

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting
Monday September 11th, 2023 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Bruce Mattison
Andrew McKeever
Dixie Zens
Alex Bresnnick
Marty Nadler

Others in Attendance:

Mia Smith
Susan Whitney
Todd Lawrence
Irene Nadler
Melanie Virgilio

Meeting:

1. Call to Order by Dixie Zens, Chair, at 7:00 PM. Introduction of Marty Nadler as new member of board, Melanie Virgilio from Taconic and Green Supervisory Union, Mia Smith Secretary of Board.

2. Approval of the minutes of August 28th, 2023 Selectboard Meeting. Motion made to approve minutes:

Mover: Alex Bresnick moves to correct Robert to Richard Zens.

2nd: Andrew McKeever.

Result: Passed.

3. Melanie Virgilio gives a report on Sunderland Education Tax.

- Sunderland protected from major increases for 5 years after merger, ending in FY '22. Starting '23 all towns are aligned across district.
- Sunderland Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) triggered an increase in rate. Explanation of CLA, Grand List, State Educational Fund.
- CLA helps ensure that each town pays their fair share, so if a town is undervalued, like Sunderland (@ 81.89%), then the Grand List and tax rate aren't accurate. If appraisal is below 85% or above 112%, then the state mandates reappraisal. Jump in tax rate is related to CLA.
- Bruce Mattison asks the amount Taconic and Green have for ARPA funds and their uses. Melanie Virgilio lists HVAC upgrades, special services, and after

school efforts. Inquiry into the amount of ARPA for Sunderland, answer to come in email correspondence.

- Discussion of Reserve Fund. Melanie Virgilio explains it is being saved to help balance educational tax increases. Year-End Surplus being transferred to the Building Reserve Fund for future renovations.
- Explanation of Committee created for discussion of unifying middle school. Inequities in the current model, by unifying would provide access to more students.

4. Public Comment- None.

5. Discussion on adopting Village Center Designation

- Requires a warning and public hearing.
- Planning Board Member to be invited to next Select Meeting to give status update (Meeting on 9/25).

6. ARPA Funds

- Review of Bids submitted for Network and Technology updates and Video conferencing equipment for the town hall.
- Includes new computers, network, video conferencing equipment, scanners.
- Susan Whitney recommends if a bid is awarded, make it contingent upon accurate offerings and ongoing costs since ARPA funding is one-time.
- Marty Nadler shares recommendations from Arlington Town Manager.
- Bruce Mattison recommends choosing Green Mountain based on references and bid, recommends asking for updated/accurate bid.
- Alex Bresnick recommends asking for Green Mountain and E-enable for rewritten bids.
- Susan Whitney recommends offering a contract with contingencies and if it can't be fulfilled move to second choice.
- Dixie Zens asks if there is consensus on Green Mountain with removal of recurring costs, adding certificate of insurance and signature of non-debarment.
- Bruce Mattison moves to award a bid, with contingencies, to Green Mountain.

Mover: Bruce Mattison

2nd: Marty Nadler

Result: Passed. Contract to GM with contingencies.

7. Road Liaison Report

- Marc Johnston is looking into salt for this year
- Trying to find someone to paint roads. Mike Hall will help paint the bike path.
- Excavator needs parts, and will be running in a few days.

- Cleaning up from the storm still happening, and regular mowing.

8. BCRC, SWIP, Energy Committee updates -

- BCRC event - 9/21 @ Arlington Commons @ 5pm.
- Household Hazardous Waste - make appointment and drop off in Bennington
- Energy Committee - Window Dressers will start on 9/28 and run until 10/4-5 @ the American Legion. Window inserts to reduce energy lost. Please come volunteer!!

9. CUD Update

- Andrew McKeever asks for an alternative representative for CUD. One meeting a month, please reach out if interested.

10. Update on Sunderland's Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)

- Marty Nadler says with Emergency Management Coordinators, no need for local liaison.
- Plan will need to be updated in 2024.
- No communication/confirmation with current Emergency Management Coordinators. Marty Nadler will confirm their roles.

11. Old Business

- Alex Bresnick raises compliance about posting meetings (must be posted 48 hours ahead of mtg, 24 hrs ahead of special mtg)
- Board agrees to add town garage, school, and transfer station as additional locations.
- Alex Bresnick recommends minutes to be posted in addition.

12. New Business

- Andrew McKeever explains "Get Onboard" Program, to encourage people to join town, school, or organizational boards.
- Resident requesting \$150 scholarship for course.
- Discussion on amount of award out of Training Fund.
- Bruce Mattison moves to award a \$150 scholarship.

Mover: Bruce Mattison

2nd: Dixie Zens

Result: Passed

13. Executive Session

14. Elect Chairperson

- Andrew McKeever nominates Dixie Zens.
- Bruce Mattison recommends a Vice Chair to be chosen as well.
- Bruce Mattison moves to elect Dixie Zens as Chairperson

Mover: Bruce Mattison

2nd: Marty Nadler

Result: Passed

- Marty Nadler moves Alex Bresnick to be Vice Chair.
Mover: Marty Nadler
2nd: Andrew McKeever
Result: Passed

15. Ducks Unlimited and Army Corp of Engineers

- 124.4 acres of battenkill watershed on Dunham Rd up to the bridge on Sunderland Hill Road.
- Alex Bresnick will review.

16. Discussion on filling positions of Insurance Liaison and Law Enforcement Liaison.

17. Review of Correspondence/Signing of Warrants-

18. Next Meeting September 25, 2023

19. Adjourn-

Mover: Bruce Mattison
2nd: Alex Bresnick
Result: Passed