

SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Place: Town Offices, 12 School Street

July 11, 2022

Attending: T. Fydenkevez, C. Drake-Tremblay, N. Waring, Geoff Kravitz

Others: B. Bennett-Board of Health Chair; C. Bennett-Admin Assistant

Meeting: Hybrid: no recording by FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:32PM

MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept MINUTES of 06.27.2022, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

- WWTP SEPAGE RATE HEARING: Rate increase information was previously presented to Selectboard at their 6.13.2022 meeting by WWTP Operations Manager-Rich Brynda. It was recommended to increase fees to a flat rate of .12¢/gallon for all loads. The increase is due to fuel costs and higher costs for trucking sludge for processing due to fewer places accepting the product.
- 6:35PM Mr. Fydenkevez OPENED the WWTP SEPTAGE RATE PUBLIC HEARING. Mr. Kravitz read the legal posting notice placed in the Greenfield Recorder 07.01.2022. Mr. Fydenkevez asked if there were any comments regarding the proposed WWTP rate change. There were no additional comments. Mr. Fydenkevez entertained a motion to accept rates as recommended. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept recommended WWTP Septage Rate of 12¢/gallon for all load sizes, Mr. Waring-aye, Ms. Drake-Tremblay-aye, Mr. Fydenkevez-aye, vote 3-0. Mr. Waring motion to close the public hearing, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, Vote 3-0 hearing closed at 6:38PM.
- SEPTIC RATE HEARING PROCEDURE proposed by Mr. Kravitz for board review. Proposed procedure was used as a template for prior hearing. Mr. Kravitz obtained information from Town Counsel's guidance for hearings. Mr. Fydenkevez requested to hold on acceptance until next meeting for clarification of some information.
- WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE FOR COVID opportunity being proposed by the state. Costs to towns has not been stated so it is believed there would be no cost at this time. Chair of the Board of Health B. Bennett stated from a Board of Health point of view, it would be important to keep track of future communicable diseases as trends can be realized 2-3 weeks ahead of time. Mr. Bennett asked if North 116 Flatts could be included even though they have their own wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Fydenkevez would like to know where testing would take place, i.e., only at the WWTP, or could other areas be included such as different complexes or streets to be able to isolate for certain areas. Mr. Kravitz was asked to pursue confirmation if there was no cost to the town or if minimal fees are planned in the future. State may just be looking for town interest in western mass as the program was already implemented in the eastern part of the state. UMASS was also able to do this type of testing early on during COVID as well. Mr. Bennett also announced the Board of Health was part of the PUBLIC HEALTH EXCELLENCE GRANT along with Deerfield, Shutesbury and Montague. This grant will allow the smaller towns to have a shared Public Health Nurse and backup services for inspectors. He also noted through another collaborative, an Epidemiologist was now on board. These collaboratives will allow more programs offered to our communities by the State. Mr. Bennett will report to the board as things proceed with grant awards, etc.
- SELECTBOARD UPDATES:
 - Ms. Drake-Tremblay has no report. Mr. Waring has no report. Mr. Fydenkevez noted an upcoming SOUTH COUNTY SENIOR CENTER (SCSC) meeting on Thursday. SOUTH COUNTY EMS (SCEMS) meeting last week. Service numbers are increasing, which is good as folks are using the service as intended. Mr. Fydenkevez encourages the community to not hesitate in calling an

ambulance for fear of costs. Emergency attention is important and costs should not deter use of the service. Reminder SANDERSON PLACE 1ST ROUND PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY DRAWING IS JULY 20th at 10AM. The selectboard has been asked to participate in the drawing.

- TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

- Summer Schedule has been updated to reflect the change in meeting dates to include tonight and will be adjusted accordingly through Labor Day. Other meetings may be posted as needed.
- Inspectors from the state for the RIVERSIDE PARK PROGRAM GRANT received for the KAYAK KIOSK. Manager of the program was able to attend this time and was pleased with the facility.
- Plans to request a DLS AUDIT REVIEW of our financial office. This has been done before with no cost to the town. The audit would review procedures etc., and assist with review and implementation of policies, personnel recommendations and other related departmental functions.

- Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 at 7:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,
Town Administrator