

BOARD OF SELECTMEN (BOS) MINUTES – October 5, 2015

SUNDERLAND TOWN OFFICES

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

Absent:

Others:

Behind the Camera: not recorded

- Call to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Mr. Bergeron gave an overview of the agenda.
- **Introduction of Sunderland's New Town Administrator – Sherry Patch** welcomed to Sunderland.
- Revision of Town Administrator contract language for accounting purposes per Town Accountant request. Revise contract: page 1, section 5, sentence 2, add language "prorated from start date" for salary mid-year payout of July 1 annual salary. Vote to re-authorize contract with signatures, **Motion Mr. Pierce, 2nd Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.**
- Other appointments related to Town Administrator Position will be on the next agenda.
- Fire Chief Robert Ahearn appeared before the Board to discuss **Veteran Street Sign Project** he would like to see in Sunderland, similar to the street sign veteran recognition in Deerfield for Veterans Killed in Action. There are 13 Killed in Action Veterans identified on Sunderland's Memorial Wall. Chief Ahearn is proposing private funding for project and has been working with Deerfield on vendors and other information related to the project from their experience. Mr. Fydenkevez recommends the project be continued and completed under private funding and not through town finances such as a revolving fund. Once project is completed, it can be gifted to the town for further management and additions if needed. Chief Ahearn said he is looking to assign placement of signs near the Veteran's original homestead but it is difficult because many lived on the same streets in the early years. He has been working with Linda Lopatka for address verification and other historical information as needed. The plan is to have the project completed and everything in place by Memorial Day, 2016. The Board supports the project to be conducted under private activity.
- Motion Mr. Pierce to accept **Minutes of September 28, 2015**, second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Mr. Bergeron announced there will be a **120 N. Main Street Public Forum Wed. October 7 at 6:30PM.** Residents may come to see feasibility study results and proposed design layouts by Berkshire Design. The Board discussed requesting gas line infrastructure be included in the public way for the project design and construction.
- Mr. Bergeron gave an update of the **N. Main Street Reconstruction Project.** Project timeline presented in proposal has not changed. Surveying has been completed and CHA is gathering data for a public forum to update the Town on this project. Mr. Fydenkevez discussed the addition of gas line conduit be put in place for this project as well. Mr. Bergeron will contact CHA to see if it would be possible for gas line conduit added to the scope design because of TIP. He will also ask CHA what 85% gas tie-in would look like with the understanding the infrastructure would be in place *if* Sunderland was to get natural gas in town. Mr. Pierce asked if lighting was noted in the proposal as well as what the tree and sidewalk preservation requirements were by MassDOT.
- A **Public Forum regarding the 300th Anniversary Celebration** will take place on October 20, 6:30-8PM in the Library Community Room. The Board noted that a committee has not been appointed and the Board was wide open to ideas and encourages community attendance and participation.
- **Public Safety Complex Energy** review. Mr. Bergeron spoke with two contractors who recommend we speak with building envelope repair groups. The project would be less than \$10,000 and then we can seek quotes. Beyond Green was a contractor mentioned to contact.
- Discussion regarding the **SCEMS Lease** changes proposed. Mr. Bergeron asked what language changed from the original MOU which expired noting the expiration date changed from 2015 to 2018 making it a 3-year contract. Request Ms. Patch contact Deerfield regarding the proposed lease differences, was there counsel review and who their counsel is, and what the exit clause is. Ms. Patch will update the Board at their next meeting. The Board will consider sending the lease to our Town Counsel for review once verifying with Whately if they've done so already since both towns have the same Town Counsel.

- **Solar Project status.** Mr. Pierce reported that he participated in a recent conference call with Eversource representatives and our consultant Beth Greenblatt regarding Sunderland's Solar project status. It is reported that our project has been bundled with other similar projects and is in the queue. Eversource has addressed some staffing issues they had, adding a new administrative person which alleviated the workload for engineering but an approval date was not given. The Board requested Beth Greenblatt draft a letter to Representative Kulik and the DPU regarding the situation.
- **Sugarbush update:** Mr. Bergeron had a conference call with Attorney Jay Talerman and Scott Nielson regarding filing a request for summary judgement.
- Mr. Pierce will complete **evaluation for Beacon Integrated to be part of the Massachusetts State Contractor.** Mr. Bergeron Motion, Mr. Fydenkevez 2nd, Vote 3-0.
- Discussion regarding a **Special Town Meeting** for near future. The Town would have to take funds from Stabilization for out-of-district, School Choice student for Smith Voc. attendance and transportation costs. Mr. Patch will work with Town Accountant regarding Free Cash Certification status.
- Announcements:
 - Columbus Day, Monday October 12th all town offices will be closed.
 - Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting is October 19th.
 - Mr. Fydenkevez thanked Mr. Bergeron and Ms. Bennett for all the work they did in the Selectmen's Office during the transition between Town Administrators.
- Warrant and correspondence by signature.
- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Pierce and 2nd by Mr. Fydenkevez. Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Patch
Town Administrator