

Sunderland Selectboard & Finance Committee Minutes
Monday, February 8, 2021

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

Finance Committee: E. Crowe, A. Kajstura

Board of Health: C. Rock, B. Bennett, K. Kushi

Others present: J. Kowaleck, M. Kowaleck, H. Davis, T. Quinlan, W. Houle, G. Emery, L. Smith, C. Mui, K. McFarland, J. Corwin, J. Pelletier

Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.

Meeting called to order at 6:36PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to approve Selectboard minutes of February 1, 2021, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

COVID-19 UPDATE: Ms. Rock updated the Selectboard about a meeting over the weekend with Amherst and Hadley regarding the number of COVID-19 cases associated with UMass. Of the over 400 cases, 178 are off-campus students. UMass has ordered students to stay in their rooms. The majority of cases in Sunderland are affiliated with UMass. The Board of Health is recommending an emergency order that restaurants close at 9:30pm and limit capacity to 25%. This would be reassessed in two weeks. Testing and vaccinations on campus will continue despite UMass' restrictions. The Board of Health voted in favor of the emergency order. Vaccine appointments are available at the Greenfield Senior Center, Greenfield CVS, UMass, Eastfield Mall, Pittsfield, and starting next week at the Treehouse Brewery in Deerfield.

ASSESSORS BUDGET PRESENTATION: Mr. Kowaleck reviewed the Board of Assessors budget. The largest increase was for valuation because this is a revaluation year and the vendor will be assessing all properties in town. Typically, revaluations are done every three years and a third of the properties are assessed.

TOWN CLERK BUDGET PRESENTATION: Ms. Houle presented the Town Clerk's budget, which was very similar to last year. There was a decrease in the request for elections, but with sufficient funds in case there is a need for a Special Town Meeting or COVID-related election expenses.

TREASURER/COLLECTOR BUDGET PRESENTATION: Ms. Davis reviewed the Treasurer/Collector's budget, noting that the last payments for the Public Safety Complex and Library will be this year. Taxes were collected for North 116 Flats, as well as back taxes on 61-67 Old Amherst Road. There was an increase in the tax title line in order to move on some properties in arrears.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BUDGET PRESENTATION: Mr. Quinlan noted that building permit applications have not decreased due to the pandemic and the town collected approximately \$30,000 in fees in 2020. He receives and responds to numerous zoning questions, which are not supported by fees. He requested an increase in salary, noting that his hourly rate is lower than those of his alternates, as well as peers in other communities, and will raise this request with the Personnel Committee.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION: Mr. Emery presented the Highway Department's budget request. There was a request to increase the budget for the tree warden, as that work has picked up. The fuel request was lower because energy prices are lower, but expenses are increasing. The supply of salt and sand is sufficient for now. Mr. Emery also reviewed the department's capital requests. He noted that the milling head can last decades with proper maintenance and would likely be used 20-30 times per year. He is exploring sharing the milling head with Deerfield, who could also use the equipment.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Bergeron stated that the Capital Planning Committee met last week and requested that the Selectboard discuss a borrowing authorization for capital projects at the next meeting. Mr. Pierce stated that the Personnel Committee was meeting the following evening.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

The Town Administrator stated that the Community Preservation Committee was meeting later in the week to review CPA grant requests. The administration put in three applications: 1) repointing the foundation and exterior brickwork

on the Graves Memorial Library; 2) installation of an irrigation system at the Riverside Park fields; and 3) contingency funds for the restrooms at Riverside Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to adjourn at 7:57 PM, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Kravitz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator