

Sunderland Selectboard
Monday, September 13, 2021

Attending: T. Fydenkevez, C. Drake-Tremblay, G. Kravitz
Absent: D. Pierce
Others present: B. Barshefsky, J. Corwin, V. Ireton, P. Gagarin
Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.
Meeting called to order at 6:37PM.

MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to approve the minutes of August 30, 2021, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 2-0.

BUSINESS

SCHOOLS UPDATE: Principal Barshefsky stated that the elementary school is fully in-person this fall and is off to a smooth start. The school has adopted a "test instead" policy which allows symptomatic people to get tested for COVID rather than quarantine. Students have returned to the cafeteria, though more spread out, for meals. Mr. Gagarin noted that the first school committee meeting of the school year was happening next week. Mr. Fydenkevez stated that while the Selectboard considered remote meetings, however, if students can be learning in person with social distancing and masks, the Selectboard can meet in-person as well. The town is working on grants and ARPA funds to support town and school operations. Principal Barshefsky noted that the school and town are putting together two applications for ADA project grants to support the early childhood education playground: \$52,000 for the safety surface and \$65,000 for playground structures. Ms. Corwin asked about \$100,000 put in the capital budget for Sunderland parks and playgrounds. The Town Administrator responded that the funds have not yet received, so the town is being cautious about use of the funds until it is in the bank. The funds would support both the early education playground and Riverside Park improvements.

FY21 DEFICIT COVERAGE: The Finance Committee reviewed and voted to approve the recommended deficit coverage amounts and accounts. Occasionally, at the end of the fiscal year, some accounts are in deficit and some have a surplus. Governor Baker's Municipal Modernization Act allowed deficit coverage action without Town Meeting approval. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to approve the deficit coverage plan as presented, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 2-0.

MARIJUANA HOST COMMUNITY AGREEMENT TEMPLATE & PROCESS: Mr. Fydenkevez stated that there is some activity indicating there might be a proposal for a marijuana retailer in Sunderland in the near future. Ms. Drake-Tremblay agreed that a flexible process that can be amended as needed would be preferred and to look at what other communities are doing.

ARPA FUNDS: The Town Administrator spoke with Department Heads about use of ARPA funds. The idea of an advisory committee was raised. Mr. Fydenkevez suggested creating a prioritized list first, that can then be reviewed.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay stated that the Personnel Committee met earlier that evening to discuss benefits for library employees, parental leave, and COLA for FY23. They will meet again in a few weeks to continue the discussion. Mr. Fydenkevez provided an update about the South County Senior Center Board of Oversight meeting. The current senior center has environmental concerns, including mold and asbestos. To go meals, some classes and the foot doctor are still happening with the use of the tent. Deerfield owns the church next door and is looking at renovating it as a temporary location for the senior center this winter. Some classes may move to Fellowship Hall and the First Congregational Church of Sunderland in the short-term, or possibly in Whately. The Senior Center Director position has been advertised in newspapers and indeed. Six candidates have applied so far. The South County EMS Board of Oversight is meeting on Thursday. There is a flu clinic for seniors planned at the Senior Center on September 30.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

The reconstruction of North Main Street continues. Most of the sidewalks have been paved. All work around the Buttonball Tree has been completed. The contractors still need to put a surface coat of pavement on the road. The town received official notice that it has been part of the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District since July, with weekly testing. The Board of Health will receive an end-of-year report, but no arbovirus cases have been detected. October 1 is the deadline for real estate, water, and personal property taxes, as well as applications for Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B programs. There will be a Hazardous Waste Collection day at Greenfield Community College and the Orange Transfer Station on September 25. Pre-registration deadline is September 17.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Gagarin stated that the reconstructed intersection of School and North Main Streets seemed very narrow. The intersection was narrowed intentionally to improve the pedestrian crossing and slow traffic. The Town Administrator will double check to make sure that it was constructed as designed.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn at 7:42 PM, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Kravitz', written over a horizontal line.

Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator