

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES – March 26, 2015**

### **SUNDERLAND TOWN OFFICES**

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

**Others: Margaret Nartowicz, Town Administrator, Frontier Regional School Committee (FRSC), School Administration, representatives from the towns of Conway, Deerfield, and Whately**

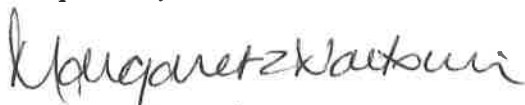
**Behind the Camera: FCAT**

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- Call to order at 6:37 p.m.
- Mr. Fydenkevez provided ground rules for meeting.
- Long-Range Planning Committee – Superintendent Marti Barrett gave an overview of committee's work. Andrea Lamas added background on the RFP scope, and an overview of CIC funding and 9C cuts. Still value in doing a town-funded study. Ms. Barrett noted that current school building use and operations aren't sustainable given declining enrollment, and will be challenging for the foreseeable future. Joyce Palmer Fortune-important that a portion of savings go to schools' programming and the other portion support the towns. Carolyn Ness-can't maintain the status quo. Jonathan Edwards-everything must be open for discussion in the best interest of all the towns' citizens. Discussion regarding how to get the best product and outcome possible. Mr. Edwards-need to consider population projections while maintaining excellence in education. Bob Decker-need to look at the whole picture from fresh perspective. Skip Olmstead-essential that consultant has strong background in education. Propose that FRSC discuss funding 50% and each town split the remaining 50%. Town Administrators and School Administrators can discuss fiscal agent-the entity or entities that control and oversee the study and monies for the study.
- Frontier Budget - Mr. Fydenkevez-overview of budget planning process. FRSC's budget vote took Sunderland by surprise. Ms. Barrett-budget process this year was no different than prior years. Haven't really addressed declining enrollments in prior years. Ms. Barrett-overview of Frontier budget process. Cyndi Ouimette-FRSC was required to take vote by certain date. Has better understanding of Superintendent's and budget sub-committee's recommendations now. Discussion regarding timing of meetings, impact of personnel cuts and tax rate impacts. John O'Rourke-Conway may be inclined to support the Superintendent's recommended budget. Ms. Ness-comfortable with supporting Ms. Barrett's 0% budget increase. Ms. Palmer-Fortune-Compelling argument was made at school committee to keep physical education. Concerned with reputation of schools. Mr. Edwards-An increase in 'silo A' means decrease in 'silo B'. Not sustainable. Mr. Pierce-State aid has decreased, putting greater burden on local tax base. Discussion regarding justifying increased services with increased cost versus increased cost with level services. Discussion regarding expressing concerns to legislators about decline in Ch.70 funding, class sizes, resources, and outgoing students to other education options. Mr. Bergeron-support Superintendent's recommended budget. Mr. Fydenkevez-request that FRSC discuss again and decide on whether there is common ground. Ms. Ouimette-deadline to vote budget has passed. Discussion regarding further FRSC discussion and strategy at town meetings.

Motion by Mr. Bergeron to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Pierce. Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret Nartowicz  
Sunderland Town Administrator