

Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting
Monday December 23, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Members in Attendance:

Dixie Zens
Todd Lawrence
Andrew McKeever
Marty Nadler
Bruce Mattison - Absent

Others in Attendance:

Susan Whitney: Town Clerk & Treasurer
Marc Johnston - Road Foreman
Kim Knapp

1. Call to Order by Dixie Zens at 7:00 pm.
2. Introduction of Board Members: Dixie Zens, Marty Nadler, Todd Lawrence, Andrew McKeever, Bruce Mattison
3. Approval of the minutes for December 9th, Selectboard Meeting

Mover: Marty
2nd: Andrew
Result: Pass

4. Public Comment:
Kim Knapp advised that Community Visit USPS mass mailings are not able to be isolated to Sunderland only addresses based on how mail is delivered

5. Budget Review for 2025:
 - Discussion on various town salaries, wage, and allowable expenses
 - Discussion on wage for clerical work assistance for town policy updates
 - Discussion on law enforcement level of funding or service
 - Bennington Co. Sheriff Dept rate rising to \$80/hour
 - Sheriff Gulley has been invited to Jan 6th Selectboard Meeting
 - Susan Whitney discussed proposed software upgrades to allow better efficiency between users

Motion to increase proposed budget for Software Maintenance Contract and Maintenance line item from \$7500-\$9000

Mover: Marty

2nd: Andrew

Result: Pass

- External town audit update and discussion
 - Last external town audit was in 2017
 - Town audit completed every year
 - Unsuccessful in finding auditor firm at this time

Motion to add to establish a line item on town meeting warning for external audit reserve fund

Mover: Marty

2nd: Andrew

Result: Pass

- Discussion on Highway Fund FY26 Budget

Motion to accept Highway Fund FY26 Budget as presented

Mover: Marty

2nd: Andrew

Result: Pass

6. Special Projects Funds Update: – Marty

- Marty provided update on Sunderland Church and phase 1 on environmental study
 - \$178,250 structural repairs estimated
 - Northshire community land trust expected to continue onto phase 2
- Marty provided updates on various Special Project proposals
- Todd will invite Arlington Fire Chief to a future Selectboard meeting to discuss funding and equipment needs
- Marc inquired about shipping container to store equipment at town garage during energy improvement upgrades

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business:

- Select Sunderland's Liaison to the State Ethics Commission

Motion to appoint Dixie as town liaison to state ethics commission

Mover: Marty

2nd: Todd

Result: Pass

9. Executive session if needed: None

10. Review of Correspondence/Signing of warrants

- Andrew gave update on Vermont 250th events that are planned

Motion to accept Vermont Council of Aging appropriation request of \$700 during town meeting

Mover: Marty

2nd: Andrew

Result: Pass

- Arlington Rescue Squad level funding request for 2025
- VLCT flyer for webinar on town meeting prep
- VLCT training opportunity for rural development
- Annual report from Selectboard needed
 - Dixie will complete

Next business meeting for the Sunderland Selectboard will be January 6, 2025, 7PM

11. Adjourn at: 9:01pm

Mover: Marty

2nd: Andrew

Result: Pass