

## SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Place: Sunderland Town Offices, 12 School Street

February 5, 2024

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

Others: C. Bennett; Finance Comm: S. Smiarowski, V. Vorheis, L. Forget (remote) -Quorum represented; L.

Starr, Chief Demetropoulos, K. Banas, H. Davis, J. Palmer-Fortune

Meeting Hybrid and In-person with portions recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order at PM

### MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept MINUTES of 01.29.2024, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.

### BUSINESS

- Chief Demetropoulos introduced Kevin Banas recommending to appoint as Full Time Police Officer. He is CIT-TTAC trained. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to appoint Kevin Banas as Sunderland Full-Time Officer effective upon appointment, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0. The Board welcomed Officer Banas to the town.
- BUDGET PRESENTATION: TREASURER/COLLECTOR. Ms. Davis discussed increases of her budget, noting 8% increase in health insurance premiums, health insurance line also includes cost for two (2) family plans in case additional insurance is sought by new hires or current employees. Increase in postage line due to recent rate increases. OPEB line is for a study. County retirement cost was received and town will have a significant savings if paid in a lump sum.. 120 N. Main St. will be paid off October, 2025 and the Fire Truck will be paid off December, 2025.
- FINANCE COMMITTEE: Ms. Smiarowski made a motioned for Finance Committee members to allow Joe Elias to rejoin, Ms. Vorheis second, Ms. Forget verbally voted, 3-0.
- BUDGET PRESENTATION: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT. George Emery said the overtime line is due to the increase in wind and rain storms which has created a lot of clean-up work. General Expense line is now all inclusive with new accounting system and demonstrates an increase in equipment repairs, fuel costs, heat and cable for the building.
- BUDGET PRESENTATION: SELECTBOARD ACCOUNTS: Mr. Kravitz reviewed various selectboard accounts. All general expenses are increasing. Additional costs included for unforeseen expenses or increases by vendors. The mowing contract will need to be sent for bid this year. Board suggested adding that vendors using electric mowing equipment are encouraged to bid.
- Mr. Murphy noted a request an application was submitted for \$25,000 from CPA for matching funds related to Mass Trails Grant recently submitted. The grant covers Rt 116 to Sugarloaf area and then on to Whately. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to use CPA funds for \$25,000, if awarded, and be used as matching funds, if Mass Trails Grant is awarded, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.

### OLD BUSINESS

- ARPA REQUEST: Mr. Kravitz, with Highway recommendation, requests \$16,000 for two sets of SIDEWALK CROSSING INDICATORS to be placed at Cemetery Rd. and S. Main St., and at the School St. Crosswalk. The Cemetery Rd/S. Main St. indicators are on the Complete Streets Grant request so the cost may be reduced by one set. Complete Streets awards expected mid-March. Mr. Murphy motion to award \$16,000 from ARPA for two sets of Sidewalk Crossing Indicators, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, vote 3-0.

- 23 PLUMTREE: Mr. Kravitz had discussions with Whately, Deerfield and South County Senior Director regarding the feasibility of obtaining 23 Plumtree property. At this time, it was decided that we cannot advance enough with the process for consideration in two months. All parties agreed not being ready to move forward at this time.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

- No other updates from the Board.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- Mr. Kravitz noted a preliminary budget would be available next week. He also mentioned he was considering alternative phone systems due to the current system not being satisfactory. Board suggested other options be considered, including using Microsoft TEAMS. Mr. Kravitz to review further.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Board will not be entering into Executive Session.
- Next Selectboard meeting February 12, 2024 at 6:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Murphy motion to adjourn, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, vote 3-0 at 7:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Kravitz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Geoff Kravitz,  
Town Administrator