

SUNDERLAND SELECT BOARD  
Regular Meeting – November 17, 2016

1. Call to order by Mark Hyde
2. Board members present
  - a. Jon French, Mark Hyde, Steven Bendix, John Williams
    - i. Absent: Rick Timmerman
  - b. Audience
    - i. Nancy Wolf (Northshire Merger Study Committee/Act 46), Sally Ayrey (Resident)
3. Session recorded by GNAT-TV
4. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting
  - a. Changes to be made to previous meeting minutes
    - i. 7. a. ii. Clarification: We will stop paying any future bills related to old uniform contract
    - ii. 7. c. Clarification: Johnston will be attending Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration meeting
    - iii. 8. d. i. Name correction of Eddie Jordan to Edie Jordan
  - b. Motion to approve made by Bendix, seconded by Williams, motion passed
5. Public Comment
  - a. Nancy Wolf expressed concern that the assessments have been done and she hasn't noticed a Lister at her house
    - i. Hyde said that he too did not have a Lister enter his house, but knew that one or both had been there, while Bendix reported that one or both Listers did enter his house
    - ii. Hyde again expressed his desire to inform homeowners receiving an increase for the reason behind it
6. Reports from Road Liaison and/or Road Foreman
  - a. Uniforms – tabled until next meeting
7. New Business

- a. Nancy Wolf, Northshire Merger Study Committee (Act 46) – Update on status
  - i. The decision by the committee was to make it advisable for Sunderland to merge
    - 1. The town will vote at Town Meeting on March 7, 2017
    - 2. During the 2017-2018 transition year, the existing school boards will remain intact
    - 3. Representation – every town will have a representation as well as one from Londonderry, Danby, Dorset, Manchester
  - ii. School choice will be limited to those schools within the district beginning with current 5<sup>th</sup> graders
  - iii. If there is a student who has a sibling at a non-district school, they can attend the school at the district's cost
  - iv. Taxes would go down to \$1 for the coming year, which is the lowest it can go
  - v. Transportation is unknown at this time as it differs at all schools, but will be equitable
  - vi. If we don't merge, we will no longer get the small schools grant
  - vii. School closure is not a goal, and cannot happen within the first 4 years

## 8. Old Business

- a. Budgeting for next fiscal year
  - i. Law enforcement – staying at \$25,000
  - ii. Public Communication – Williams will ask Rose Keough for details
  - iii. Office Equipment - \$300-\$500 for chairs/stools for Town Hall office, Williams will speak with Rose Keough and \$1,000 for lighted bulletin board for town garage
- b. Town Report distribution
  - i. According to legislation, we now only have to send Town Reports to registered voters (i.e. not second home owners)

- ii. Three changes proposed beginning 2018
  - 1. Website notice of copy of Town Report at Town Clerk's office
  - 2. Mailed paper notice that the Town Report is at the Town Clerk's and online to all registered voters
    - a. If chosen, must provide article at Town Meeting
    - b. It will read: shall the town provide notice of the availability of the annual town report by postcard at least 30 days before the annual meeting in lieu of mailing or otherwise distributing the report to the voters of the town pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1682?
      - i. Williams will email the VLCT to clarify that the postcard is the warning
  - 3. Keep current plan, mail Town Reports to all registered voters
    - a. Printing costs about \$1,000
  - 4. The Select Board chose to go with a mailed paper notice, or choice number 2

c. Covered Bridge

- 1. Williams has gone to the Arlington Town Office, but the appropriate member(s) have not been there to discuss issue
- 2. Road Crew have trimmed limbs around signs on Town Line Road

d. Open Positions

- i. Zoning Administrator – Planning Board has completed preliminary interview and candidate will meet with the full Board at their next meeting
  - 1. Same candidate may potentially meet with the Select Board at our next meeting
- ii. Planning Board Member – Additional resident has expressed interest in becoming

- e. Assistant Clerk/Treasurer position – Discussion with possible executive session
  - i. Motion made to enter executive session by Williams, seconded by Bendix, motion passed
  - ii. Motion made to enter regular session by Williams, seconded by Bendix, motion passed
    - 1. Motion made to raise the salary of the Select Board Secretary to \$18.00 an hour by Williams, seconded by Bendix, motion passed
      - a. Williams will inform Rose Keough of update
- f. Ira Allen speed limit
  - i. State of Vermont Traffic Operations Engineer Amy Gamble wrote back denying the request to change the speed limit in front of the Ira Allen after conducting an engineering study
  - ii. They recommended sign improvements, they will install pedestrian warning signs approaching the Ira Allen, add a W3-5 Speed Limit Reduction warning sign when approaching the existing 40 mph speed zone from the south, and replace the existing damaged “Watch for Turning Vehicles” sign
  - iii. This topic will also be on agenda at the Traffic Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 1:00 pm in the VTrans Board Room in Montpelier.
- g. Bendix did contact Kasey Kathan from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, regarding the PFOA testing at Casellas, and they hope to have results ready during the week of November 21, 2016
- h. The auditors have been at Town Hall, and the results should be in shortly
  - i. Mark received a questionnaire regarding concerns, he replied that the only concern is that there is only one person who knows the majority of what happens

9. Review of Bills, Correspondence, and Signing of Select Board’s Orders

10. Motion to adjourn made by Bendix, seconded by Williams, motion passed

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephanie Muñoz Wells". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S'.

Stephanie Muñoz Wells