

SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

March 21, 2022

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

Others present: M. Mastrogiovanni, J. Remillard, J. Corwin, P. Gagarin, K. McFarland, V. Palmer, C. Bennett, K. Snow, B. Tozloski, J. Skibiski, Finance Committee: S. Smiarowski, J. Elias, L. Forget

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

Meeting called to order at 6:35PM

MINUTES

Accept Minutes of March 14, 2022, Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion, Mr. Pierce second, 3-0.

BUSINESS

- 1-Day Alcohol License applicant Maura Mastrogiovanni appeared via zoom requesting wine/malt license for a small private event at the Town Park May 21, 2022. Building Commissioner, Fire Chief, Police Chief and Health Agent have expressed no concerns with the application. LLA vote: Mr. Pierce motion, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, Vote 3-0.
- SUGARLOAF GARDENS – New Business introduction. Kyle Snow, of Snow and Sons regarding opening business at 25 Amherst Road. Shrubs, trees, perennials, bagged and bulk items to be offered this year. Plan to expand offerings next year to include annual flowers, etc. Hope to expand and improve other areas of property in the future which are not being used this year. State has cleared staging area on the property that was being used for the N. Main St and Amherst Rd sidewalk projects. Mr. Fydenkevez noted Snow and Sons has a very good reputation in the area and welcome them to town. They plan to offer a soft open late March or early April to offer hours 7 days per week hours 8am-5pm.
- SOUTH COUNTY SENIOR CENTER (SCSC) BUDGET PRESENTATION. New DIRECTOR Jennifer Remillard reviewed budget with selectboard which has also been presented to the SCSC Board of Oversight. The notable increase in the budget is due to relocation costs for programs. There has been a 17% increase (16 new members) since relocating to the Pope Paul Parish Center. Outreach has revealed 34% of the member towns are unaware of activities at the SCSC. Walk-off Challenge will be an event taking place at Sunderland Riverside Park. Also participating in Walk Mass Challenge. Working with FCAT to provide video content to communities related to the center and its mission and to our seniors. Several grants have also been applied for and hope to have award notifications in near future.
- TREASURER COLLECTOR Heather Davis presented two NEW BENEFITS for employees. An ADDITIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE OPTION-BLUE SELECT PLAN. The plan offers a 13% reduced premium offering the same benefits as current HMO but is limited to MA and does not include coverage for all hospitals, specifically not covered at Mass General, Tufts, and Brigham and Womens. Other offering is a 457 RETIREMENT SMART PLAN for all employees eligible for benefits. Empower Finance administrates the plan. Per discussion, more responsibilities will be realized by the Treasurer Collector's office due to these offerings. Ms. Smiarowski suggested an HSA plan may be an option to explore to offset a higher deductible plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- J. Corwin spoke as a School Committee member asking the town raise its contribution for health insurance to 65% for current plan coverage, not for change in co-pays. V. Palmer also spoke of the need for the town to contribute more for school employee retention. Mr. Fydenkevez noted review and consideration of any benefits plans would include all employees, not just school. Another option was discussed to raise co-pays which would reduce premiums. Mr. Fydenkevez requested the Treasurer Collector provide cost for 65% town contribution and research what other town's insurance co-pays, rates, and coverages are. It was reiterated the town offers really good insurance, recognizing the low co-pays as well. The town's health insurance offers single, 1 and 1, and family plans. Town's open enrollment is May. Suggest MIIA introduce the new plan to employees so they understand the differences in offerings.

OLD BUSINESS

- FY23 BUDGET REVIEW: Free Cash was submitted again this morning. DLS Counselor responded with questions but no final approval received yet. BUDGET REVENUES review. Tax levy is up 2.5% over last year but new growth is lower. Mr. Fydenkevez asked if house and senate budgets were numbers out yet which they usually are by now. Mr. Fydenkevez request writing our State Rep and State Senator regarding their budgets. Cherry Sheet estimates are only the Governor's budget. Review of FY Budget Recommendations with potential line-item adjustments as presented by Mr. Kravitz. Mr. Fydenkevez gave overview of SCEMS budget. One-time or periodic expenses should not be shown in department expense operating budgets and should be demonstrated differently. A \$37,000 gap still remains. Request from Youth Baseball requesting town assume the program. To be revisited next fiscal year if still a need.
- Capital Planning meeting this week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Fydenkevez entertained a motion to enter Executive Session under MGL c.30A, §21, ¶2: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

Mr. Pierce motion, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second. Mr. Fydenkevez roll-call vote:

Mr. Pierce: aye, Ms. Drake-Tremblay: aye, Mr. Fydenkevez: aye.

Enter Executive Session at 9:07PM; will return to open session to adjourn only.

- Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2022, 6:30PM.

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn, Mr. Pierce second, 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,
Town Administrator