

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
MINUTES
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2022
AND
TOWN MEETING ELECTION RESULTS
MARCH 1, 2022**

Selectboard Chairman Jon French called the Town of Sunderland Informational Meeting to order at 7:00 PM via Zoom with approximately twenty-five participants. This meeting is to discuss and answer questions on the articles that will be voted upon on March 1, 2022, by Australian ballot.

Chairman French introduced State Representatives David Durfee, Kathleen James and Seth Bongartz and asked them to address the people.

State Representative David Durfee gave an overview of his activities on the Ways and Means Committee. Representative Durfee stated that the State revenues are strong, the ARPA money and infrastructure money has contributed to this. Representative Durfee also stated that with the redistricting it looks like Sunderland will remain as it has been for the past ten years.

Representative Kathleen James stated she would be keeping an eye on the child tax credit. The House has passed the new budget but now are waiting to see what adjustments will be made to take a final vote. The budget includes sixty million dollars for the workforce and six million dollars for the childcare act. Representative James also stated that a compromise has been reached on the pensions and is getting ready to become a bill.

Representative Seth Bongartz stated that Vermont has demographic challenges. Representative Bongartz stated that changes made to the current use program and H 492 Act 250 will make it easier to live and work in Vermont.

Chairman French thanked the Representatives and noted that they will be once again attending the Selectboard meetings once a month.

Chairman French noted that Rose Keough will be retiring from the position of Town Clerk and Treasurer after more than thirty years of service and extended his thanks to Rose for her dedication to the town.

Jon French then read the warning and opened discussion on the articles that will be voted upon on March 1, 2022, at the Sunderland Municipal Office from 10:00am until 7:00pm.

There was no discussion on articles 1 through 12.

Article 13: Nick Gault explained why Northshire Day School is asking for funds from all the towns they serve. The tuition charged does not cover their expenses and the parents would have difficulty paying more. Jeff Dexter asked how many Sunderland children attend the school and Jen Luty stated that there are eight. Lily Vanhaverbeke promoted the article and stated that she would not have been able to work without them.

There was no discussion on article 14.

Article 15: Cynthia Gubb stated that committee members did attend a Sunderland Selectboard meeting on December 27, 2021, to go over the details and another Zoom meeting will be held if anyone has any questions. Kristen Jemiolo asked why the fieldhouse does not have a swimming pool. Cynthia Gubb stated that a pool was considered and was cost prohibited. The family yearly fee would have to go up to \$1,000.00 to \$1,200.00 per year to cover the cost and not the estimated \$250.00 per year. Kristen Jemiolo asked where the fieldhouse is being built and Cynthia Gubb stated it would be at the Manchester Rec Park. Lauren McGrath asked if residents from other towns would be charged differently than a Manchester resident and Cynthia Gubb said all contributing towns will pay the same rate. Andrew McKeever asked what would happen if Sunderland voted no on this article. Cynthia stated a bond vote would take place after all calculations are done.

There was no discussion on articles 16 through 19.

Jon French introduced Jeff Dexter as a member of the Energy Committee and asked him to report to the town. Jeff Dexter stated that the Energy Committee is in its third year. Mr. Dexter stated that there is a tab on the Town of Sunderland website and people should review the information. The committee built 260 window inserts last fall and plan to do the project again around November. The committee hopes to have seminars on e-vehicles and e-bikes. The committee is in the process of checking the energy efficiency of the Town Offices and the Town Garage and town owned vehicles. Jeff Dexter thanked the legislators and GNAT for all their help. Jeff Dexter announced that Green Up Day is May 7, 2022 from 9:00am until 1:00pm. Jeff Dexter also acknowledged that Marc Johnston and the public works department helps with the days event.

Chairman Jon French then asked Jeff Dexter to speak about Lucy Prince. Jeff Dexter stated that a well-attended event was held in July to commemorate the 200th year of the death of Lucy Prince, a Black woman that once owned property in Sunderland. A quilt is being made which will hang in the meeting room of the Sunderland offices and a state marker will be placed at a site on Hill Farm Road.

Jon French stated that the polls will be open at the Sunderland Municipal Offices at 104 Mountain View Road on March 1, 2022, from 10:00am until 7:00pm for Sunderland residents to cast their ballots.

Chairman Jon French then adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

The ballot boxes were declared open on March 1, 2022, at 10:00am by Town Clerk Rose Keough and closed at 7:00pm. The results follow:

Article 1. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of \$65,000.00 to be added to the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund?

Yes 152 No 17 Overvotes 1 Blank 7 **TOTAL 177**

Article 2. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of \$65,000.00 to be added to the Paving Reserve Fund?

Yes 151 No 18 Blank 8 **TOTAL 177**

Article 3. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to be added to the Road Projects Reserve Fund?

Yes 153 No 17 Blank 7 **TOTAL 177**

Article 4. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the State/Town Bridge Co-Op Reserve Fund?

Yes 151 No 23 Overvotes 1 Blank 2 **TOTAL 177**

Article 5. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 to be added to the Guardrail Reserve Fund?

Yes 146 No 30 Blank 1 **TOTAL 177**

Article 6. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 to be added to the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund?

Yes 152 No 22 Blank 3 **TOTAL 177**

Article 7. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of \$700.00 for the support of **Arlington Area Childcare, Inc.** (Happy Days Playschool) to provide services to the residents of the town?

Yes 136 No 40 Blank 1 **TOTAL 177**

Article 8. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 for the support of **Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, Inc.** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Yes 154 No 21 Blank 2 **TOTAL 177**

Article 9. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for the support of the **Recreation Park in Arlington** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Yes 152 No 23 Blank 2 **TOTAL 177**

Article 10. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of \$9,100.00 for the support of the **Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library, Inc.** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Yes 147 No 26 Blank 4 **TOTAL 177**

Article 11. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of \$150.00 for the support of **Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE)** to provide victim services to the residents of the town?

Yes 150 No 24 Blank 3 **TOTAL 177**

Article 12. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of \$700.00 for the support of **Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging** to provide elder services to the residents of the town?

Yes 153 No 20 Blank 4 **TOTAL 177**

Article 13. Shall the Town of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$11,000.00 for the support of Northshire Day School to provide services to residents of the Town? (By petition)

Yes 90 No 84 Blank 3 **TOTAL 177**

Article 14. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate for a proposed Vtrans grant, the required 50% match in the sum not to exceed \$52,000.00 to extend the south end of the current bicycle/pedestrian paved shoulder on Sunderland Hill Road from property 2539 to Bacon Hollow Road and if so voted, authorize an increase to the Sunderland Hill Road Safety Reserve by this amount?

Yes 109 No 66 Overvotes 1 Blank 1 **TOTAL 177**

Article 15. Shall the voters indicate support for the concept of a regional field house at the Dana Thompson Recreation Park in Manchester, with the understanding that towns would participate in its construction costs under a formula based on a combination of grand list, population, and distance, in exchange for a special use status for those who live or own a second home in the Town of Sunderland. This article is advisory in nature and does not bind the town to further action.

Yes 88 No 89 **TOTAL 177**

Article 16. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$23,250.00 for the Cemetery Budget?

Yes 147 No 28 Blank 2 **TOTAL 177**

Article 17. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$389,558.00 for the General Fund Budget?

Yes 158 No 18 Overvotes 1 **TOTAL 177**

Article 18. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$425,675.00 for the Highway Fund Budget?

Yes 156 No 17 Overvotes 1 Blank 3 **TOTAL 177**

ARTICLE 19. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers, as required by law:

Auditor, 2-yr term

Write in Kevin Hewes 1

Blank 176

TOTAL 177

Auditor, 3-yr term

SALLY AYREY 154*

Blank 23

TOTAL 177

Cemetery Commissioner, 2-yr term

LUCILLE MORSE	146 *
Write in Others	3
Blank	28
TOTAL	177

Cemetery Commissioner, 3-yr term

NEIL HUMPHREY	152*
Write in Others	1
Blank	24
TOTAL	177

Delinquent Tax Collector, 1-yr term

RICHARD A. DAVIS, II	154*
Overvotes	1
Blank	22
TOTAL	177

First Constable, 1-yr term

WAYNE M. GODFREY	134*
Others	4
Blank	39
TOTAL	177

Second Constable, 1-yr term

KEVIN HEWES	142*
Blank	35
TOTAL	177

Lister, 3-yr term

Write in Martin Nadler	2
Blank	175
TOTAL	177

Town Clerk, 3-yr term

SUSAN WHITNEY	159*
Blank	18
TOTAL	177

Selectboard Member, 3-yr term

ANDREW MCKEEVER	156*
Write in Others	3
Blank	18
TOTAL	177

Selectboard Member, 1-yr term (vote for two) TOWN MODERATOR, 1-yr term

Write in RICHARD "Dixie" ZENS	10*
Write in Others	6
Blank	338
TOTAL	354

Write in Kevin Hewes	1
Write in Andrew McKeever	1
Blank	175

Town Treasurer, 3-yr term

SUSAN WHITNEY	152*
Write-in Others	1
Blank	24
TOTAL	177

*Denotes elected.

Respectfully submitted,
 ROSE M. KEOUGH
 Rose M. Keough
 Sunderland Town Clerk