

SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Place: Town Offices, 12 School Street

February 6, 2023

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

Others: J. Kowaleck, M. Skibiski, M. Kowaleck-Board of Assessors; B. Bennett, W. Houle, H. Davis, G. Gottschalk, C. Bennett

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 01.30.2023, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

- **BUDGET PRESENTATION - BOARD OF ASSESSORS:** Mr. Kowaleck, Co-Chair, reviewed budget noting no change from FY23. Assessor's Assistant will be attending Assessor's school at UMASS this year after program not being available last two years due to COVID.
- **BUDGET PRESENTATION - BOARD OF HEALTH:** Mr. Bennet, Chair, noted the FY24 request is level funded with exception of an increase of \$500 to the general expense line for stipend to be paid \$250 each per agent for mileage for use of personal vehicles for inspections which they have never been compensated for. The stipend is a one-time payment/year. Mr. Bennett also noted that the Board is collaborating with Greenfield, Montague, and Deerfield for a public health nurse collaborative grant which will be beneficial to all communities involved. Opioid state provided funds will be under the discretion of the Selectboard for the use of funds when defined. The Board of Health will collaborate with the Selectboard if needed.
- **BUDGET PRESENTATION - TOWN CLERK:** Ms. Houle reviewed the budget which includes office responsibilities and election requirements as mandated by the state. Town Clerk is supportive of an additional staff member to assist the office in absences for training, meetings, etc., and during busier times such as election preparations, etc. The position could also provide coverage for other offices and perform general daily tasks in the town office building.
- **BUDGET PRESENTATION - TREASURER/COLLECTOR:** Ms. Davis noted basic increases in the budget including the postage line due to rate increases and rise in health insurance costs – the budget demonstrates an 8% increase and two (2) additional plans, if needed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **RETIREMENT COLA** – request from the Franklin County Retirement Board to support an additional 2% increase for retirees in 2026. The 2% increase would be in addition to the typical 3% yearly increase. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept additional 2% increase for retirees effective 2026, in addition to the standard COLA approval. Total cost to Sunderland in 2026 would be approximately \$17,000 which is a \$259 increase per member, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE GIFT FUND GUIDELINES:** The guideline is an amended version of the Riverside Park Guidelines, with specifications for the Infrastructure Gift designations. Funds approvals may be made by the Highway Superintendent or the Town Administrator. The guidelines will be added to the Policy Manual. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept the Infrastructure Gift Fund Guidelines as presented, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.
- **MASS-IN-MOTION WORKSHOP** requests two (2) representatives for the town. Recommended attendees: Joe Elias volunteered to participate and Cindy Bennett recommended and second rep. The Board supports those attending as presented.
- **ARPA FUND REQUEST:** Police Chief requested \$3,000 for FLOOR SEALING AND PAINTING ON POLICE SIDE OF PSC. The Fire side of the building should have the same work done as well. Mr. Kravitz to coordinate with Fire Chief. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to appropriate \$3,000 from ARPA funds for paint and floor sealing for the Police side of the PSC, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.

- ARPA FUND REQUEST for ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM BACKSETBALL HOOP BACKBOARD BRACKETS which allows for retraction of hoops when not in use for a cost of \$2,000. \$3,200 has been donated for the other upgrades of interest in the gym. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to appropriate \$2,000 from ARPA funds for the Basketball Hoop Brackets, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

- Mr. Waring: Capital Planning Meeting has been productive and has good plans for funding of recommendations.
- Ms. Drake-Tremblay has no reports.
- Mr. Fydenkevez recognized the passing of PETER MURPHY, the town's ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR. Peter has served the town for many years as Inspector and Alternate Inspector. Condolences extended to the family.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- POLICE DEPARMTENT RECEIVED a \$1,300 grant to fund the DRUG TAKE-BACK BOX.
- Selectboard and Finance Committee members have been invited to attend the SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING tomorrow night where they will discuss their preliminary budget.
- SUNDERLAND LIBRARY was awarded 4 out of 5 stars, awarding them a 2022 Star Libraries rating by Library Journal, a prestigious librarian journal. Congratulations to the Director, staff, and Trustees. A great article was in the Recorder recently announcing the designation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Pursuant to the provision of G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares: Federal Multidistrict Litigation vs. CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Teva, and Allergan. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to enter Executive Session, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0. Mr. Kravitz Roll Call Vote to enter Executive Session: Mr. Waring - yes, Ms. Drake-Tremblay – yes, Mr. Fydenkevez – yes at 7:37PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting will reconvene from Executive Session to open session only to adjourn.

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn at 8:10, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.

Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,
Town Administrator