

Sunderland Selectboard  
Monday, February 1, 2021

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

Others present: Chief Demetropoulos, L. Smith, K. McFarland, G. Gottschalk, J. Pelletier, Attorney Pearson, A. Tasneem

Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.

Meeting called to order at 6:33PM.

### MINUTES

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to approve Selectboard minutes of January 25, 2021, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

### BUSINESS

**LIQUOR VIOLATION HEARING – SUNDERLAND GULF MART:** Hearing opened at 6:35pm. Mr. Pierce read the hearing guidelines. In December, Sgt. Ravish from Deerfield Police worked with Sunderland to run an operation in Sunderland to determine whether underage persons could purchase alcohol. Per Sgt. Ravish's report, an underage person participating in the operation walked into the Sunderland Gulf Mart (aka Sunderland Shell) and was able to purchase alcohol without being asked for identification to verify age. Sgt. Ravish spoke with the clerk and informed him that the person who purchased the alcohol was underage and that the clerk needs to check the I.D. of everyone who enters the store to purchase alcohol. Attorney Pearson noted that there were no violations under the current ownership, that the clerk was a substitute, and that subsequently, the owner spoke with the clerk about the importance of checking IDs. Mr. Tasneem stated that the clerk was closing the store early and the purchase occurred as he was closing. Chief Demetropoulos confirmed that there have been no violations or complaints during his tenure and Mr. Bergeron noted that historically Sunderland retailers have not had issues. Mr. Fydenkevez asked whether the point-of-sale software requires a date of birth for alcohol sales. Mr. Tasneem responded that the store has the software, but it can be bypassed. Mr. Fydenkevez recommended strengthening the policy of inputting dates of birth. Mr. Bergeron stated that the sale of alcohol to minors is a public safety issue and that when a license to sell certain products (e.g. alcohol and tobacco), it is a demonstration of trust that the establishment will adhere to the rules. Mr. Fydenkevez motion to suspend alcohol license for 3 days and a one-year abeyance, Mr. Bergeron second for discussion. He noted that a second offense within a year would trigger the 3-day suspension, plus potential additional penalties. Vote 3-0. Hearing closed at 7:09pm

**DISTRICT LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Mr. Fydenkevez stated that there are two items that rise to the top of the list: updating the housing production plan and a needs assessment for the South County Senior Center. Deerfield and Whately prioritized the needs assessment as their #1 priority. Mr. Bergeron noted that if Sunderland also puts the needs assessment as the top priority, it would show unanimity. He emphasized that the study should focus on seniors needs, rather than a particular facility, for example, transportation. Mr. Bergeron also pointed out that Sunderland has a single water supply and that it would be worth looking at a regional water supply. Mr. Fydenkevez motion for the priorities to be 1) Senior Center needs assessment; 2) housing plan; 3) culvert assessment; 4) regional water supply study, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0. Other projects supported in the application, but not prioritized, included vaccination planning, delivery, and review, and electric vehicle charging station implementation assistance.

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** Ms. Smith stated that there have been 9 new cases since last Monday and there will likely to be 13-15 when the next state report comes out on Thursday. 3 of the cases are UMass related and one is connected to the Sunderland Elementary School, but there has been no indication of spread in the school. Mr. Fydenkevez reported on a meeting he participated in with Whately and Deerfield. The Franklin County Incident Commander is Tracy Rogers. Residents ages 75 and over are eligible to receive the vaccine now and encouraged to get it however they can. For those who can drive, mass vaccination sites are at the Eastfield Mall and UMass Amherst Campus Center. Franklin County will have several dispensing sites, but each one was allocated a weekly distribution of only 100 vaccines, so until the number increases, all the vaccines for the county are being pooled and administered at the Greenfield Senior Center. A CodeRED/reverse 911 call for the communities is being set up. Life Path has offered to help schedule appointments online and residents can call the town offices for assistance as well.

### SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Fydenkevez reported on the FRCOG Regional Council Meeting and stated that the assessment is higher because of accounting services, but baseline assessments are going down. He also noted that FRCOG is hiring a communications person. The number of calls to SCEMS has stabilized after a COVID-related dip earlier in the year.

Mr. Bergeron reported on the Village Center Committee meeting, at which project updates were discussed for 120 North Main, Main Street Reconstruction, and sidewalks along 116 that have been proposed by MassDOT. He also noted that dog license applications are coming and encouraged owners to get their dog licenses. Mr. Pierce stated that the Personnel Committee is scheduled to meet on 2/2.

#### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

FEMA approved the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Town was awarded a Local Rapid Recovery Planning Grant. Today was also the last official day for Teresa Foster, the administrative assistant for the Board of Assessors, who has worked for the town for 7 years.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chief Demetropoulos informed the Selectboard that he had applied for a grant to support the medical drug drop off box at the Police Station.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator