

## SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Place: Sunderland Town Offices, 12 School Street

March 27, 2023

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

Others: L. Starr, P. Gagarin, G. Gottschalk, D. Modestow, J. Rosewarne, J. Corwin, C. Bennett

Meeting Hybrid and In-person with portions recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:37PM

### MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept MINUTES of 03/20/2023, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.

### BUSINESS

- **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OIL TANK UPDATE:** Mr., Fydenkevez asked Mr. Modestow if they were looking at carbon neutral options for the school's future. Discussion regarding other options to be considered and if Energy Committee can assist with direction. Mr. Gagarin noted a school committee meeting tomorrow night at 6PM where the FY24 School Budget is on the agenda.
- Mr. Kravitz reported there is currently a \$168,000 BUDGET SHORTAGE. Free Cash total has not been received at this time either. Mr. Fydenkevez spoke of town's frustration regarding accounting program performance and their promise to address issues over the last two years which has not been met. He and Mr. Kravitz have a meeting this Thursday with the FRCOG Executive Director and Accounting Program Director to discuss next steps. Mr. Gagarin asked about if they should hold up the School Committee's budget vote. Mr. Fydenkevez advised the School Committee vote on their recommended budget but realize the town may need to comeback to the school committee to revisit their budget, just as we have had this issue before. He asked they keep the lines of communication open. It was also noted that if numbers aren't resolved or resolved soon, the Annual Town Meeting may need to be postponed.
- This year marks the 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF SUNDERLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT and the Fire Chief requests the Selectboard GRANT A CEREMONIAL BONFIRE PERMIT to be held BEHIND THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX (PSC) Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The permit request from the Selectboard is per statute. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to authorize a burn permit to the Sunderland Fire Department for 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremonial Bonfire, not to burn more than 12-hours and to be held behind the PSC on Sat. April 29, 2023, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.
- **CAPITAL OVERRIDE BALLOT QUESTION.** Mr. Kravitz noted the Selectboard needed to vote now for an Override to be placed on the ballot. Mr. Drake-Tremblay moved to put Ballot Override Question to assess tax payers an additional \$275,000 on their taxes, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.
- **TOWN MEETING WARRANT Draft.** Mr. Kravitz gave an overview of each warrant article and asked the Board to take motions on articles to include at this time.
  - Article 1: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to recommend, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 to include
  - Article 2: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to recommend, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 to include
  - Article 3: Budget Article – pass on vote to include at this time.
  - Article 4: Budget Article – pass on vote to include at this time.
  - Article 5: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to recommend, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 to include
  - Article 6: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to recommend, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 to include
  - Article 7: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to recommend, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 to include
  - Article 8: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to recommend, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 to include
  - Article 9: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to recommend, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 to include
  - Article 10: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to recommend, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 to include
  - Article 11: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to recommend, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 to include
  - Article 12: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to recommend, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 to include
  - Article 13: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to recommend, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 to include

Articles 14-19: Consent Articles which allows the town to do business, i.e., authorizing the Selectboard to accept grants and other fundings on behalf of the town, allocations, etc.: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to recommend, Mr. Waring second, Vote 3-0 to include.

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

#### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- Discussion regarding OPTIONS TO FILL THE BUDGET GAP if the values do not change to cover the gap. Discussed Insurance Advisory Committee recommendation for town to increase share of insurance plan coverage, elimination of various budgets requested items, etc. Mr. Kravitz also reminded the board to clarify their insurance plan town share intent because he had to sign for plan selections by 04/01/2023 to lock in. Mr. Kravitz was authorized to lock in the current plans we offer. The Board wants to maintain current insurance plan offerings and can then decide what percentage to offer to cover, i.e., continue with 60% or offer another rate.
- GENERATOR INSTALLED AT THE PSC was paid for with last FY funds, however, the balance for completion of work was not billed the full amount because other components hadn't been completed. The remaining funds were not encumbered and therefore are not available to pay the final invoice of \$1,411.80. Mr. Kravitz requested the balance be paid with ARPA FUNDS. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to authorize use of ARPA funds to pay final generator installation costs of \$1,411.80, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.

#### SELECTBOARD UPDATES

- Ms. Drake-Tremblay had no meeting reports. Mr. Waring had no meeting reports but the Capital Planning Committee will be doing site visits of buildings on 04/15/2023. Mr. Fydenkevez has a South County Senior Center meeting coming up.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) paragraph 3: to discuss litigation strategy in the case of Shiun-Fen Lou v. Town, Greenfield District Court, C.A. No. 2241CV000133, if discussing the matter in open session will have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigating position and the chair so declares. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to enter Executive Session, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0. The Board will return to open session downstairs with the intention to vote a solution in open session and then adjourn. Mr. Kravitz Roll Call vote: Mr. Waring: aye; Ms. Drake-Tremblay: aye; Mr. Fydenkevez: aye, vote 3-0 at 7:34PM. Selectboard returned to open session at 8:14PM.

Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0 at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,  
Town Administrator