

Sunderland Selectboard
Monday, March 15, 2021

Attending: D. Pierce, T. Fydenkevez, S. Bergeron, G. Kravitz
Finance Committee: A. Kajstura, E. Crowe
Others present: P. Gagarin, G. Gottschalk, R. Kaubris, R. Martin, J. Pelletier, K. McFarland
Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.
Meeting called to order at 6:40PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Bergeron motion to approve Selectboard minutes of March 8, 2021, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION: Superintendent Martin discussed new initiatives at FCTS, including more AP courses, financial literacy and women in the trades, as well as the Medical Assistant and LPN programs. Upgrades to the building include a vet clinic, renovated welding, electrical, and health technology shops and a refurbished cafeteria. FCTS expects approximately 570 students in October 2021, a 9.6% increase in enrollment over 2020. There are expected to be 9 students from Sunderland. None of the new staff is grant funded, it is based on increased enrollment and included in the operating budget. Mr. Bergeron asked about the one-time retirement contribution as a separate warrant article rather than as part of the budget, which would be difficult given the number of municipalities involved. Sunderland's total assessment would be \$143,566, which is a per-pupil cost of \$17,500. The capital assessment is \$10,373. The number of out-of-district students is expected to be 30 and increase because of the vet science and MA programs.

COVID-19 UPDATE: There are 15 active cases. The Town Administrator noted that the American Recovery Plan Act was signed into law and included additional COVID relief measures. Mr. Fydenkevez stated that more people are receiving vaccines and that people can register for the vaccine waitlist at mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine. CVS is also administering vaccines. The state receives 150,000 doses per week and Franklin County is receiving 1,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The town is also working on a plan to vaccinate homebound residents.

BUDGET DISCUSSION: There is currently about a \$300,000 gap between expected revenue and requests. Approximately \$170,000 of debt is coming off the books for the Public Safety Complex and Library, which creates an opportunity to borrow for larger capital projects, such as buildings and infrastructure.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Fydenkevez stated that four people were running for two seats on the School Committee and one person has submitted nomination papers for the Selectboard. April 12 is the last day to register vote and the election is on May 1. Mr. Bergeron reminded residents to license their dogs. The 120 North Main Street Committee is meeting Tuesday at 6:30pm, the Frontier Capital Planning Committee is meeting Wednesday, and police union negotiations will take place on Thursday morning. Mr. Pierce noted that construction was occurring on Routes 5 & 10 in Deerfield.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Construction began to install the sidewalk on South Silver Lane. Today was the first day for two new employees, Dave Zagorski and Arnold Rose.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Gagarin asked if the draft budget documents could be posted to the website and what the timing for the schedule was for the warrant. The schedule will be discussed at the next Selectboard meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator