

Sunderland Selectboard Minutes
Monday, October 5, 2020

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

Others present: P. Gagarin, L. Smith, J. Pelletier, Superintendent Modestow, Principal Barshefsky, W. Houle

Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.

Meeting called to order at 6:31PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Bergeron motion to approve Selectboard minutes of September 28, 2020, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

TOWN CLERK UPDATE: Ms. Houle reviewed the three ways to vote (mail-in, early voting in person, and election day in person). Mail-in ballots were received today and are being sent out to residents. Information is available on the website, including a sample ballot, the red book voter's guide, dates, times, and locations for in-person, as well as a link to track your mail-in ballot. Ms. Houle reminded those voting by mail to place the ballot in the yellow envelope and sign it before placing it in the white envelope for mailing.

SCHOOLS UPDATE: Principal Barshefsky offered his thanks to the teaching staff that has worked hard to prepare for the school year. He also thanked the Sunderland Women's Club and an anonymous business for their donations to the school. Principal Barshefsky described the learning model and that approximately 55% of students are in the hybrid model with 45% learning remotely. Mr. Bergeron asked about the metrics that would determine a full remote model. Superintendent Modestow reviewed the indicators that the school is tracking and noted that the schools and local boards of health are working together to track the numbers. The Board commended the administration for their work to address this difficult situation.

PARTICIPATION IN THE COVID REGIONAL MICROENTERPRISE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: The Town Administrator reviewed the CDBG funds available to small municipalities and recommended that Sunderland participate in the program. Mr. Bergeron motion to participate as recommended, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

MUNICIPAL ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT: The Town Administrator reviewed the quotes for municipal electricity, with the standard renewable portfolio, and recommended signing a 3-year contract with the lowest vendor, IGS Energy, which was \$0.09440/kWh. Mr. Bergeron motion to approve of and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract for 3 years with IGS Energy, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY: Ms. Smith stated that there was one new positive case last week and provided a warning that because of the increase in testing there may be an increase in the number of false positive results. There are a total of 5 recent cases. The Town Administrator has been in discussions about UMass with the best way to get information to students residing in Sunderland apartment complexes. He noted that the application for the final round of Coronavirus Relief Funds will be due by the end of the month and recommended applying for the full amount that Sunderland is eligible for to pay for unanticipated expenses related to the pandemic. The Selectboard reviewed the plan to reopen the Town Office Building by appointment only and recommended determining metrics for when to close the building, if necessary. Mr. Bergeron motion to reopen the Town Office Building after the election as described in the plan, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

LIQUOR LICENSE FEES: Mr. Bergeron motion to reduce the on-premise all alcohol license fee, on-premise wine & malt license fee, and associated common victuallers fee for on-premise food and alcohol establishments by 30% for 2021, and to further pro-rate those license fees for any business that derives its sole income from on-site alcohol sales that is not allowed to open before April 20, 2021 due to state reopening guidance, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEADS SCHEDULING: The Town Administrator presented a draft schedule. Mr. Bergeron moved to adopt the schedule as presented, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

HOUSING PLAN CERTIFICATION: Mr. Bergeron moved to sign and submit the letter requesting certification of Sunderland's Housing Production Plan, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

The Town Administrator noted that LifePath is considering applying for a county-wide or regional Age-Friendly Community designation and is speaking with communities to determine the best approach.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator