

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2019
Town Office Building

Attending: T. Fydenkevez, D. Pierce, S. Bergeron, S. Patch
Others: Erik D, Trevor McDaniels, Chistina Johnson, S. Paciorek

Meeting called to order at 7:00PM

Mr. Fydenkevez noted the delay the start of the Board's meeting was due to the town Caucus earlier this evening at 6:30PM. The caucus is for individuals interested in running for an elected position where one can be nominated for a position or can obtain papers for from the Town Clerk. The board recommends pursuing the issue at a slower time of year to allow for proper public notification and allow dialogue regarding the matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bergeron read Ellie Kurth's letter regarding changing the name of the Board of Selectmen to Selectboard. The board recognizes some other organizations are addressing this issue. The Town Administrator looked into the process and provided Town Counsel's process for this type of change which was read to the audience by Mr. Bergeron. Mr. Fydenkevez noted he had no opinion.

SOUTH COUNTY SENIOR CENTER BUDGET PRESENTATION

Christina Johnson, new Director presented the Senior Center's FY20 budget. Increases include a two-hour increase to the director's current 34 hours with an eventual goal to make the position full-time, 40-hours. Other personnel are eligible for step increases. There is an increase of building utilities, with program expenses remaining the same with less grant funding available. Sunderland's assessment is \$18,993 which is a 4.6% total increase. Mr. McDaniels took the opportunity to thank Deerfield, Whately and Sunderland for their support of increases over the last year at the SCSC. Gift funds were used in the past to support expenses, etc. and now recognizes a steadier financial stream to the center and to not rely so heavily on grants. This support has allowed for review and better budgeting as well as presentation to show all the allocation of funds. Each town pays a formula portion of the budget. Staff is paid at Deerfield's compensation step plan. Sunderland and Whately's portion is 25% of budget. The formula does not account for "under spent or indirect costs" which was appropriated but not utilized and reverts to free cash to the Town of Deerfield. Mr. McDaniels is exploring a different way to budget. Mr. Fydenkevez said this was an opportunity for Christina to talk about all the center offers, such as what is entailed in the SCSC newsletter. The BoO has asked for information on how the center is changing and how to entice more participants and demonstrate where the funds are being spent. It was recognized all the good things the center is doing and feels they do not get enough recognition. Many organizations have helped to make the SCSC a better place but does not get the press recognition for the community efforts. Mrs. Paciorek noted the private schools have asked how they can help the community and will include more for the center in the future. She also noted that Christine was doing a great job and was very inclusive with her monthly meetings with attendees and staff. Efforts are being made to increase membership, but transportation is an issue for Sunderland and Whately residents which contributes to the lack of attendance. The Board noted exploration of the transportation issue is being revisited.

MINUTES

Motion Mr. Pierce to accept Minutes of 02/25/2019, Second Mr. Fydenkevez Vote 3-0.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES

Mr. Bergeron offered:

- Frontier negotiations are ongoing and hope for resolution.

Mr. Pierce noted

- Ditch Committee kick-off meeting was held. Next meeting is on Wednesday.
- Personnel Committee reviewed the Compensation report and consultant was correcting some baseline data. This will be continued at the next meeting 03.12.2019.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- Recommendation to award the Municipal Lawn Mowing Contract to the lowest bidder GBR Landscaping for 3-year total for the town: \$29,544 and \$7,100 for the Riverside Cemetery; for a combined total of 36,644 over the 3-year term with the town's option for contract renewal years 2 and 3. Motion Mr. Pierce to accept GBR Landscaping for the Municipal Lawn Mowing Contract, second Mr. Bergeron, Vote 3-0.

FY20 Budget review will be at the next meeting.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER RESIGNATION

Accept the resignation of the Building Commissioner, Joe Fydenkevez effective April 1st. Motion Mr. Pierce, Second Mr. Bergeron with regrets, Vote 3-0.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT OPEN

It was announced the opening of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant is open for warrant articles with a deadline of March 15, 2019. Selectmen to sign the ATM Warrant April 8th; last day to mail notice to residents is April 17th; warrant to be posted by April 18th; Meeting with Finance Committee to review warrant articles is April 22nd and last day to register to vote is April 6th for ATM and Town Election.

DITCH COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Motion Mr. Bergeron to appoint Mark Benjamin to the Ditch Committee, Second Mr. Pierce, Vote 3-0.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Meeting to re-convene to open session only to adjourn regular meeting.

Mr. Fydenkevez will entertain a Motion to enter into Executive session pursuant to MGL c30A, §21 (a) (3). Motion Mr. Pierce, Second Mr. Bergeron to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Bergeron, aye, Mr. Pierce, aye, Mr. Fydenkevez, aye, Vote 3-0 to meet in the Selectmen's Office for Executive Session. Recess at 7:55PM, Second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 2-0.

Entered into Regular Session to adjourn at 8:55 PM. Motion Mr. Pierce to adjourn the meeting, second Mr. Bergeron. Voted: 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherry Patch
Town Administrator