

Sunderland Selectboard Minutes  
Monday, August 10, 2020

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

Others present: J. Pelletier, L. Smith, G. Gottschalk, P. Gagarin, C. Bennett, Chief Demetropoulos, Chief Benjamin, E. Foster, L. Rivaïs, P. Berman, A. Larose, G. Fox, A. Falbel, Laura, Greg

Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.

Meeting called to order at 6:35PM.

NORTH MAIN STREET UTILITY POLE HEARING: The locations of the two poles were described and the need to place them due to the conversion of the North Silver Lane/North Main Street intersection into a T intersection. The poles are within the public way. There was one comment about the southern pole and the possibility that it might inhibit site lines for pedestrians and drivers turning left from North Silver Lane onto North Main Street. Mr. Bergeron motion to approve the pole locations contingent upon the southern pole being moved a few feet south to improve the site lines, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST FOR 155 NORTH SILVER LANE: The Selectboard reviewed the application to reduce the number of sewer connections at the property, which was formerly a single-family home with a home business. The business has been closed, and the pipes have been drained and capped. Mr. Fydenkevez motion to reduce the number of sewer connections to one, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

MINUTES

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to approve Selectboard minutes of July 27, 2020, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY: Ms. Smith reported one new reported case of COVID-19 in Sunderland this week, the first since May. This brings the total up to 10 since the beginning of the pandemic.

RETURN OF COLLEGE STUDENTS: On August 6, UMass announced that there would be fewer than 1,000 students residing on-campus. Communication with students, UMass, and property owners/managers will be paramount. The town will stay vigilant in tracking the number of cases.

SUPRLUS FIRE EQUIPMENT: Chief Benjamin requested a declaration of surplus property, including an old fire truck, hoses, air pack and air bottles, turn out gear, and radios, all valued at under \$5,000. The only item of value was the fire truck, estimated at \$2,00-\$3,000. Mr. Fydenkevez motion to declare the property surplus to be donated to the Sunderland Firemen's Association for sale/disposal, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

APPOINTMENT TO SUNDERLAND ENERGY COMMITTEE: Mr. Fydenkevez motion to appoint Ms. Fox to the Energy Committee, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

CPA EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT: The agreement to provide the CPA funds, authorized at Town Meeting, to provide emergency rental assistance to income-eligible residents affected by the pandemic was discussed. The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority would administer the program. Mr. Fydenkevez motion to sign the agreement, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

AARP AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY APPLICATION: The Age-Friendly Community designation would give Sunderland access to a national network of resources, best practices, and grants to make the community more livable for elder residents. Mr. Bergeron motion to sign the letter of support, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

BENCHMARKS FOR WAGE ADJUSTMENTS: The Selectboard reviewed the revenue breakdown over the last 5 years, noting that the state contribution has fallen from 25% to 22% of total revenue over that time period.

MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS PLAN LISTENING SESSION

Ms. Larose, Senior Planner with FRCOG presented the draft plan, including the purpose of the MVP program, which is to prepare for climate change vulnerabilities such as extreme temperatures, increased precipitation, and more frequent and intense storms. She described the top priorities for increasing resilience. Public comments included the whether to include air pollution and insect born disease as vulnerabilities. Ms. Foster noted that LifePath has an emergency plan for elders that could complement the town's plan.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Gottschalk provided an update on the school plan. Union 38 and the Frontier administration voted for a hybrid model, with the full remote learning option as a backup. There have been some additional concerns raised since that vote and there is another meeting scheduled for Thursday at which the decision could be reconsidered.

#### SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Bergeron stated that the Frontier Capital Planning Committee was meeting this week and negotiations with the police union were continuing.

#### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Mr. Kravitz noted that next week the Selectboard would be voting to sign the order of taking for the easements required as part of the North Main Street reconstruction project.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to adjourn at 8:16 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