

## SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

December 20, 2021

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

Others present: D. Zagorski-Assessors Assistant, J. Corwin-School Committee member

Meeting: Hybrid, recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:35PM

### BUSINESS

**TAX CLASSIFICATION:** Hearing previously held 2 weeks ago. Since that meeting, it was discovered that the North 116 Flatts apartment complex on Amherst Road was not added to the LA13 which drastically effected the levy capacity. DOR said it would expedite the matter however they required a tax classification hearing again to address this. This resulted in \$16 million in new growth. Assessors still recommend a single tax rate. The tax rate for FY22 is \$14.70. Mr. Pierce motion to accept the single payer tax rate, Ms. Drake-Tremblay, second, Vote 3-0. Mr. Zagorski noted the single payer tax rate also include the following: no residential exemption, no open space discount and, no small commercial exemption.

Ms. Corwin appeared before the Board after a phone conversation with Mr. Fydenkevez and Mr. Kravitz to request appointment of ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS as SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES. Ms. Corwin expressed concern with Omicron variant reaching Franklin County and effecting several staff members and the need to quarantine 10 days. This would create a shortage of substitute teachers. DESE is not allowing remote pivots, so only option would be to close our schools and make up the days in the spring. Her proposal would allow the school to stay open. Ms. Corwin noted she could arrange her schedule to provide some substitute teaching hours, however because she is a School Committee member, it creates a conflict of interest. Ms. Corwin is asking the Board to hold two (2) votes, first to name School Committee members as Special Municipal Employees. Second vote would be to approve form 20D exemption for Ms. Corwin. The School Committee members do not receive any compensation. Mr. Fydenkevez noted population for Special Municipal Employees is 3,500, when it is exceeded, the Selectboard can make the exemption.

- Mr. Fydenkevez would like to entertain a MOTION TO NAME THE MEMBERS OF THE SUNDERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE AS SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion, Mr. Pierce second; by rollcall: Mr. Pierce: aye, Ms. Drake-Tremblay: aye, Mr. Fydenkevez: aye; Mr. Kravitz advised to record as a 3-0 vote. Second action was to accept JESSICA CORWIN'S 20D EXEMPTION which allows her to fill in as a substitute teacher, if necessary. She would follow procedures as outlined by the principal and superintendent.
- Mr. Fydenkevez requested motion to entertain MS. CORWIN'S 20D EXEMPTION REQUEST; Mr. Pierce motion, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second; by rollcall: Mr. Pierce: aye, Ms. Drake-Tremblay: aye, Mr. Fydenkevez: aye; Mr. Kravitz advised to record as a 3-0 vote.

NEXT SELECTBOARD MEETING is scheduled for January 3, 2022, 6:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn, Mr. Pierce second, vote 3-0 at 6:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,  
Town Administrator