

## SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Place: Sunderland Town Offices, 12 School Street

January 22, 2024

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

Others: C. Bennett, J. Corwin, J. Remillard, Police Chief Demetropoulos, Fire Chief Benjamin, Finance

Comm: S. Smiarowski, V. Vorheis, L. Forget

Meeting Hybrid and In-person with portions recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:32PM

### MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept MINUTES of 0.1.08.2024, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.

### BUSINESS

- **SOUTH COUNTY SENIOR CENTER (SCSC) BUDGET PRESENTATION:** Director Jennifer Remillard gave overview of grants received as well as what the funds will cover for the center. Salaries are biggest budget item and increases across the board for operating expenses are due to rising costs. Current rental locations in Sunderland and Deerfield which expire in April and May, total \$35,000/year which will not be sustainable moving forward and relocation plans are unclear. Ms. Remillard noted an Open House at 23 Plumtree Rd. on Sat. Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> 11AM-1PM. This is a property Sunderland is exploring and could be a future SCSC location.
- **FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION:** Chief Benjamin discussed capital needs in the future and new vehicles to plan for in the next 5-10 years, but is not submitting requests for this FY. The Police Chief does have capital requests for the building to present. Chief Benjamin reviewed stats for calls provided in town as well as Mutual Aid calls. Funds from mutual aid offset the budget and allows acquisition of items outside of budgetary matters. New Fire Clerk was hired late in the year and is acclimating to the department well. Due to experience level with the department, salary level is different than prior year. HVAC matters are being explored for mini splits. Recent HVAC work is an improvement however, the system is original to the building built in 2004.
- **POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION:** PSC Capital requests total \$14,000; \$2,500 for outside lighting for back of building & front sign; \$2,000 sally port drain work; \$9,400 rear camera system at back personnel door. Police Capital request includes a new cruiser fully equipped at \$73,500. Budget does not include salaries due to contract negotiations for the Police Chief and Police Officers. Expanded budget includes removing funds from part-time budget and placed in Full-Time Officer line to allow for an additional full-time officer. Decrease in part-time budget will not impact services.
- **CAUCUS WARRANT 2024** – Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept Caucus Warrant as presented from Town Clerk, Mr. Murphy second, 3-0.

### OLD BUSINESS

- **23 PLUMTREE ROAD** – Open House Sat. Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> 11AM-1PM.
- **ARPA: REVIEW OF PROJECTS:** Mr. Kravitz reviewed all projects allocated ARPA funds and their completion status. School Window replacements were allocated \$125,000 but no action has been taken to date. \$929,961 spent to date. ARPA award was \$1,084,733. Status of projects not completed but had funds committed needs to be resolved before any further allocations.
- **ARPA REQUEST: PREMIUM PAY** agenda item at this time tabled until updated status of allocations determined.

### SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Waring reported POLICE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS continue. Ms. Drake-Tremblay noted a SoCEMS meeting tomorrow night. New director begins Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, an introduction to the communities will be arranged. Mr. Murphy said a Village Center Committee is scheduled for tomorrow night and he attended MMA Conference in Boston which was informative.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- Attended MMA Conference as well and met with health insurance carrier, noting at least a 6.6% possibly up to 9.95% increase in premiums; dental premium up 2.2%.

Next Selectboard meeting Mon. January 29, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0 at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,  
Town Administrator