

Sunderland Selectboard Minutes
Monday, August 31, 2020

Attending: D. Pierce, S. Bergeron, T. Fydenkevez, G. Kravitz
Others present: P. Gagarin, C. Bennett, J. Pelletier, L. Smith, J. Kicza, T. Reidy
Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.
Meeting called to order at 6:32PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to approve Selectboard minutes of August 17, 2020, Mr. Pierce second, vote 2-0.

BUSINESS

COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY: Ms. Smith stated that a close contact, but not a positive test result, was reported for a Sunderland resident. She noted once a case has been confirmed, the person's information is put into the MAVEN system, the public health nurse becomes aware of the new case. She then notifies the EMD, who passes along the address to the fire and police departments. There is constant communication with UMass, stakeholders, and community members that aren't always readily apparent to the public. The police and fire departments received Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding awards for PPE and extra staffing shifts.

40B PROPOSAL FOR 61-67 OLD AMHERST RD: Mr. Reidy noted that they reviewed the town's housing plan and noted a focus on senior and affordable housing. Mr. Kicza reviewed the updated plan, which had fewer units of a larger size. He also presented data from inquiries he has received for other units and stated that it would not be difficult to make units ADA compliant. The development would need a letter of support to submit the plan to DHCD. The developers were asked to present something in writing about how the project would provide something different from other housing options currently available, as well as how it would be beneficial and enticing to young professionals. They were encouraged to review and compare the difference in the process for the previous two 40B projects in town. The Board commended the developers for the good faith effort to address the previous concerns.

BENCHMARKS FOR EMPLOYEE WGE ADJUSTMENTS: Although the state approved a budget through November, major regional employers have announced furloughs and layoffs, which also has a significant impact on local revenues.

ELECTION WORKER APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Fydenkevez motion to appoint Justine Rosewarne, Michelle Burgess, and Olivia Leone as election workers, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Bergeron stated that the continuation of negotiations with the police union have been creative and resulted in solid dialogue with the town.

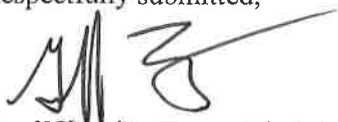
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

The Town Administrator stated that he is continuing courses for procurement and beginning HR courses, the highway department is interviewing candidates for a laborer/driver position, the Order of Taking for North Main Street easements has been recorded, and reported on Sunderland residents' high participation in the municipal energy aggregation program. Also the public comment period for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan closed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bergeron motion to adjourn at 7:37 PM, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator