

## SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Monday, May 23, 2022

Attending: C. Drake-Tremblay, N. Waring, G. Kravitz

Others present: A. Falbel, C. Bennett, D. Modesto, School Committee: J. Corwin, P. Gagarin, K. McFarland, G. Gottschalk; Board of Health members: B. Bennett, K. Kushi and M. Williams.

Absent: T. Fydenkevez. Meeting: Hybrid: in person and recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM by Ms. Drake-Tremblay.

Mr. Waring motion to accept MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2022, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, Vote 2-0.

### BUSINESS

- **ENERGY AGGREGATION UPDATE:** A. Falbel presented update program that started August 2022. Eversource changes rates every 6-months and will be moving to their summer rates in June. Sunderland Aggregation rate is 10.292 cents/kwh, 45% renewable source (RPS+25%); user price is locked in until end of 2023. Other optional products available that can be opted in: Optional product 1 National Wind from Texas is 100% renewable but does not feed into the New England grid. Optional product 2 MA Class 1 RECs is 100% renewals and is local. Eversource's basic service rate effective June 2022 will be 15.348 cents/kWh, 20% renewable. Residents who are not currently participating, may still sign up or opt-out if currently participating, by visiting [colonialpowergroups.com/Sunderland](http://colonialpowergroups.com/Sunderland) or call 866-485-5858 x1. If residents are currently in another alternate contract, check if fees apply to discontinue before joining the town's Aggregation Program.
- **BOARD OF HEALTH UPDATE: Mosquito Control Program.** Mr. Bennett, Board of Health Chair, discussed town's choice to not participate in aerial spraying and do ground spraying as needed. The town voted to re-join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD). Mr. Bennett suggests residents be proactive to reduce standing water and other concerns. As part of the opt-out option, the town will do community outreach with flyers, etc. to educate community. Mr. Kravitz explained last year the state required communities to either opt-out of all spraying activities or certain types of spraying activities which could only be done if the community is "low risk," which Sunderland is. Last year the town voted to opt-out and create an alternate management plan but the state identified the town as "high risk" and did not allow for opting-out. There have not been any issues over the last few years. Last year, the PVMCD did testing for mosquito populations in member towns. Mr. Kravitz stated a plan is prepared, the Board of Health reviewed, and there will be a public comment period. The state requires at least 3 education outreach components to the plan: develop education handouts, an in-person or virtual meeting conducted by the PVMCD and notification to community about risks, done by posting on town's website, CodeRED alert system, etc. Ms. Drake-Tremblay invited anyone attending the meeting online an opportunity to comment. All remote attendees were school committee members wishing to participate in another agenda topic. A vote regarding the mosquito action would include whether to allow all spraying, only aerial spraying or targeted spraying. Mr. Waring made a motion to opt-out of aerial mosquito spraying activities conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board under MGL c. 252 § 2A and authorize the Town Administrator to submit the Alternative Mosquito Management Plan application as presented at the meeting, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, vote 2-0.
- **INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE Discussion:** MGL C 32B, §3 addresses the purchase of group life, accident death, health insurance policies, etc. The public authority can contract, which is Selectboard, can set up an advisory committee and prescribe who should be on committee. An eight (8) member committee, with seven (7) people of groups of employees will elect or appoint someone to committee and the selectboard would appoint one retiree. The proposed seven (7) groups of employees could be: Town Office employees, Highway, Library, Police Union, School who could encompass Teacher Union, and non-union school employees. A retiree must be named which could be a former school employee. Ms. Drake-Tremblay noted committee make up should include discussion of daytime or evening meetings which could be a limiting factor for some. Consider if elected officials working enough hours be considered for committee, etc.? Mr. McFarland noted a couple of

employees, representing each union expressed interest in participating. Mr. Waring noted if a larger number of employees representing a particular (larger) group should have more representatives.

- **MOWING CONTRACT RENEWAL** – The current contract was signed with a fiscal year vs. a calendar year contract which coincided with budgeting schedule. We have an option to extend the contract for another year, as presented. Ms. Drake-Tremblay announced that for full-disclosure, 35+ years ago she was married to Mr. Ahearn, the current mowing contractor. She currently does not have any financial interest in any of his business and accepts no payments from him. Ms. Drake-Tremblay entertained a motion to renew the mowing contract. Mr. Waring moved to renew the mowing contract, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, vote 2-0.
- Mr. Kravitz reminded the School Committee that there is a quorum present. Mr. Kravitz stated on May 3, 2022, there was a joint meeting with the School Committee and the Selectboard with discussions regarding the OIL TANK and related repairs. The existing tank does not have a remote monitor on it and current levels are checked with a stick. A new monitor would allow for remote access and would be transferable to a new tank. The cost estimate is \$9,000. Also proposed was a spill protection pad for \$3,000 which would allow any spillage be contained. Another item would be \$10,000 to create a plan to replace the current underground oil tank with an aboveground tank. The existing tank is about 33 years old. Mr. Modestow spoke about the oil tank requests as discussed at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. It is recommended to move forward with the study to ascertain the size tank that best meets the needs of the school. Mr. Modestow also recommends the tank study option be explored along with the remote monitoring system. The school is asking for use of ARPA funds to address the two requests otherwise it would be put on next year's capital budget. Mr. Waring made a motion to **FUND THE REMOTE MONITORING SYSTEM AND THE TANK REPLACEMENT STUDY FOR A TOTAL OF \$19,000 TO BE FUNDED WITH ARPA**, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, Vote 2-0.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- **SELECTBOARD UPDATES:**
  - Mr. Waring has no updates to report.
  - Ms. Drake-Tremblay has no updates to report.
- **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**
  - **MEMORIAL DAY PARADE** will be held Friday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. In the case of inclement weather, a decision will be made to relocate to elementary school and will be advertised online.
  - Rural Development Inc. at Sanderson Place has said town applications are fewer than expected. Encourages residents to submit applications by the June 29<sup>th</sup> deadline. Two additional information sessions are being offered which are listed on the town website under "News and Announcements-Sanderson Place Senior Housing Development."
  - Town Offices will be closed Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Drake-Tremblay made a motion to enter **EXECUTIVE SESSION** under CHAPTER 30A, §21, ¶3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, Mr. Waring second. Roll call vote: Mr. Waring: aye, Ms. Drake-Tremblay: aye. Enter to **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:20PM, the Board will return to open session to adjourn only.
- Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2022, 6:30PM.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Waring motion to adjourn at 7:32PM, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, vote 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,  
Town Administrator