

Sunderland Selectboard Minutes

Monday, July 27, 2020

Attending: D. Pierce, S. Bergeron, T. Fydenkevez, G. Kravitz

Others present: J. Pelletier, L. Smith, G. Gottschalk, J. Kicza, P. Gagarin, J. Skibiski, T. Reidy, C. Rock, J. Corwin,
N. Pick, C. Bennett

Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.

Meeting called to order at 6:32PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Bergeron motion to approve Selectboard minutes of July 13, 2020, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

MT. TOBY DRINKING WATER PROTECTION CONSERVATION RESTRICTION: Ms. Pick provided background information on the project and an overview of the Conservation Restriction that will protect the Sunderland drinking water supply. Mr. Bergeron motion to accept the Conservation Restriction, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY: Ms. Smith updated the Board on the latest MEMA distribution of PPE and the Governor's quarantine order for out-of-state travelers.

RETURN OF COLLEGE STUDENTS: Mr. Kravitz spoke with most of the apartment complexes, which are near 100% capacity for the fall. UMass is requiring off-campus students to sign the same agreement as students living on-campus. Mr. Kravitz, the Board of Health Chair, and Police Chief are meeting with UMass officials on Tuesday to discuss the plan. Ms. Smith recommended using the variable message signboard during move-in. Questions were raised about where off-campus students would quarantine and what the communications and reporting protocols will be between the University and the Town.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE: Ms. Corwin, Mr. Gottschalk, and Mr. Gagarin stated that the school reopening plans had been updated and the results of a parent survey was available, which noted that only about 15% of students will require bussing in the fall. Residents were encouraged to participate in the upcoming school committee meeting at which the plans will be discussed.

OUTDOOR DINING AND RESTAURANT GROCER EMERGENCY ORDERS: Mr. Bergeron motion to extend both the outdoor dining and restaurant grocer emergency orders until November 1, 2020, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0. Discussion of whether to make some of the changes more permanent and to reach out to businesses to understand what would be helpful to them.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION & GOALS: Discussion of the shared goals between the Selectboard Town Administrator including improvements to internal processes and execution of grants and projects already in the works. Due to the pandemic occurring at the beginning of the Town Administrator's tenure, it is difficult to make an accurate evaluation.

40B PROPOSAL: Mr. Reidy provided a "first look" at a potential 40B proposal at the former Cozy Corners Nursing Home (61-67 Old Amherst Road). The proposal would seek to convert the existing two buildings into approximately 29 apartment units. The plan would be to develop within the footprints of the existing buildings without using the additional acreage of the parcel. It was noted that the town has a large percentage of apartments already and the housing plan calls for more starter homes. The size of the units was called into question and whether it would be more attractive to students or professionals. The Selectboard also asked about ADA accessibility for some of the units. The feedback was appreciated and discussions will continue to determine the feasibility of a project that addresses the type of housing the housing plan identifies.

BENCHMARKS FOR WAGE ADJUSTMENTS: The Selectboard began a discussion about benchmarks for determining whether the town will be able to implement wage adjustments this fiscal year. State tax collections were

\$3 billion behind in the latest collection period. The Selectboard will review the monthly balance sheet, the results of the annual audit, estimated local tax receipts, and projected free cash.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Pierce praised the Town Clerk for getting out the applications for absentee ballots. Mr. Fydenkevez spoke about the passing of Representative John Lewis and his lifelong fight for justice. Mr. Bergeron noted that the negotiations with the police union are continuing.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Mr. Kravitz summarized the Community Dialogue on Sunderland Policing and commended Chief Demetropoulos on hosting the meeting and his clear answers to community questions. He also provided an update on the plan for reopening the Town Office Building, which is tentatively scheduled for early September, and noted that residents are still receiving services while the building is closed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to adjourn at 8:28 PM, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Kravitz', written over a horizontal line.

Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator