

BOARD OF SELECTMEN (BOS) MINUTES – November 23, 2015

SUNDERLAND TOWN OFFICES

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

Absent: Mr. Bergeron

Others:

Behind the Camera: Marina Korpita

- Call to order at 7:01pm
- **Mr. Pierce Motion to accept Minutes of November 16, 2015, 2nd Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 2-0.**
- Mr. Fydenkevez noted the Board received a letter from the Planning Board regarding concerns and considerations related to the North Main Street Reconstruction project.
- 7:04PM **Open Tax Classification Hearing** with Board of Assessors. Mr. Kowaleck presented the following tax information. Residential values are about \$304million, commercial property around \$24million, industrial property is \$5million and personal property at \$7million for a total of \$339million in value. 90% of the tax base is residential and 10% of the tax base is commercial, industrial and personal property combined. Board of Assessors do not recommend a split tax rate and feel it would be too much burden on commercial, industrial, and personal properties. Recommend a single tax rate for the town. Current tax rate is \$14.41 and new tax rate with an increase of 2.4% will be \$14.66. **Motion Mr. Fydenkevez to keep single tax rate, 2nd Mr. Pierce, Vote 2-0.**
- TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES
 - Working on estimated revenues for the budget
 - Attended first PVTA meeting in Springfield but there wasn't a quorum present to do business.
 - Met today with Phoebe Walker and Planners at the FRCOG to hear about their programs. Executive Director Linda Dunlavy was not available to meet.
- BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES
 - Mr. Pierce reported there was no new information related to the **solar project**.
 - Mr. Fydenkevez spoke about a recent **SCEMS** meeting and the BoOs intention to enter into discussions with the Town of Whately to house the complete SCEMS program. He was informed a petition had been signed in Deerfield to keep the ambulance service in Deerfield but reiterated there is no physical space elsewhere to house the complete program rather than have it split up like it is now. The ambulance service is doing well, still working out some of the kinks which was expected and he looks forward to productive discussions with Whately regarding their facility for SCEMS.
- OLD BUSINESS
 - Ms. Patch requested the Board accept the **Personnel Recruitment and Selection Policy** before them for recruiting and hiring personnel. Mr. Pierce noted it did not need to be brought before the Personnel Committee because it was a Policy and not a change to the Town bylaws. He would bring it to the attention of the Personnel Committee at the next meeting but felt acceptance should proceed. **Motion Mr. Pierce, 2nd Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 2-0.**
- **Richard Lopatka introduced Mindy Domb, Executive Director of the Amherst Survival Center.** Mr. Lopatka spoke highly of the center and its work, noting that Sunderland residents seek assistance from the Center as well as volunteer. Ms. Domb thanked the Board for the opportunity to introduce the center and speak of the many programs they offer to communities in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. The Center is more than a "soup kitchen" as it provides many programs including meals, clothing, wellness/medical examinations, and

a store for food, clothing and goods such as books or small household items which are free for patrons. The Center also acts as a Community Center offering services, computer access and assistance. The center is served by PVRTA Bus 31 and Bus 33. Bus 31 is a Sunderland bus and stops at the Center. All services are by volunteers, many of whom may also utilize the many programs offered as well. The Center is open Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri, and every third Saturday. All services are free. Visitors are only asked what town they are from when they enter. Mr. Domb extended an invitation to the Board to visit and partake in one of their wonderful lunches services during their open hours by talented chefs. From Nov. 2014 to Oct 2015, Sunderland residents visited 1,795 times, serving 88 families which was made up of 202 individuals of which included 53 children, 134 adults between the ages of 18-64 and 15 adults over the age of 65. Volunteers are always welcome along with donations. The Board offered to supply a link to the center's website on the town's website.

- **Tom Zimnowski met with the Board regarding the 300th Anniversary Celebration planning update.** Cindy Benjamin and Janet Conley attended as they have been working some details related to the Community Forum ideas received in October. They met with the 350th planning committee from Hadley as they just had their anniversary a few years ago. They provided a lot of information of what worked or obstacles encountered with their planning and timing. The group learned that some bands would be quite costly and possibly out of Sunderland's budget but it was also a great time to make reservations with others this far out as well. Hadley had excellent sponsorship from its businesses and great community fund raising support through memorabilia such as shirts, caps, cards, etc. Some band involvement would require commitment now and therefore we need to set a parade date as soon as possible to begin those reservations. The Board suggested another Community Forum be held December 8th or 9th to encourage more community interest for ideas and volunteers. Mr. Fydenkevez reiterated the group was not a committee yet but interested members would be appointed in the near future. The Board recognizes funding mechanisms would be required to accept donations to move forward with plans. Many details to consider regarding parade route, participants of parade, what bands would be available, parking, food offerings, school involvement, etc. They will be able to arrange a special Veterans Day ceremony as well with the assistance of Ret. Col. Vandalsen. Mr. Fydenkevez likes the idea of having a 4 month celebration that ends with special activities on the Town's anniversary date, November 12.
- **Sewer Abatement request for 260 N. Main Street. Uncollectable due to bookkeeping error. Motion Mr. Pierce to abate in the amount of \$284.66, 2nd Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 2-0.**
- **Appointments to the Capital Planning Improvement Committee. Dan Murphy representing the Finance Committee and Gerry Bridwell for the Library.** Other members to be appointed as they are brought forward. Appointments are for a one-year period ending during our appointment cycle on June 30, 2016. **Motion Mr. Pierce, 2nd Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 2-0.**
- Motion Mr. Pierce, 2nd Mr. Fydenkevez to adjourn at 8:11PM, Vote 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



Sherry Patch
Town Administrator