

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, August 20, 2018
Sunderland Town Office Building

Attending: T. Fydenkevez, S. Bergeron, D. Pierce, S. Patch
Others: A. Falbel, C. Ryan, L. Williams, S. Snyder, L. Starr, W. Sillin, E. Demetroupoulos, G. Powsner

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM.

Opening Remarks

Chairman Fydenkevez encouraged residents to go the polls on September 4th to vote in the State Primary. Absentee ballot applications are available from the Town Clerk.

Riverside Park Design Approval Signage and Park Donation Policy

Community Pathways Chairman Sara Snyder gave an update on the Sunderland Riverside Park Project. Ms. Snyder advised that the Mass Historical Commission granted a waiver from the architectural dig requirement for the project. Bid documents are currently being prepared. Construction will probably take place April 15-May 15. All permits and funding for the project are in place. The project must be complete by June 15, 2019. Ms. Snyder advised the board that Sunderland resident Brent Hale has donated his time to design signs for the project and that she is seeking board approval of the design. Motion: Mr. Bergeron to approve the design as presented. Second: Mr. Pierce. Voted 3-0. Motion: Mr. Bergeron to adopt the Park Donation Policy as recommended by Town Counsel. Second: Mr. Pierce. Voted 3-0.

Aggregation Services Agreement

Chairman Fydenkevez asked if anyone would like to comment on Aggregation. Mr. Silin stated that he ok with the idea of aggregation. His problem is the lack of an opt-in option that people are defaulted into the program without consent. A resident commented that she has wanted to participate in aggregation, but felt she did not have enough knowledge to properly assess the available programs. She is glad that the town is looking into aggregation. Energy Committee member Aaron Falbel, stated that residents have to accept the vendors that Eversource selects now, so there is no difference. Eversource does not ask permission. Mr. Falbel stated that information is needed for the bid process so opting-in is not feasible. The current rate for opting out of the program is 5%-7%. Mr. Powsner stated that he supports the opt-out proposal. Mr. Powsner said a lot of town services are opt-out. You can choose to participate or not by going to committee meetings or town meeting to vote. Town Meeting empowers the board to carry out decisions that are made. Lorin Starr asked if people who have already opted-out, will be automatically enrolled in the program. Mr. Fydenkevez advised that they will not. Mr. Bergeron discussed the flow chart provided by Town Counsel that describes the process for electricity aggregation. Mr. Bergeron advised that the town is still in the exploratory stage and that nothing has been developed or presented back to the citizens for approval. Mr. Bergeron stated that it is important to bear in mind that the town is in the process of contracting a consultant to develop a plan to be present to the town. The board was tasked by Town Meeting to explore; the board is not obligated at this point. Motion: Mr. Bergeron to enter into an agreement with Colonial

Power for development of a program for electrical aggregation. Second: Mr. Pierce. Voted: 3-0.

Part-Time Police Office Appointments

Chief Demetropoulos introduced part-time officer applicants Dale Brown, Robert Carkhuff and Benjamin Drake. Chief Demetropoulos stated that seven applicants were interviewed. After completion of the interviews, he is recommending that Matthew Morin, Dale Brown, Robert Carkhuff and Benjamin Drake be appointed as part-time police officers. Motion: Mr. Bergeron to appoint as recommended. Second: Mr. Pierce. Voted: 3-0.

Selectmen Updates

Mr. Pierce attended Public Forum last week regarding grant application for School Street design and ADA improvements. Residents attended expressed concerns regarding speeding traffic and an increase in people hanging out. A dusk-to-dawn policy was discussed to help alleviate the problem. The Town Administrator will contact Fish and Wild to discuss installation of signage. The board requested that the Police Department increase patrols on School as well. Mr. Pierce also advised that he attended the Planning Board meeting last week where zoning for marijuana was discussed. A public hearing on proposed revisions to the Zoning Bylaws will be held next month. Mr. Bergeron advised they are waiting for feedback from Boston Complete Street folks on the North Main Street Reconstruction design proposal.

Town Administrator Updates

Ms. Patch provided an update on the LED Streetlight Conversion project. Seven bids were received for fixtures. The IT Health check will be conducted tomorrow. Initial research provided by the Assessors' office revealed that there are no sewer easements to the town for the properties on Bridge Street and School Street. Long term maintenance can be addressed in the Capital Grant application to include a manhole as recommended by Rich Brynda, WWTP Project Manager.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Bergeron to approve the minutes of the meeting dated 8/ 6/18 as presented.
Second: Mr. Pierce. Voted: 3-0.

Closing Remarks

Reminder State Primary September 4th.

Motion: Mr. Pierce to adjourn. Second: Mr. Bergeron. Voted: 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Sherry Patch
Town Administrator