

Sunderland Selectboard Minutes  
Monday, September 21, 2020

Attending: D. Pierce, T. Fydenkevez, G. Kravitz  
Others present: P. Gagarin, G. Emery  
Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.  
Meeting called to order at 6:33PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to approve Selectboard minutes of September 14, 2020, Mr. Pierce second, vote 2-0.

BUSINESS

COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY: The Town Administrator stated that there was one new close contact case reported for Sunderland and the reopening plan for the Town Office Building is being refined.

BENCHMARKS FOR EMPLOYEE WAGE ADJUSTMENTS: State budget predictions are difficult to pin down with estimated revenue losses ranging from \$1.6 to \$5 billion.

LOCAL PREFERENCE REQUEST LETTER FOR 120 NORTH MAIN STREET: The Selectboard voted to sign the letter last week, but it needed to be formatted and signed this week.

POLICE UNION CONTRACT VOTE: Mr. Bergeron and the Police Union leadership were thanked for working collaboratively to agree to terms on a new one-year contract. Mr. Fydenkevez motion to approve the contract, Mr. Pierce second, vote 2-0.

GAS PERMIT FEE REDUCTION REQUEST: A request to reduce the fee for a gas permit was discussed and contractors were reminded to check the town's website prior to applying for a permit. Without setting a precedent that the Selectboard would approve similar requests in the future, Mr. Fydenkevez motion to adjust the fee for this permit to the previous fee of \$30, Mr. Pierce second, vote 2-0.

LIQUOR LICENSE FEES: The Town Administrator noted that other communities were considering pro-rating liquor license fees because bars have been unable to operate during the pandemic. Mr. Fydenkevez suggested reducing the fee by half and requested outreach to bar owners in town to discuss further.

CHAPTER 90 FUNDS AND PROJECT: Mr. Emery updated the Selectboard on the use of Chapter 90 funds and the request to use funds to purchase a dump truck to replace a truck that significant frame damage. Mr. Emery requested quotes from 4 vendors and received 2 quotes. Discussion of the use of Chapter 90 funds for equipment. Mr. Fydenkevez noted that this was an unusual circumstance and that the Town could place an article on the warrant to appropriate the funds back to the Chapter 90 fund. Mr. Fydenkevez motion to use Chapter 90 funds to purchase the vehicle, Mr. Pierce second, vote 2-0.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Fydenkevez updated the Selectboard about a South County EMS meeting, noting that the volume of runs has returned to a more normal level after being down significantly in the spring due to the pandemic. He also stated that the South County Senior Center received a donation from Hatfield of a 7-passenger van and the Senior Center is developing a plan for it's use, as well as a plan for potentially reopening the Senior Center to in person visitors on a limited basis.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

The Town Administrator provided a reminder about the regional flu clinic on October 4. He attended a meeting about upgrading the emergency radio system. The Board of Assessors voted not to raise values this year. The Library will be holding a trial of limited in-person outdoor browsing. Staff had also discussed Halloween and the possibility of a "trunk-or-treat" like event.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Gagarin stated that the shoulder of North Main Street near Falls Road was very narrow and popular for bicyclists. He requested that the edge of roadways be considered for pedestrian and bicycle safety the next time this road and others, are scheduled for paving.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to adjourn at 7:10 PM, Mr. Pierce second, vote 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator