

SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Place: Sunderland Town Offices, 12 School Street

August 28, 2023

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

Meeting Hybrid and In-person with portions recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM.

MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept MINUTES of 08/21/2023, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

- **TRENCH PERMIT POLICY**- Mr. Kravitz explained the need to review and update the Trench Permit Policy. In 2009, the Selectboard's Policy designated the Building Commissioner and Fire Department to issue permits. The Board of Health was added a month later. The Fire Department has expressed no knowledge of this matter being addressed by their department. Currently, the Building Commissioner accepts Trench Permits, the Fire Department does not and the Board of Health if the agent can say a trench is good for Title 5 and doesn't need a further permit, would be acceptable. In 2009, permit fees were set at \$25 and currently the lowest permit fee is \$85 on the Building Commissioner fee schedule, Trench Permit fee are included on the Board of Health fee schedule for \$25 at the original fee. Mr. Kravitz's recommends the Building Commissioner be the only person responsible for issuing Trench Permits, however, with the exception of Board of Health Title 5 Trench Permitting as needed. Minimal trench permits are issued currently and would mostly be for title 5 services, sewer connections, etc. Definition of trench permit requirements discussed. Mr. Waring agrees with recommendation presented, Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept Trench Permit Policy changes to increase fee to \$85 and issuance by the Building Commissioner for all Trench Permits except for Title 5 related work for the Board of Health.
- **AWARD DESIGN CONTRACT FOR PICKLEBALL COURTS** – Town meeting appropriate funds for town pickle ball courts with costs estimated between \$10,000 and \$50,000 so quotes sought. Design Procurement was conducted and two received responses; **LOW BIDDER- WILLIAM A. CANNON WITH BID OF \$13,600** which includes schematic design, site survey, work with town for revisions, public meetings, construction docs prep and specifications for bidding phase and construction administration during the construction time. Mr. Murphy motion to accept bid recommendation as presented, Ms. Drake-Tremblay asked about public concerns voiced regarding location of courts, noise, etc. and has that been addressed. Mr. Kravitz noted the primary location was behind the town offices and will review if they can fit elsewhere on the property. The only other location behind the houses on School St. but that would be closer to those houses than the location behind houses on North Main, alternatives will be explored. Mr. Kravitz did note on specs that courts should be enclosed with chain-link type fence. Mr. Murphy motion to accept bid award to William A. Cannon for \$13,600, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, vote 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- **ARPA REQUEST: RIVERSIDE CEMETERY MOWING** – Trustees did agree to requesting more funds for additional mowing at the Cemetery. Mr. Kravitz requested estimation from Mowing Contractor but has not received information back. Mr. Kravitz recommends up to \$1,000 unless we are informed differently. Mr. Murphy motion for additional mowing at Riverside Cemetery, up to \$1,000 from ARPA funds, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, vote 3-0.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

- Mr. Waring had no reports;
- Mr. Murphy prior to joining the Board, he has spent time THINKING ABOUT BIKE NETWORKS, ROADS, ETC. especially for Rt. 116 and also from UMASS where there was an old maintenance road that comes out by the Mullins Center. Possible path opportunity from Sunderland to back of UMASS.

He has been in touch with UMASS. Feels there's room to do something. MASSDOT has a large right-of-way on Meadow St. and have room to do add more than bike lanes, and may extend into Deerfield and connect to the rail trail system there. Students can commute, park and ride, etc. but would be a long-term project. It is a DOT controlled road and encourages them to think about healthy MASSDOT improvements for everyone to enjoy, not just for bikers. As noted on MassDOT website, that corridor from UMASS is on their list and hopes to continue conversations with them and encourages everyone's support. Mr. Waring would like to have better communication with neighboring communities which regarding activities that may impact other towns, such as student move-in, etc., which does directly affect Sunderland.

- Mr. Murphy also noted a FUN FACT THAT THE SUNDERLAND BRIDGE GETS THE HIGHEST DAILY TRAFFIC in all of Franklin County besides the interstate. If Hampshire County is included, it is #5 and it gets more traffic than Rt 9 except for the Coolidge Bridge, maybe not during graduation.
- Ms. Drake-Tremblay has no reports.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE BACK THIS WEEK AND REMINDED PUBLIC TO BE MINDFUL OF SCHOOL BUSES. Mr. Waring noted all the students, including those moving into town, that we have patience during this time.
- COVID ALERT LEVEL- we have been hearing a lot of people contracting COVID, be mindful as we have a lot of people coming into our communities with colleges back, etc. if you are immune compromised to take precautions.

Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0 at 6:47PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,
Town Administrator