

BOARD OF SELECTMEN (BOS) MINUTES – September 28, 2015

SUNDERLAND TOWN OFFICES

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

Absent:

Others:

Behind the Camera: Marina Korpita, FCAT

- Call to order at 7:00.m.
- Mr. Bergeron gave an overview of the agenda.
- Mr. Bergeron-John Musante, Amherst Town Manager, passed away last week. Mr. Musante had worked collaboratively with Sunderland and will be missed. Great loss for the Pioneer Valley.
- Solar Project-Beth Greenblatt-Net metering is available for Sunderland. Planning Board has approved both locations. Interconnection with utilities has paused. Ms. Greenblatt received a letter from Western Mass. Electric/Eversource stating that the town had two choices, 1. Have Sunderland's project stand alone to be reviewed or 2. Pool together with other projects and they will review impact of all the projects. Pros and cons to both. A group study will allow Western Mass. Electric/Eversource to look at all the projects at once on their system. Group study will take more time. Kersage is looking at the two options. This delay could derail both projects. Kersage could lose their 30% tax credit if not done by December 31, 2016. The longer Western Mass. Electric delays, the better the chance the net metering cap can be exhausted. Ms. Greenblatt gave the BOS three choices to move forward with, 1. Do nothing, 2. Send letter to DPU, and 3. Contact elected officials. Discussion regarding the two choices. Ms. Greenblatt suggested that the town join the group study and meet with Western Mass. Electric to hold them accountable. The town could get in the group study and then withdraw. Ms. Greenblatt-feels that the process should be pushed to move forward. A conference call might get a clearer time frame and how they are going to handle project. Ms. Greenblatt would like conference call as soon as possible. Kesarge submitted pricing based on a fixed price with or without an escalator or an index price off of net meter. Ms. Greenblatt encourages her clients to do the index deal. Mr. Pierce-agrees with the index, especially since it is a public project. BOS agreed to have Ms. Greenblatt inform Kersage that they are interested in the index pricing. Ms. Greenblatt informed the BOS that she has not pushed counsel to respond to the red line contract, which are insignificant, mostly risk. Ms. Greenblatt did not want to have the clock start ticking and spend more money until more was known about the interconnection. Mr. Bergeron-Asked if the timing of the legal review should be 60-90 days? Ms. Greenblatt will have counsel look at immediately and respond to the red lines. Most likely will not see construction until spring.
- Public Comment-Gary Briere-Berkshire to Boston Tour-25% growth over last year, 3 foreign countries, 17 U.S. States. Fantastic tour. Wanted to bring a token of appreciation. Riders love coming to Sunderland. Mr. Briere-appreciated Sunderland's participation and very thankful. Discussion regarding Sunderland marketing itself.
- September 14, 2015 Minutes-Motion by Mr. Fydenkevez to approve September 14, 2015 minutes, 2nd by Mr. Pierce. Vote 3-0.
- Town Administrator Update-Signed contract by Sherry Patch. Three year term, starting October 4th. Ms. Patch will be at the next BOS meeting and will visit the town offices this week.
- 120 North Main Street-Mr. Bergeron-Public Forum coming soon, information on the website. Forum will include Berkshire Design, the working group for 120 North Main, and hopefully a lot of community members to look at the potential for that property. Not a final design. The next steps are to request proposals for design services on that parcel. The concept is what the working group is bringing forward. BOS will discuss maintenance of the house in future meetings.
- North Main Street Reconstruction-BOS requested from CHA a timeline. September-Data collection and survey work October-Data analysis of preliminary design. November-Public outreach phase. December-Submit the preliminary design, functional design, etc., then start the DOT review period. Mr. Pierce-Claybrook Road will be closed for a period.

- 300th Anniversary Update-Mr. Fydenkevez-Selectmen's office ready to send out invitations to organizations in town. Looking for ideas, no set committee yet, looking for the town to decide festivities. Looking for all ages to participate. Forum will be October 20th, 6:30-8:00pm at the library.
- South County EMS (SCEMS)-Mr. Fydenkevez-Discussions about the best location and everyone being on the same page. Meetings continue to move forward.
- 2015 Sewer Abatement- Thank you to Cindy Bennett for pulling this together. **Motion to abate 2015 sewer abatement for 270.99 at 23 Bridge Street to come under Sewer Reserve by Mr. Fydenkevez, 2nd by Mr. Pierce. Vote 3-0.**
- Sewer Bylaws-Mr. Fydenkevez-Bylaws need to be looked at addressing where the responsibilities should be for the homeowner; layout or to the tie.
- BAN-120 North Main Street-Motion to approve Ban for 120 North Main Street one year authorization for 220,500 with a balance due on this loan of \$20,000. To Easthampton Savings Bank until October 14, 2016 by Mr. Pierce, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0.
- Public Safety Complex Energy Review- Received Bales Energy Report. BOS agreed to bundle projects, well under the \$10,000, and just get them done. Qualifies for Green Communities. Mr. Bergeron will take care of this project.
- Shared Bucket Truck-Mr. Bergeron gave an overview. Sunderland will be the lead community and will send out contract to the other municipalities.
- Fire Department: Community Compact with the State-Motion to endorse Sunderland's participation in the Community Compact as presented by Mr. Pierce, 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0.
- Board Updates-Housing Committee tomorrow, reviewing Housing Generation Plan, affordable housing to be submitted to the HCD. Shared Police meeting is coming.
- Warrant and correspondence by signature.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Pierce and 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

