

SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Place: Town Offices, 12 School Street

Date: Tues, January 17, 2023

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

Others: Finance Committee: J. Elias, S. Smiarowski; Chief Benjamin, Chief Demetropoulos, R. Stoler, C. Foote

Meeting: Hybrid: in person with portions recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:34PM

MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept MINUTES of 01.09.2023, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

- FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION: Chief Benjamin gave an overview of the department's activities, trainings and stats for 2022. Chief spoke on the LEVEL FD BUDGET citing no change in wages, and only oil usage and serious maintenance matters addressed. Radio services costs not received yet, Town Administrator will follow-up FY24 costs. Town Park budget needs an increase to address problem trees identified for removal, sign update and managing vegetation on the property. EXPANDED FD BUDGET includes a \$6,000 increase in facility line for floor waxing, and wage/stipend request for Deputy Chief. Additional wage increase for part-time clerk to add 1-2 hours/week, general expenses increased by \$4,000 due to inflation.
- POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION: Chief Demetropoulos discussed EXPANDED BUDGET REQUEST to include 6 additional hours/week for Police Clerk, currently works 30hrs for PD and 4hrs for Highway/wk. Increase fuel line by \$1,000 due to prior year usage. New hybrid cruiser received and on the street which will reduce fuel consumption over the Tahoe vehicle it replaced. Vehicle has been well received by officers. Thank you to the Energy Committee for grant to offset costs for the new hybrid. IMC system needs update which will require incremental costs for the next 2-3 years with 100% town covered at \$5,200. Also included CAPITAL request for floors and painting on the PD side. Jail cell state inspection gets cited each year for clearance appearance issues, however it is worn original paint. A rotating schedule would be arranged so PD would not be closed during department painting.. ANIMAL CONTROL (ACO) BUDGET: New ACO officer hired in October 2021. Budget expenses exceeded previous budget by \$1,000 due to first year trainings, higher call volume and services, and Animal Control hearings as warranted. ACO services expected to be the same or increase next year so budget has been increased by \$1,000..
- MASS-IN-MOTION presentation by R. Stoler, FRCOG and C. Foote from LifePath reviewed the program and survey results. Respondents prioritized housing, outdoor, communication and social engagement and then healthcare as focus points. 55% female respondents, 16% male and 29% unidentified. Respondents expressed priority concerns as living alone, home maintenance costs, outdoor space satisfaction; 100% of survey responses note driving themselves and several responded transportation by people power mode, i.e., bicycles, on foot, etc. Timeline for program is to meet with Selectboard first to review process, then set up working group with experience individuals who are representative of the older adult population, those with disabilities and those who may be a discriminated group. Town should have attendees from committee attend Health Equity Meeting by 02/21/2023 9:30-10:30am in Greenfield, snow date 03/07/2023. Results would then be reviewed by the committee and identify most compelling issues of the town with reports due by end of June, 2023. Funding is available to towns to assist with the project. Mr. Kravitz was asked to prepare a flyer for distribution to a variety of areas in town, senior center population and advertise online. Town can then reach out to folks who might be interested in committee.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- Mr. Kravitz has been approached by the Planning Board Chair regarding inquiries of interest for COMMERCIAL BATTERY STORAGE which would require revising ZONING BYLAWS. Fire

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Department should be involved in the matter. DLTA Funds available for the project. Mr. Kravitz asking Selectboard to review and send priorities for next meeting.

- INFRASTRUCTURE GIFT FUND policy available for review and will put on next agenda.
- MMA meetings this week and will share knowledge gained by attending.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

- Ms. Drake-Tremblay and Mr. Waring had no reports.
- Mr. Fydenkevez attend a SCEMS meeting prior to this Board meeting. FY24 Budget was reviewed. Assessments are by formula which includes number of runs made in each town, population, and EQV evaluation. Lately, some SCEMS member town's perception suggests Sunderland is receiving a higher percentage of runs and not paying for comparable share of costs. Mr. Fydenkevez noted SCEMS made approximately 1,200 calls last year: 1,000 to the 3 members towns and the other calls were intercepts. Deerfield's assessment is about 51%, Sunderland is 31% and Whately is about 16%. Deerfield had 55% of the runs, Sunderland 25-26% and 17% was Whately. Activities demonstrate Deerfield is not subsidizing the program as suggested. Call numbers are increasing which means communities are relying of the beneficial services more.

NEXT SELECTBOARD MEETING is scheduled for Mon. January 23, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0 at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,
Town Administrator