

Board of Selectmen
Monday, January 9, 2017
Minutes

Attending: T. Fydenkevez, S. Bergeron, D. Pierce, S.Patch
Others: L. Starr, K. Hand, D. Wisseman, H. Graves, B. Berry, N. Blais, G. Bridwell, R. Lane, L. Rivais
Behind the Camera: FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

Sunderland Public Library Trustee Appointment

A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and members of the Sunderland Board of Library Trustees was held for the purpose of appointing a person to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees created by the resignation of Richard Lopatka. Motion: Mr. Pierce pass over the appointment until all Trustees are present. Second: Mr. Bergeron. Voted 3-0.

Chairman Beth Berry called the meeting of the Library Trustees to order at 7:00 PM. Selectmen Chair Tom Fydenkevez called for nominations. Motion: Ms. Starr to appoint Hollis Graves to the position of Trustee Second: Ms. Blais. Motion: Mr. Bergeron to close nominations. Second: Ms. Blais. Voted: Unanimously. Mr. Graves stated that he would be happy to join the other members.

The following roll call vote was recorded: Beth Berry-Yes; Natalie Blais- Yes; Scott Bergeron-Yes; Gerry Bridwell; Yes, Tom Fydenkevez-Pass; David Pierce-Yes; Lorin Starr-Yes; David Wisseman-Yes. Voted: Unanimously.

Ms. Berry acknowledged and thanked Richard Lopatka for his service.

FY 17 Community Development Strategy

Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority met with the board to discuss the Town's FY 17 Community Development Strategy Update. The update is a requirement of the Community Development Block Grant Program. The town worked with ion with the FRCOG over the summer to develop a draft list of priorities which has been posted since August and has been posted and available for public comment.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority met with the board to discuss the Town's FY 17 CDBG application. Mr. Pierce read the CDBG Hearing Notice. Mr. McHugh gave a brief overview of the CDBG program. The program is a Housing Rehabilitation program, which offers a deferred low interest (0%) loans to qualifying low/moderate income persons to do repairs and improvements to their homes including, code violations, energy efficiency upgrades, septic system, windows, roofs, etc. The program is not a remodeling program it is designed to correct code violations. Currently, there are 4 people on the waiting list for funds.

North Plain Road Request for Speed Limit Reduction

Mr. Pierce read the Public Informational Hearing Notice to consider reducing the speed limit on North Plain Road from 35 mph to 25mph . Larry Rivais of North Plain Road spoke in favor of reducing the speed to 25 mph. Mr. Rivais noted the increased vehicle traffic in the area, as well as bike traffic and also that there are no sidewalks in the Plumtree area and a lot pedestrians walking and children skateboarding and playing. Mr. Pierce read a letter of recommendation from Police Chief Demetropoulos recommending that the speed limit be set at 25 mph. Chief Demetropoulos advised that the law was recently changed to allow for 25 mph in thickly settled areas. Chief Demetropoulos advised that the road does meet the definitions as set out in the law. Mr. Bergeron stated that he appreciates the initiative. Mr. Bergeron stated that the board may need to adopt the option at a Town Meeting.

This matter was taken under advisement for further clarification.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Pierce to approve the minutes of the meeting dated 12/19/16. Second: Mr. Bergeron. Voted: 3-0

Selectmen Updates

Mr. Bergeron advised that the opening for proposal for the 120 North Senior Affordable Housing Project will be held this Friday, January 13th at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Mr. Pierce reported that the Complete Streets prioritization plan draft is complete. Mr. Pierce also provided an update on the Solar Project. Mr. Fydenkevez provided an update on the South County Senior Center an Outreach Coordinator has been hired 15 hours per week at the Senior Center. Mr. Fydenkevez acknowledged the work of the EMT's and Paramedics at South County EMS. Average response time is 7 minutes. Housing discussion for the service is ongoing. Deerfield Academy has offered to put a building up. Many details still need to be worked out.

Town Administrator Updates

Ms. Patch advised that she working on the budget and putting preliminary revenue figures together. Ms. Patch will be meeting with the Finance Committee tomorrow.

Public Comment

Dr. Lane presented a replica of the town flag that was made by his daughter, who know resides in Idaho. Motion: Mr. Bergeron to recognize Russell and Nancy Lanes' fine work and imitative in creating the third flag representation. Second: Mr. Pierce. Voted 3-0.

OPEB Recommendation

Treasurer Susan Warriner sent a memo recommending PARS as the town's OPEB Trust Management. Mr. Bergeron will follow up with the Treasurer regarding her recommendation.

2017 DLTA/FRCOG Recommendation

Ms. Patch discussed focusing on Economic Development and Ecotourism as well as reinvigorating the Agricultural Commission. This matter was taken under advisement. The board will review and rank the 2017 DLTA priorities at their meeting on 1/23/17.

Highway Truck Driver/Laborer Appointment

Mr. Pierce read letter of recommendation from Highway Superintendent George Emery. Mr. Emery is recommending that John Santos be appointed to the position. Mr. Bergeron noted Mr. Santos's experience with the Town of Pelham Highway Department, education and EMT certification. Motion: Mr. Bergeron to appoint John Santos to the position of Highway Truck Driver/Laborer as recommended by the Highway Superintendent. Second: Mr. Pierce. Voted: 3-0.

Executive Session

Chairman Fydenkevez declared that the board would be entering into executive session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, section 21.3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss strategy with regard to Police Union Contract negotiations. The following roll call vote was taken: Mr. Bergeron-aye; Mr. Pierce-aye; Mr. Fydenkevez-aye.

Chairman Fydenkevez announced that the board will be reconvening in open session only for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Bergeron to adjourn the meeting. Second: Mr. Pierce. Voted 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sherry Patch
Town Administrator