

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES –July 31, 2014

SUNDERLAND TOWN OFFICES

Present: Mr. Fydenkevez and Mr. Pierce

Absent: Mr. Bergeron

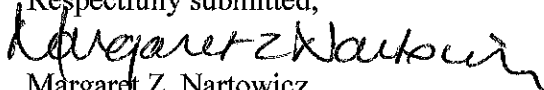
Others: Margaret Nartowicz

Behind the Camera: Marina Korpita, FCAT

- Call to order at 5:40 p.m.
- Housing Committee - - 120 North Main Street property acquisition recommendation. Richard Lopatka-looking at affordable housing documentation and how CPA will be used. Overview of CPA Determination of Eligibility form. Community housing purchase will require deed restriction on property under MGL c. 44B. Community housing means a variety of things under CPA. Overview of draft project budget. Current CPA Housing Reserves total \$49,000. Propose using \$45,000 for down payment, and finance \$200,000 over 10 years. Town is scheduled to raise \$220,000 for CPA housing reserves over the 10 years. Future monies can be set aside to pay borrowing costs. Annual set asides would go to borrowing cost. Determination of Eligibility to be put on next Board agenda. Stuart Beckley-Housing Committee feels parcel's best use is for community housing. CPA process to follow. Mr. Fydenkevez-plan is to purchase piece of property. Once purchased, goal is to consider Housing Committee recommendation and Town's Housing Production Plan. Discussion regarding soliciting public input for possibilities for land. Public Forum is scheduled for August 18th at 6:30 p.m.
- July 14, 2014 Minutes - Motion by Mr. Pierce to accept the minutes for July 14, 2014, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 2-0.
- 4-Town/Schools Joint Meeting – Round table discussion addressed general town and school concerns, fiscal realities, collaborative opportunities, building maintenance and efficiency, etc. (Sign-in sheet attached). Superintendent Marti Barrett and Business Manager Patti Cavanaugh presented a Frontier budget and assessment Power Point. Deerfield Selectboard Chair Carolyn Ness suggested getting a copy of the presentation to all towns, and contacting our legislators to encourage Chapter 70 funding. Discussion regarding possible collaborative opportunities: Human Resources, Information Technology, Facilities Maintenance. Deerfield FinCom member Ralph Healy noted that towns are lacking preventative maintenance and sufficient capital funding plans; Conway FinCom member Andrea Llamas discussed a CIC grant application to examine school building consolidation and potential town/school uses. Comments from attendees:
 - A planning document without an implementation plan will fail.
 - Chapter 70 distribution formula needs to be reviewed and revised.
 - If School Choice funding stops, where does that leave the schools and towns?
 - Towns and schools should look to collaborations through LPVEC and FRCOG.
 - Preventative maintenance vs. increased capital costs - CIC grant must provide an independent perspective.
 - Increasing special education costs vs. decreasing general education costs. Need to keep budgets to within 2.5% to 3% range. We need to learn to live within our means.
 - Can't sustain growth beyond towns' ability to pay. Charter school costs are another huge issue. Need to preserve quality education. Pursue the CIC grant.
 - Appreciated productive discussion. Have to look at regionalization/collaboration across the board, including municipal services.
 - Need to market ideas from the discussion and the CIC grant study.
 - Would like to do another meeting in the fall. Deerfield indicated its willingness to host. October is too late. Recommendation for next joint meeting in September.
 - Ideas have been presented outside the old collaboration "box". Hopeful for progress from the discussion.
 - Schools bring people to a community. Real estate agents should market the quality of our schools.
 - Discussion should continue and CIC grant should be pursued to build momentum in collaboration.
 - Costs for sharing services through agencies may be impacted by contract increases. Direct shared services preserve local oversight and coordination.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret Z. Nartowicz
Town Administrator