

## SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

January 24, 2022 Sunderland Town Offices

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

Others present: K. McFarland; J. Kowaleck, D. Zagorski; H. Davis, W. Houle; Finance Committee: S. Smiarowski, L. Forget, J. Elias. Joined meeting while in progress: B. Bennett-Board of Health; C. Bennett, D. Pruyne-the Reminder

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

Meeting called to order with a quorum by Finance Committee Chair S. Smiarowski, at 6:35PM

Meeting called to order at 6:36PM.

### MINUTES

- Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept minutes of 01/18/2022, Mr. Pierce second, vote 3-0.

### BUSINESS

#### Town Office Dept. Budget Presentations

- COLLECTOR/TREASURER: All Real Estate and Water District Tax Bills were mailed at the end of December. Review of financials: School, Public Safety and Library loans are paid off. Outstanding obligations include Fire Truck, Riverside Park borrowing and 120 N Main St. The Health Insurance line includes an increase representing higher premium costs and 2-3 plans added for potential new member in the fiscal year. Town currently provides health insurance through MIIA. Mr. Fydenkevez requested other plans such as Hampshire Collaborative and GIC be investigated to be sure costs/coverage remain affordable. Town currently pays 60% of premiums. Ms. Davis will also review big increase in the retirement assessment this year.
- TOWN CLERK joined via Zoom: An increase to the budget is submitted due to upcoming primary and state election. An additional increase is shown for the Town Census however, funds are just being moved from another account. A mailing service was used for distribution this year which was less expensive than doing in house. Additional cost of postage of \$2,000 for census is included in Town Clerk budget and removed the town postage line item which is managed by the Collector/Treasurer. Town Clerk salary does not yet reflect the town's personnel committee COLA recommendation.
- BOARD OF HEALTH BUDGET PRESENTATION: B. Bennett joined via Zoom to discuss submission. Level funding for clerk and expenses budget lines. New budget item is a stipend for elected Board of Health members totaling \$3,900/year: \$1,500 for Chair and \$1,200 for each of the two members. Mr. Bennett explained that the duties and responsibilities have changed and expanded, particularly during COVID and will continue in the future for this board and request a compensation for the elected members be put forward on the ATM warrant.

### OLD BUSINESS

- SELECTBOARD UPDATES:
  - Mr. Fydenkevez noted a SENIOR SURVEY was mailed to senior residents and is also available online. Eligible residents are strongly encouraged to participate. The definition of a "senior" for this program includes individuals over 50 years of age. Mr. Fydenkevez also has FRCOG meeting to review their budget his week.
  - Mr. Pierce has a Capital Planning Committee tomorrow night.
  - Ms. Drake-Tremblay attended Personnel Committee meeting tonight before the Board's meeting and another is scheduled for next Monday.
- TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:
  - The OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN that was submitted to the state was accepted as a conditional approval. Nine areas needed strengthening and suggested the town reapply for DLTA funds again next period.

- HOUSING PLAN: Planning Board approved at their last meeting. Mr. Pierce motion to accept Housing Plan, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, vote 3-0. Mr. Fydenkevez noted it is a plan, not a law. Any zoning changes need to be voted at Town Meeting.
- ARPA: Town's award was \$1,084,000; town has received half of the funds and remainder will be disbursed in Spring 2022 and funds must be incurred by 12/31/2024. Need to define use of ARPA funds: especially need vs. ongoing or operational items. Selectboard spoke previously of prioritizing for public safety and schools. Comments have been received by the departments, Capital Planning Committee (CPC) as well as the community. Items considered for Public Safety and Schools totaled approximately 90% of available funds. Another use of funds includes RAPID RECOVERY PLAN Mobility Study which was recommended to the Village Center Committee by the planning consultants. Mr. Fydenkevez requests submission of a manageable list of proposed including information related to need, history of item, longevity expectation, potential maintenance costs, etc. with costs of the projects as demonstrated by a recent quote. It may be more feasible to address funding of some items from other funding sources or loans vs. ARPA funds. CPC meets tomorrow night. No expenditure votes will be considered at this time until a detailed proposed list of projects is submitted to the Selectboard and Finance Committee for their next meeting.

- Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2022, 6:30PM.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn at 8:01PM, second Mr. Pierce, vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,  
Town Administrator