

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES –July 22, 2013

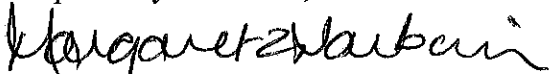
SUNDERLAND TOWN OFFICES

Present: Mr. Bergeron, Mr. Pierce and Mr. Fydenkevez

Others: Margaret Nartowicz, Town Administrator; Joyce Palmer-Fortune, Whately Selectboard; John O'Rourke, Conway Selectboard; Carolyn Ness, Deerfield Selectboard; Mark Gilmore, Deerfield Selectboard; Doug Finn, FCAT; Lynn Sibley, Whately Town Administrator; Matt Russo, Deerfield EMS Director; Robert Ahearn, Sunderland EMS Director

- Call to order at 6:45 p.m.
- Overview of Agenda-Mr. Bergeron.
- Comcast License Agreement Negotiations - 4-town discussion. Ms. Palmer-Fortune-overview of tasks done by FCAT; information gathering. Mr. O'Rourke-Conway has been in a license agreement with Comcast for 3 years. Attorney Bill Solomon worked with Conway. Mr. Fydenkevez-history of original agreement. There was interest early in educational access. Mr. Finn-working with Frontier and students to build opportunities and capacity. All four towns have a percentage of residences which don't have Comcast access. Discussion regarding ascertainment process and potential use of fiber network. Mr. Gilmore-need to know what to ask for. Discussion regarding technology options and opportunities. Mr. Bergeron-outline License Agreement task force composition, capital, operating (PEG Access) and duration. Discussion regarding technology changes in the next ten years and issues with the current contract. Atty. Solomon has suggested the towns form a committee to identify priorities for negotiations. Mr. Gilmore-should have checks and balances to ensure towns have done their tasks inside the current contract and in preparation for a contract renewal. Mr. Fydenkevez-in the earlier process, there was interest from the private schools and their involvement was discussed. Discussion regarding involvement of Frontier and composition of task force. Mr. Gilmore-suggest technical representation from private schools and Frontier, towns and FCAT. Mr. Finn-discussion should center around what towns are looking for. Mr. Pierce-need to look at the providing of technology as a whole; use of technology. Mr. Bergeron-composition to include a Selectboard designee and telecommunications committee designee (if applicable) from each town, a designee with technical expertise from each school (as discussed) and FCAT designee. Mr. Finn is charged with organizing composition and technical experts. Designation of Selectboard representatives at upcoming meetings and notice to Mr. Finn.
- Regional EMS – 3-town discussion-Deerfield, Whately, Sunderland. Mr. Russo provided an overview of his proposed staffing and operating budget scenario. He said he was fairly comfortable with revenue projections. Occupancy cost is unknown. Explained proposed budget line changes. Staffing discussion regarding on-call pay policy; existing wages vs. entering wages; full-time vs. per-diem; location. Review of Western Mass Regional Library System (WMRLS) building plans. Mr. Bergeron- fiscal agency costs referenced in the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) need to be incorporated into the budget. Selectboards need to review IMA, comment and forward to other towns within next two weeks. Discussion regarding potential use of WMRLS building for Regional EMS, Senior Center/Community Center. Mr. Gilmore-suggest revising Board of Oversight composition to include fiscal agent representative as voting member. Next Regional EMS meeting August 5th in Sunderland.
- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Pierce and 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret Z. Nartowicz
Town Administrator