

SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Sunderland Town Office Building

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

Others present: Caitlyn Rock-Board of Health Chair, Peter Gagarin-School Committee member, George Eemrry-Highway Superintendent, J. Pelletier, D. Pruyne

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

Meeting called to order at 6:31PM.

MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay Motion to approve the MINUTES of October 18, 2021, Mr. Pierce second, Vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

- **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE:** Completed activities include Old Amherst Road repaved, basins repaired on Silver Lane and Rt. 47. Complete Streets project finishing will continue to be followed until completed. Preparing vehicles & equipment for winter. Highway Superintendent spoke of winter issues related to one of the roads to CRANBERRY POND. Since road is seasonal, Mr. Emery requested consideration of closing one end of the road with a barrier. In prior years, that section is posted but cars access road anyway and get stuck, requiring Highway, Police or Fire assistance for removal. There are no residences or businesses in the area. Cranberry Pond would still be accessible from the west side however parking remains an issue. FRCOG Transportation Planners have no concerns with seasonal closure, however, noted emergency efforts should be coordinated. Selectboard had no issues with road closed and support a cable or other structure closing road with key access afforded to emergency services. However, UMASS should be contacted. It is recognized that the roadway gets icy and will still need sanding in the winter.
- **WINTER ROAD CLOSURE LIST** effective November 1, 2021 thru April 1, 2022. List has not changed from previous years. Clerk read list of closures. Mr. Pierce motion to accept WINTER ROAD CLOSURE LIST as presented, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, Vote 3-0. List will be posted on town website.
- **COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT:** The Board noted the new radar sign installed on Rt 47 and requested NEW SPEED LIMIT SIGNS be installed as was previously there. LOW MANHOLE STRUCTURES are a concern on North Main St. Height differences vary from 3/4" to 1-1/4". MASSDOT reviewing, however fixing the various differences would disrupt the integrity of the road. Warner Bros, who did the paving are also looking into a remedy, however matching driveway, road surface and manholes varied and was difficult to pave. Loam discrepancies need to be addressed and Highway will inquire when catch basins will be vacuumed properly.
- **BOARD OF HEALTH:** Chair Caitlyn Rock appeared to announce that at their meeting tonight, the Board of Health voted to lift the mask mandate effective immediately, but unvaccinated individuals were still required to wear masks in public buildings. Individual businesses could require masks and the Sunderland Elementary School Mask Policy had not changed and was under the guidance of the School Committee at this time as school-aged children remain unvaccinated. Mr. Gagarin of the School Committee attended the Board of Health meeting as well. The Board will continue to monitor the numbers and will revisit policy changes as warranted. If the community has any questions or concerns, they are encouraged to email the Board of Health at boardofhealth@townofsunderland.us or the Selectboard's email at selectmen@townofsunderland.us.
- Request Selectboard appoint EMMIE MARTIN as ANIMAL INSPECTOR as approved per our nomination to the MDAR. Mr. Pierce motion to appoint Emmie Martin as Animal Inspector, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, Vote 3-0. Appointment period is through April 30, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

- **SELECTBOARD UPDATES:**

- Mr. Pierce attended the 1st UNION 38 NEGOTIATIONS meeting this week.
- Ms. Drake-Tremblay had no report.
- Mr. Fydenkevez noted that finalization of the NORTH MAIN STREET project will remain on the agenda with updates until all matters have been resolved.
- State Rep. Natalie Blais organized a Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development Joint Committee field trip which was held at Mike's Maze.

- **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**

- FY23 BUDGET MEMO and corresponding forms will be distributed this week to Departments, Boards and Committees. Budgets requests are expected to increase for level services and programs due to inflation costs. FY23 Capital Requests are due first Friday in December, due to town bylaw which is 12/3/2021. FY23 Budgets submissions are due 01/10/2022.
- ARPA Priorities: Town Administrator will prepare prioritized spreadsheet for the Selectboard to review. Due to extensive reporting requirement expectations, towns are advised to select one-two projects and consider hiring an ARPA grant administrator for reporting.
- MIIA ANNUAL RISK MITIGATION GRANT opportunities. The Highway Dept. applied for much needed safety gear which included a flammable proof fire safety cabinet, manhole lift, measuring sticks, to name a few.
- GRACIOUS GREENS, LLC has scheduled a Community Outreach Meeting for 11/17/2021. Notices are being posted accordingly, including the town website. Other outreach requirements include notification to abutters and newspaper announcement. Mr. Fydenkevez volunteered to work with representatives on the Host Community Agreement.
- Per Board of Assessors, the TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING will be delayed due to additional time required for review by DOR since the town just performed revaluations of all town properties.

- Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2021, at 6:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Drake-Tremblay Motion to adjourn at 7:28PM, Mr. Pierce second, Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,
Town Administrator