

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN (BOS) MINUTES – October 26, 2015

### SUNDERLAND TOWN OFFICES

**Present:** Mr. Bergeron, Mr. Fydenkevez, and Mr. Pierce, Ms. Patch Town Administrator

**Absent:**

**Others:**

**Behind the Camera:** Jonathan Prosper

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- Call to order at 7:04 p.m.
- Mr. Bergeron gave an overview of the agenda.
- Board of Selectmen acting as **Sewer Commissioners set the 2016 sewer rate.** There are a total of 1264 units and the budget is \$346,853, which sets the tax rate at \$274.40 per unit. This budget is not on the tax rate of the general town budget as it is solely funded by sewer users. Motion Mr. Pierce, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0 to set 2016 sewer tax rate at \$274.50.
- Outstanding sewer charges submitted by the Treasurer/Collector for 2014 and 2015 were reviewed. Board requested that the Treasurer/Collector pursue any and all legal measures necessary to collect outstanding fees. Mr. Fydenkevez reminded residents to check the posted taxpayer lien list posted in the Treasurer/Collector's Office.
- Motion Mr. Pierce to **accept Minutes of October 19, 2015**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Request from Richard Lopatka, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee to appoint Nika Tomasic as Administrative Assistant. This is a part-time position at \$15.73/hour not to exceed \$6,000/year per the annual appropriation at April 24, 2015. Administrative costs are allowed by status for the administration of the CPC activities which is based on a percentage of the fees. Motion Mr. Pierce, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fydenkevez to appoint Nika Tomasic to the position of CPC Administrative Assistant. Vote 3-0.
- The Board received correspondence from Bruce Weston, Chair of the Telecommunications Committee. **Mr. Weston is resigning effective October 31, 2015. Mr. Weston indicated that based on responsibilities and focus for telecommunication activities shifting to FCAT, there is no longer a need for the Telecommunications Committee.** The Board reviewed the history of the inception of the Telecommunications Committee and evolution over the years, expressing commendations to all who were involved. The Board would like letters of thanks sent to all members who were involved and who are still involved with the Telecommunications Committee. Motion Mr. Pierce to disband the Telecommunications Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0.

### BOARD UPDATES:

- Mr. Bergeron spoke about the **Housing Plan draft** that is being finalized. Thank you to Allysa Larose of the FRCOG for putting the plan together. There will be a community forum on November 10 with the Planning Board.
- Mr. Pierce reported on a recent conference call regarding the **Town's solar project.** We are currently waiting to hear from Eversource regarding potential requirements. A conference call will take place later in the week with the contractor and Eversource.
- Mr. Fydenkevez reported on the **SCEMS** meeting held on October 21<sup>st</sup> in Whately. Whately gave tentative proposals for the building to Deerfield and Sunderland. It was decided that a better understanding of the needs, etc. should be worked out with the three towns prior to presenting a final proposal to the Board of Oversight (BoO). Mr. Fydenkevez also noted that at the meeting an attendee reported staffing concerns. The individual had been at the Sunderland Fire the day of the meeting and noted two (2) EMTs staffing the ambulance and not a paramedic as promised with the plan. The Fire Chief addressed the matter with SCEMS. The BoO has been careful with adding staffing as they want to have current staff active and not a lot of staff not performing any tasks. SCEMS was staffed mainly with staffing from current stations which was welcomed, however, over time and attrition, some staffing members would be lost. Some things do not look as folks think – there staffing with a Paramedic was in place during the October 21<sup>st</sup> visit but because the services are provided in different facilities services are available but spread out. Perception is not always accurate and the importance of one building for the SCEMS service is needed.
- Mr. Fydenkevez announced the **Veterans Day Ceremony** that will held on Tues. November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM at the Veterans Memorial and Park at the Town Offices. The elementary school children will be

participating in the ceremony and there will be speakers and other ceremony moments presented.

Sunderland residents, and our veterans are encouraged to attend and participate. Dan Vandalsen coordinates the event with our school and local veterans.

- Mr. Bergeron announced the North Main Street reconstruction meeting with CHA engineering firm will be Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. The public is encouraged to attend for this update.
- 120 North Main Street will have another Public Forum on November 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss next steps in the process regarding an RFQ process, friendly 40B, etc.
- **Special Town Meeting** discussion. Date not set yet, however, Smith Voc costs for Sunderland student is time sensitive. Town Administrator will contact their Business Office for payment timeline.
- Waiting to set Special Town Meeting date until Free Cash is certified – Schedule A should be submitted this week. Cost for Smith Voc student tuition is over \$26,000 including transportation. Boat Ramp title search continues and appraisal should be completed this week. The Board does not want to set a date until all of these components have been completed which will give a better idea of funding needed.

#### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES**

- November 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30PM Mark Hamin from UMASS will be meeting with the Sunderland Finance and School Committees regarding Frontier Long Range Planning.
- Ms. Patch met with the Community Pathways Committee recently. A meeting with MassDOT, CHA (North Main Street reconstruction engineers), Police Chief, and Highway Superintendent on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 4PM regarding the MassDOT Road Safety Audit.
- Reviewed the Community Compact which requires towns to pledge best practices adoption in many areas. Participation would allow the town to earn credits towards grant funding. A lot of opportunities are matching with technical assistance. Mr. Bergeron asked if other towns have joined and what the expectations are for the program, Ms. Patch to follow-up with other STAM member communities.
- **Ms. Patch attended the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting** last week. She asked the Board if they have given any thought to formalizing the event with a committee yet? There are lots of community outreach opportunities she would like to pursue. The Board said to keep the group as is for now as no money is being expended.
- **Mr. Fydenkevez noted he would like to see more publicizing of good things in Town.** Many notable things taking place and reminded people that there are a lot more things going on in offices and the community and folks should be recognized for those efforts. If anyone has questions, take the time to ask.
- **Next Board of Selectmen's meeting November 2<sup>nd</sup>.** 6:30pm Frontier Long Range Planning meeting.
- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Pierce and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherry Patch  
Town Administrator