

Selectmen's Meeting

Monday, March 19, 2018

Town Office Building

Attending: D. Pierce, S. Bergeron, T. Fydenkevez,

Other's Present: R. Duby, Finance Committee: S. Randall, E. Crowe, D. Murphy; North Sunderland Cemetery Trustees: Ken Kushi, Wayne Fisher, Tim McCory

Absent: S. Patch

Meeting called to order at 6:35PM.

#### HEALTH CARE INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEES

Mr. Bergeron spoke on the timeline with current health insurance provider and alternate insurance options Ms. Patch has been exploring. HCT (Hampshire County Trust) rates are rising quite high, which prompted the town to explore other opportunities. HCT has had larger rate increases but has been contributed from their reserve funds to keep rates to a level they believe are more reasonable. HCT and MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association) both made presentations to the Board and/or the Finance Management Team at prior meetings. HCT is the Town's employee health insurance. MIIA provides the town's liability, automobile, property and worker's compensation insurances coverages. The town currently contributes 55% of the town match for employees, which is the lowest in the district. The intent is to save on insurance costs, offer the same insurance plan coverage and increase the town's portion to 60%. The town's current contributions is not affordable and we have received penalty notifications as such. Motion Mr. Fydenkevez to change insurance carriers, Second Mr. Bergeron for discussion. Mr. Pierce called for a vote - all in favor of transfer of insurance coverage to MIIA, Vote 3-0.

#### TOWN INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION

Motion Mr. Fydenkevez to increase the town's contribution insurance rate from 55% to 60%, Second Mr. Bergeron for discussion. Mr. Pierce called for a vote - all in favor of increasing the town's insurance contribution rate to 60%, Vote 3-0. Notification to the unions and inform the committee as noted by town counsel.

Mr. Bergeron noted the absence of the Town Administrator this evening as she is working at a homeless kitchen this evening as a representative of the town. The board noted to thank Ms. Patch for her very important work with this activity which was scheduled some weeks ago.

#### FY19 BUDGET REVIEW

It was noted the Warrant closes on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at noon. Any articles should be submitted to the Town Clerk or our office by then to be considered for the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Bergeron asked the Finance Committee if they would like to still discuss the budget talking points even though they did not have a quorum. Different budget totals were discussed. Free cash totals have not been received to date. Mr. Duby asked the Board if the funding options for the budget are 1) fund from reserves, 2) cut the budget by over \$200,000+ or, 3) ask for a 2 ½ override.

Motion Mr. Fydenkevez to accept the Minutes of March 12, 2018, Second Mr. Bergeron, Vote 3-0.

Members of the North Sunderland Cemetery came before the board as they are interested in having the veterans graves care at the Cemetery funded by the Town. The budget was cut after a failed override some years ago. They are asking the town to reinstate \$500 for care of the veteran's graves; 32 Veterans are buried in the cemetery. Mr. Bergeron noted the matter is a draft warrant article for \$500. This would be a vote of town meeting, not a budget item.

Mr. Fisher offered in light of our birthday events this year the use of their activities van from Leyden for 300<sup>th</sup> events shuttling if needed.

#### BOARD UPDATES

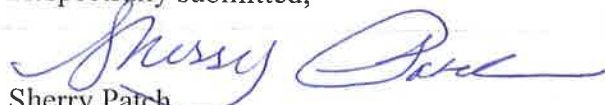
- 120 North Main Street Committee meeting tomorrow night.
- Sunderland Elementary School Committee Budget Hearing tomorrow night.
- Capital Planning Committee will also be meeting tomorrow night in the Town Offices.

2018 BALLOT QUESTIONS – hold until next meeting for Town Administrator's presence.

Mr. Fydenkevez mentioned the 29th Annual Basketball Tournament sponsored by Youth Baseball this past weekend. He noted the volunteerism that is put in for the tournament and the "community" of the four towns together to make this event work. Games are held in Whately, Deerfield and Sunderland. He wanted to thank everyone who participated.

Motion Mr. Fydenkevez to adjourn, Second Mr. Bergeron for discussion who then read a quote, Mr. Pierce adjourned at 8:26PM with a Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sherry Patch", written over the printed name.

Sherry Patch  
Town Administrator