

SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES and FINANCE COMMITTEE

January 18, 2022

Attending: T. Fydenkevez, D. Pierce, C. Drake-Tremblay, G. Kravitz

Others present: Finance Committee: S. Smiarowski, L. Forget, J. Elias; J. Corwin, P. Gagarin, C. Bennett; Police Chief E. Demetropoulos, Fire Chief S. Benjamin; Gracious Greens: P. D'Agostino, S. Van Ostrad, Kyle, C. Wax

Meeting: Hybrid: in person and remote, recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order with a quorum by Finance Committee Chair S. Smiarowski, at 6:34PM

Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chair Mr. Fydenkevez at 6:35PM

MINUTES Mr. Pierce motion to accept MINUTES of JANUARY 10, 2022, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

BUDGET PRESENTATION-POLICE DEPT. (PD). Chief Demetropoulos gave overview of budget highlights. He is requesting an additional Full-time officer position which would reduce Part-time Officer hours. Chief noted it is the 3rd year he has requested an additional full-time officer position which is justified by call volume and consistency for the department. Department has good part-time officers and wants to retain those; however, many part-timers move onto other towns offering full-time appointments. This will likely increase with the new police reform requirements. Overall budget increase is 10.75% which is primarily personnel costs but does include cruiser maintenance, fuel increases and miscellaneous officer/department operating costs. PD. CAPITAL REQUESTS includes an SUV hybrid cruiser replacement for the 2012 Chevy Tahoe. A hybrid would reduce maintenance and fuels costs while the cost of the vehicle is not much different than a traditional vehicle. PD requested, but did not receive, a cruiser replacement last year due to the radio replacement project. AED and DEBRILLATOR units request totaling \$16,000 for replacements with both PD (4 units) and Fire Dept. (FD (3 units). Current models are old and not fixable, including battery replacement. VEHICLE REPEATERS (5 units) at \$62,000. Cost reduced from \$74,400 due the purchase of an additional repeater from savings realized from the radio replacement project last year.

7:12PM Finance Committee member J. Elias left meeting, via message in Chat.

BUDGET PRESENTATION-FIRE DEPT. Chief Benjamin noted increases for the following 1) PSC maintenance, including painting, general maintenance, and exterior items; 2) TOWN PARK request of \$100 for TOWN PARK to supplement fund raising by the Vol. Fireman's Assoc. who have other priorities, and 3) FIRE DEPT reflects an increase due to inflation for general expenses. CAPITAL REQUESTS includes remainder of BACKUP GENERATOR CONNECTION; HVAC IMPROVEMENTS to the public safety complex; and EXHAUST REMOVAL SYSTEM for GARAGE BAY needed for each bay.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS COMPLETED, FINANCE COMMITTEE ADJOURNED per S. Smiarowski when a member left meeting at 7:12PM and there was no longer a quorum present.

GRACIOUS GREENS: Town Admin and Mr. Fydenkevez had a productive meeting regarding the Host Agreement. Does the Board have more questions or ready to approve agreement which then the next step would be to forward to Boston. Mr. Fydenkevez noted to Board members that Gracious Greens charitable contribution suggestion of \$5,000 be made to an organization for those in drug/alcohol dependency recovery. An organization to be named at a later date. Mr. D'Agostino agreed the meeting was successful and would welcome the board vote to move forward. A traffic study will be done by Gracious Greens as requested by the town. Selectboard acceptance at this time implies project complies with Zoning and the Board is in support of the Host Agreement.

- Mr. D'Agostino noted three documents go to the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC):

- 1) Attestation by company, 2) Attestation to enter agreement which gets signed by all parties involved, and 3) municipal response from the CCC. The Municipal response is only signed by the town.
- Town Administrator recommendation to the Board is to approve Community Host Agreement. Mr. Pierce motion to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attestation, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, Vote 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- SELECTBOARD UPDATES:
 - HOUSING PLAN VOTE – Planning Board voted to accept, Selectboard will address at next meeting.
 - Mr. Pierce and Ms. Drake-Tremblay report no meetings this week.
 - Mr. Fydenkevez noted that UMASS students would be returning to campus Jan. 23-25. Prediction of increased COVID-19 cases due to the population increase. Remind everyone to stay vigilant. Sunderland residents can go to UMASS for testing for those who are asymptomatic. Town Administrator also noted each household is entitled to 4 test kits and insurance will cover expenses with submission of receipt and proper documentation.
- TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:
 - COMMUNITY SERVICE REMINDER – For everyone's safety, residents are asked to secure items such as garbage cans, chairs, and other loose items due to the high wind conditions which are expected to continue into the upcoming week.
 - Community Preservation grant applications are due this Friday.
- Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 24, 2022, 6:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn at 8:30PM, Mr. Pierce second, vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,
Town Administrator