

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, July 10, 2017
Town Office Building

Attending: D. Pierce, S. Bergeron, T. Fydenkevez, and S. Patch;
Others: Chief Demetropoulos, Officer Scoble, Officer Tozloski, Sergeant Lyons, D. Olanyk, S. Snyder
Behind the Camera: FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:36 PM.

RATIFICATION POLICE UNION CONTRACT

Officer Scoble spoke on the Police Union contract negotiation process for the new contract for 2017-2020. Officer Scoble noted the town was a fair negotiator and a good communicator, allowing opportunity to be heard on all matters. He said there was no problem ratifying and presenting the proposed contract to the Police Union a month before the current contract expires and that the process has improved for everyone. Mr. Bergeron noted there were substantive conversations plus and understanding of history and structural changes for employees and the town. Discussions included migrating away from the Quinn Bill incentive and increase in educational incentives and steps added to that component. There has not been a lot of turnover with full-time officers which continues to be a good working environment. Mr. Fydenkevez emphasized the importance of knowing the contract and what's in it. The Police Department has taken a 0% increase in the past when there were budget constraints concentrating on what's important to them on a daily level. Officer Scoble agreed that the officers believe in wage and benefits second and work conditions first. Mr. Bergeron gave an overview of the contract which includes a 3-year expansion of the definition of equipment, blocks of time for accumulating vacation time, ex. year 5 adds one day with continued employment. Number of steps: dropped step at bottom and added one to the top level. 3-3-3% across for Full-time Officers, 3-3-4% for Part-time Officers with the extra percent awarded in their 3rd year of implementation of the contract over 3 years. Information sharing of town finances from the beginning to allow better understanding of operation. Motion: Mr. Fydenkevez to ratify Police Union Contract for 2017-2020. Second: Mr. Bergeron. Voted 3-0. Mr. Bergeron noted the impact to the town will be \$37,000 over the 3-year contract.

UPDATE CAMPER/TRAILER PERMIT REQUEST

Dan Olanyk came before the board for an update regarding his request for temporary camper/trailer permit on site where they want to build to build a house on Old Amherst Road. Mr. Pierce read the opening remarks from Town Counsel. Counsel has advised that a variance from the ZBA is required as the bylaws only allow a one year permit. Mr. Olanyk offered that he spoke with Steve Krol, ZBA Chair who advised him that ZBA was not required with the request. Mr. Fydenkevez noted the initial request was for a special permit, not a variance.

PARC Grant

Community Pathways Chairman Sara Snyder requested approval board for submission of the PARC grant application, which is due July 12th. Ms. Snyder gave an update of the Community Pathways Committee meeting which included naming the proposed project Sunderland Riverside

Park. Ms. Snyder advised that the town is eligible for a \$400,000 grant. However, we are only applying for a \$295,000 grant for which includes funding for an accessible trail around the property with a new entrance on the east side of the building, including signage, picnic area and overlook, trees, plantings, etc. This is a reimburseable grant of 68% and the town match would be \$95,000 of which they already have \$20,000 and are looking for an additional \$75,000. Approval is required by Town Meeting vote by the end of the calendar year where a draft article and warrant would be presented for the additional \$75,000 requested by CPA. Mr. Fydenkevez stated he would not vote in support of the project because of the access on the east side near the Veterans Memorial that is being proposed and that he does not support that part of the current plan. Mr. Fydenkevez stated that he feels the Veterans Memorial intent was to be a place of support and reflection and having any entry access along that side would detract from the Veterans Memorial and Park. Ms. Snyder noted parking was an issue and there would be a hearing for the entrance proposal. Mr. Fydenkevez also noted he had concerns regarding the cost of maintenance and where those funds would come from and whether it was a regional area or just for Sunderland residents. Mr. Pierce noted discussion of user fees possibly. Ms. Snyder stated the trail would be maintained by volunteers in the near future, the area would be paved with stone dust and pathways would be paved and therefore would require minimal maintenance. The state boat ramp would be maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service vegetation section and therefore they do not see considerable maintenance for 5-10 years. Not field work is being presented in this phase. Motion: Mr. Bergeron Motion to authorize the PARC grant submission. Second: Mr. Fydenkevez for discussion. Mr. Fydenkevez reiterated the praise received for our Veterans Memorial and Park and doesn't want anything detracting from that area and suggested that the Pathways Committee discuss with the designers of the Memorial. Ms. Snyder said the charge of the architect would be to create cohesion for all elements in the master plan and to be respectful of the spirit of the project. This is a two (2) year grant and design is Phase 1, Phase 2 would be construction. Motion: Mr. Bergeron to adopt the PARC Grant resolution. Second: Mr. Pierce. Voted: 2-1. Ms. Snyder said the next steps in the process would be a CPA application, notice to abutters, and realtor. Next meeting will be in the fall to discuss design. Grant awards are expected in November/December.

MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Fydenkevez to accept the minutes of June 26, 2017. Second: Mr. Bergeron. Voted: 3-0.

UPDATES

- Mr. Fydenkevez announced that Deerfield Academy will be building a structure for SCEMS and has pulled a permit for the project.
- \$129,805 in Green Communities funding has been received to complete energy work in the Town Office Building, Elementary School and Public Safety Complex – no funds will be coming from the town for these projects.
- \$394,000 Complete Streets Grant was received which totals \$523,000 in grant funds received in the last month. Mr. Fydenkevez thanked Ms. Patch for her work on obtaining these funds for the betterment of Sunderland.
- Mr. Pierce reported that Sunderland Elementary School received a Gold Award.
- Mr. Bergeron said the 120 N. Main Street project would need more time to conclude the contract.

North Plain Road speed limit reduction was discussed by the Police Chief. Chief Demetropoulos recommends reduction from 35MPH to 25MPH as the street meets the density requirements of thickly settled on $\frac{3}{4}$ of mile stretch of roadway. Mr. Fydenkevez asked that the residents of North Plain Road be invited to the Board's July 24th meeting to participate in the discussion as proposed. The town adopted the statute to allow this authority at the April, 2017 Annual Town Meeting.

The Police Chief also reported Officer Peters completed full-time academy training and will be working midnight shifts.

ENERGY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Motion: Mr. Fydenkevez to appoint Edward Gately to the Energy Committee per their recommendation. Second: Mr. Bergeron. Voted: 3-0.

It was announced the former Fire Chief Bob Ahearn will be resigning from the Fire Department after a total of 38 years of service to the Department. Sincere thanks from the Board for Chief Ahearn's dedicated service to the Town. The Board read Chief Benjamin's acceptance letter to Bob.

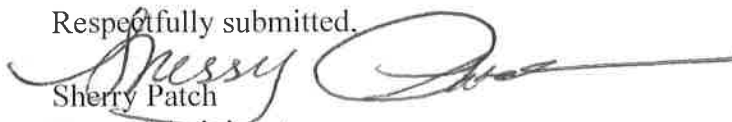
Ms. Patch announced the CodeRED was now in service as the Town's new emergency notification service. An announcement was released last week to all residents. Residents are encouraged to register online so they can manage their own preferences for announcements and specific contact information. Also for residents put the CodeRED call number in their cell phones so they know an emergency alert is being released by the town.

Selectmen's next meeting is July 24, 2017.

Motion: Mr. Bergeron to adjourn. Second: Mr. Fydenkevez. Voted: 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Sherry Patch
Town Administrator

