

## Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting

Monday March 23, 2020 7:00 PM

Town Office Building 104 Mountain View Road

### Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order- **Meeting called to order by Mr. French at 7:00 PM**
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Introduction of Board Members and speakers-Board members Jon French(Chairman), Andrew McKeever, Dixie Zens(Clerk) and Bruce Mattison present. Rick Timmerman, Martin Nadler and Marc Johnston(Road Foreman) present.
4. Approval of Minutes from March 12, 2020 meeting- Motion to approve by Mr. Zens seconded by Mr. McKeever. Minutes approved
5. Nomination for Selectboard/Possible Executive Session- Two residents, Rick Timmerman and Martin Nadler were present and each spoke of their willingness to be appointed to the remaining open seat on the Selectboard. Mr. Nadler stated if he wasn't appointed to the selectboard he would be willing to fulfill one of the available positions in the Town. A motion was made to enter into Executive session by Mr. McKeever and seconded by Mr. Zens. After deliberations a motion was made by Mr. Zens to come out of Executive session and seconded by Mr. Mattison. A motion was then made by Mr. Zens to appoint Rick Timmerman to the selectboard and seconded by Mr. Mattison. A vote was taken and the results were 3 yays and 1 abstention(Mr. McKeever). Mr. Timmerman was then sworn in by Mr. French and signed the Oath of Office. Mr. French explained the main reason for choosing Mr. Timmerman was with the recent circumstances surrounding the Coronovirus Pandemic and the potential for changes coming in the future with tax revenues and the decisions that would need to be made that Mr. Timmermans knowledge of the Town Budgets due to his recent experience on the selectboard would be extremely helpful as we move forward.
6. Town Coronavirus Update- Mr. French read a prepared statement on the Coronavirus and highlighted areas of Governor Scotts press briefing from March 23, 2020. Mr. French encouraged people to check on their

neighbors, especially the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. He then read the “Neighborly Best Practices for Helping During COVID-19” guidelines put out by the Vermont Dept. of Safety Emergency Management. Mr. French said the Town Website at [sunderlandvt.org](http://sunderlandvt.org) has been updated with COVID-19 information and links to the Neighborly Best Practices, Guidance for Vermont Business, Childcare for Essential Workers and Green Mountain Guide for Emergency Planning could be found under the **COVID-19 Outbreak Information and Resources** heading on the websites homepage. Mr. Zens spoke of the “Bennington County Mutual Aid” group where people could volunteer to help those in need. Website is <http://benningtonaid.com>. Mr. French stated there is a link to that on the Sunderland website.

Discussion was held on the property Taxes due April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and potential hardship cases. Mr. French stated that 62% of the taxes have been paid to this point. At this point it is the boards recommendation that taxes should be paid by April 15<sup>th</sup>, however, if anyone has been financially hardshipped due to the restrictions put in place during the Corona Virus Pandemic, they can deal directly with Town of Sunderland Tax collector Rick Davis to reach a solution.

Selectboard will keep abreast of State mandated changes throughout.

#### 7. Road Liaison Report

a.) Salt Shed Update- Marc Johnston(Road Foreman) gave an update on the status of the recently purchased utility truck, it is currently being built and not sure at this point if there will be delays. Mr. Johnston also updated the Salt Shed status stating we are waiting on some cement blocks. He also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the Canvas Shed vs Metal Sheds. A motion was made by Mr. Timmerman to purchase the Canvas Shed and seconded by Mr. Zens. Motion carried.

#### 8. Committee Meeting Reports

- a.) BCRC – Tour of Rutland Zero Sort facility cancelled, still working on contract with Casella
- b.) Energy Committee- Plans to build energy efficient windows still on track for the Fall.
- c.) CUD- First meeting was held via phone on 3/18. Motion was made by Mr. McKeever to authorize Mr. French to sign the Resolution Approving

the Communications Union District and Appointing Mark Hyde as the Sunderland Representative and Andrew McKeever as the Alternate. Seconded by Mr. Timmerman. Motion carried.

9. Old Business

- a.) Appointment of Planning Board positions-Motion to Appoint Edward Bove to the Planning Board made by Mr. Zens seconded by Mr. Timmerman. Motion carried. Motion made by Mr. McKeever to appoint Tucker Kimball and Lewis Herbert to the Planning Board seconded by Mr. Zens. Motion carried.
- b.) Appointment of Zoning Board positions- Motion made by Mr. Zens to appoint Martin Nadler to the Zoning Board seconded by Mr. Timmerman. Motion carried. Motion made by Mr. Zens to appoint Peter Van Haverbeke and Robert Faley to the Zoning Board seconded by Mr. McKeever. Motion

10. New Business

- a.) Future Selectboard Meetings-Mr. McKeever inquired about future selectboard meetings with the chance of further restrictive measures coming. Mr. French stated the Town will be looking into the program "Zoom" and will most likely be conducting the next meeting through that program.

11. Review of Correspondence and Signing of Warrants

12. Next Meeting Monday April 13, 2020 7:00 PM Zoom

13. Adjourn-Motion made by Mr. Timmerman to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Zens. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.