Chief, Tim Drumgool-SCEMS Ops Off; Finance Comm: V. Vorheis, L. Forget (remote)

Meeting Hybrid and In-person with portions recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order at 5:15PM

MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to approve 02.12.2024 MINUTES, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

- **SOUTH COUNTY EMS (SoCEMS) BUDGET PRESENTATION:** Chief Sparks reviewed pertinent lines of the budget. Sunderland's FY25 assessment is expected to be: \$281,536 which is a 31% increase for the 24/7 service. Personnel costs include wage increases including 2% COLAs and an additional 2% increase which is a 16.5% increase to personnel salaries. Medical insurance line increased by 50% based on insurance selection for new Chief and a new deputy chief candidate potentially selecting the highest plan as well. More employees are taking insurance than had previously and budgeting increases for highest plan selections as well. A Deputy Chief position will be recruited soon. Operating Budget: Budgets show expansion of mutual support is warranted and can be done without sacrificing dedicated services to our South County towns. Medical supplies increasing from \$33,00 to \$40,000 due to increase in medical supply costs and anticipated increase in call volume. Improved quality of service with introducing new equipment that the service currently does not have is also included. ALS medications are expected to decrease. Training is a new line item and Chief Sparks explained mandated training requirements as well as introducing a different employee compensation structure. Current employees do not participate in a collective bargaining contract. The Board expressed concerns regarding the large increase to the budget. Many line items have increased due to service costs for fuels, equipment, etc. A level services budget has not been submitted to Sunderland yet and this is the first budget presentation for SoCEMS. Mr. Kravitz noted another budget presentation scheduled at 6PM for the Selectboard.
- Selectboard remotely joined the Frontier Regional School Committee Meeting at 6:00PM. Remote attendance for the public is on the Board's agenda as posted on the website and calendar. The board did not take any votes at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS


SELECTBOARD UPDATES

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Next Selectboard meeting March 12 ,2024

ADJOURNMENT: motion to adjourn, second, vote 3-0 Meeting end at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,
Town Administrator