

Sunderland Selectboard Minutes  
Monday, January 11, 2021

Attending: D. Pierce, T. Fydenkevez, S. Bergeron, G. Kravitz  
Finance Committee: E. Crowe, L. Forget  
Others present: K. McFarland, K. Umstot, W. Houle, L. Starr, V. Voorheis, K. McFarland  
Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.  
Meeting called to order at 6:38PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to approve Selectboard minutes of January 4, 2021, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY: The Town Administrator stated that there were 4 new cases on 1/5, 2 new cases on 1/6, 3 new cases on 1/7, 1 new case on 1/8 and 7 new cases on 1/11. Mr. Bergeron noted that over 85% of the most recent CodeRED calls were picked up or a message was left.

SUNDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET PRESENTATION: Ms. Umstot reviewed the operating budget request for the library. The building operations amount remained the same. She stated that while the largest apparent increase was in the expense line, it was the same amount originally requested in FY21 and had been reduced due to anticipated revenue shortfalls. She noted that the state requires a certain percentage of the library's budget on materials in order to remain accredited. She stated that the cost of materials (books, CDs, DVDs) increased and that licensing of eBooks remains challenging. She is requesting a 2% COLA in anticipation of the Personnel Committee's recommendation. Ms. Umstot stated that the library is averaging 520 curbside pickups per month, 542 phone calls a month (a 200% increase), and despite the pandemic, circulation is only down about 35%. The library continues to support residents through reading lists, virtual programs, craft kits. Ms. Umstot noted that she expects to continue to offer curbside pickup, use of digital material, and home delivery service when regular in-person browsing resumes.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Bergeron stated that the Capital Planning Committee is meeting Wednesday to review the status of FY21 capital projects and take a first look at FY22 capital requests. Mr. Pierce stated that the Personnel Committee is meeting Tuesday.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

The Town Administrator stated that the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce is offering microgrants to local businesses and that information would soon be available on the website. He noted that the contractor for the Sanderson Place development had submitted an application for the building permit. Ms. Baker requested confirmation that there was sewer capacity to support the project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. McFarland stated that the Frontier Budget Committee met last week. There is a lot of uncertainty regarding the FY22 budget and timing for submitting budget requests. Mr. Bergeron stated that at the next meeting the Selectboard would be discussing postponing Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Pierce shared a letter that the Sunderland Democratic Committee sent to the town's congressional delegation regarding the recent events at the U.S. Capitol. Mr. Fydenkevez thanked the Sunderland Democratic Committee for sharing the letter.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to adjourn at 7:33 PM, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator