

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting**  
**Monday October 14th, 2024, at 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Todd Lawrence - Acting Chair  
Andrew McKeever  
Bruce Mattison  
Marty Nadler

Others in Attendance:

Rick Timmerman  
Maria Timmerman  
John Cullinan  
Jeff Dexter - Energy Committee

1. Call to Order by Todd Lawrence (acting Chair for meeting) at 7:00 pm.
2. Introduction of Board Members: Todd Lawrence, Bruce Mattison, Andrew McKeever, Marty Nadler
3. Approval of the minutes for September 23rd, Selectboard Meeting

Mover: Andrew

2nd: Bruce

Result: Pass with 1 abstention (M. Nadler)

4. Public Comment:

- John Cullinan advised that the cardboard recycling dumpsters at the transfer station have been swapped out for smaller 40 yard bins with lids at the direction of the Selectboard. Reports that are causing issues and complaints from users.
  - Discussion on an initial communication chain between BCRC and Selectboard Chair regarding information on bin lids and an estimation of cost incurred by town from precipitation adding to overall cardboard weight
  - Todd advised John that the Board will need to look into the issue further

5. Sunderland Church Restoration Update - Marty

- Structural study in progress
- Environmental study awaiting for approval

6. Special Projects Funds Update

- Awaiting Selectboard to decide on how to proceed
- Andrew inquiries on timeframe for spending
  - Marty advises that there now is no required timeframe to spend

#### 7. Road Liaison Report – Bruce

- Fuel and propane topic revisited and discussion
  - No decisions made and Highway Dept might look requesting bids at later date
  - John Cullinan mentioned DOT has a spreadsheet (Opus Report) on towns under contract for prices. Helpful to review to price comparisons
  - The Fuel Club was mentioned for further research
- Low bridge markings have been placed on road north of Hayden Rd
- North Sunderland Hill bridge is awaiting the installation of new guard rail by contractors

#### 8. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report – Todd

- Next county REMC Meeting 11/12 6pm at Stamford FD
  - WinDART Presentation - Sheltering animals during a crisis
- State Emergency Tabletop - Binary Blizzard Wed 10/23 8-3 BFD
- Sunderland Hazard Mitigation Plan expires 5/19/26
  - Awaiting funding info from Vermont Emergency Management

#### 9. Energy Committee – Jeff Dexter

- MERP Grant
  - MERP discussion and info on funding
  - Grants applied for building energy efficiency renovations in town hall and garage
  - Grants are 100% funded with 0% local match
  - Expected results of grant application by end of October
  - \$154,000 in possible improvements for town garage per energy assessment
- Window Dressers via Jeff Dexter made a request for a \$500 donation
  - Brief discussion
  - Todd advised that Window Dressers would need to file a petition and make the request during Town Meeting Day for vote
- 2 openings currently on the Energy Committee

#### 10. Community Visit – Andrew

- Possible December VRDC meeting

#### 11. BCRC, BCSWA Update – Todd

- BCRC Public Hearing Thursday, October 24th at 4:00PM at the BCRC Conference Room and via Zoom. The hearing will include the proposed Bylaw Amendment for Intermunicipal Agreements, Bennington Regional Plan and Shaftsbury Enhanced Energy Plan

#### 12. Welcome to Sunderland Signs -

- Signs currently in Town Hall meeting room awaiting installation
- Discussion on final sign installation locations
  - Need further discussion at next meeting

### 13. Old Business

- Rt 7 Culvert Meeting
  - Todd and Dixie attended last public informational meeting in Shaftsbury
  - July/Aug 2026 currently the proposed window of construction
  - There will be another public meeting in 2025
  - Discussion of detour signs, temporary stop lights, emergency services coordination

### 14. New Business

- Brief discussion on Orvis WARN letter regarding pending layoffs
- Highway Department applying for Better Roads Grants

Motion for Bruce to sign Better Roads Grant Application

Mover: Marty

2nd: Andrew

Result: Pass

- Comcast Service Agreement for tele/internet at Highway Garage
  - Brief discussion

Motion for Approval of Comcast Service Agreement and holding submission until Dixie able to sign

Mover: Marty

2nd: Andrew

Result: Pass

- VT Dept of Health informational notice that Kevin Hewes has been reappointed as Town Health Officer

### 15. Executive session: None

16. Review of Correspondence/Signing of warrants. Next Business Meeting for the Sunderland Selectboard will be October 28, 2024 at 7PM

### 17. Adjourn at: 8:01pm

Mover: Marty

2nd: Bruce

Result: Pass