

Sunderland Selectboard Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 2021

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

Others present: K. McFarland, W. Houle, M. Wisseman, C. Rock, T. Quinlan, C. Bennett, J. Pelletier, P. Gagarin, K. Murphy, L. Baker, K. Rudden

Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.

Meeting called to order at 6:31PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to approve Selectboard minutes of January 11, 2021, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

APPOINT ALTERNATE BUILDING INSPECTOR LOIUS HASBROUK: Mr. Hasbrouk is the former Northampton Building Commissioner. His appointment is to support the Sanderson Place Senior Affordable Housing project and will be paid from the proceeds of the building permit fee. RDI and the Building Commissioner both respect Mr. Hasbrouk and believe he will add value to the project. Mr. Fydenkevez motion to appoint Mr. Hasbrouk as an alternate building inspector, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

TOWN CAUCUS, ELECTION AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DATES: Special legislation would be necessary to change the date of the election, however, Annual Town Meeting can be delayed by a vote of the Selectboard. The caucus and election dates will not be amended. The caucus will be at 10am on Saturday, February 27, in the parking lot behind 12 School Street. The election will be Friday, April 30. The state budget for FY21 was just completed in December. In anticipation of delayed fiscal information from the state, and to determine if it can safely be conducted indoors. Mr. Bergeron motion to move the date of Annual Town Meeting to June 12. Motion withdrawn to confirm with the Town Moderator. The date of June 12 was discussed and the Town Moderator agreed to that date. Mr. Bergeron motion to postpone Annual Town Meeting to 4pm on June 12 behind 12 School Street, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

APPOINT BOARD OF ASSESSORS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT KEVIN RUDDEN: Mr. Rudden stated that he serves on the Board of Assessors in Mendon and is the Administrative Assessor in Shutesbury. He is a certified assessor. Mr. Kravitz reviewed the selection process and stated that the Board of Assessors has recommended the appointment of Mr. Rudden. Mr. Fydenkevez motion to appoint Kevin Rudden to the position of administrative assistant to the Board of Assessors, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

120 NORTH MAIN STREET UPDATE: The Town Administrator stated that the project continues to move forward and Town Counsel is working with RDI's counsel on the Affordable Housing Restriction. The letter confirming that there is sufficient sewer capacity to support the project has been signed and transfer documents are being prepared for the closing. Ms. Baker noted that the local preference for units would only be available for units that do not have other housing assistance vouchers. She also noted that a construction mitigation plan is in the works and they have had good coordination with Baltazar, the company doing work on North Main Street.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Ms. Rock updated the Selectboard on the status of COVID-19 cases in Sunderland. Although Sunderland is a "red" high-risk community, that information is based on a rolling, two-week period from 12/27/20-1/9/21. This is the period following Christmas and so an increase was expected. There are currently 11 active cases with residents in isolation. The average age is 30-40 and only 3 are affiliated with UMass. There have been no recent cases in the school system. Ms. Rock also stated that Franklin County has received 1,700 doses of the vaccine. The Frontier Emergency Dispensing Site will distribute the vaccine locally. The vaccine will likely be available to the general public in April. People can call 2-1-1 with vaccine questions. Mr. Fydenkevez stated that there are 68,000 residents of Franklin County and everyone will have access to the vaccine. People who are interested in volunteering can contact the town or visit www.wmmrc.org to become trained.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Fydenkevez stated that the towns that participate in the Frontier Emergency Dispensing Site are prepared to distribute vaccines as soon as it is available. Mr. Bergeron noted that the Capital Planning Committee met the previous week.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Sunderland has been approved as an AARP Age-Friendly Community, which provides access to resources to become more age-friendly. MassDOT has proposed to extend sidewalks along Route 116 to the North Star School on the southbound side and to the Sugarloaf Frostie along the northbound side, as well as an enhanced crosswalk. The Town Administrator is also participating in the MMA Annual Meeting virtually at the end of this week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Murphy stated his concern with the new trash hauler and the increased cost. He expressed disappointment in the lack of alternatives.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bergeron motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Kravitz', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator