

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting
Monday March 24, 2025, at 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Todd Lawrence
Bruce Mattison
Marty Nadler
Antony Thompson
Rick Timmerman

Others in Attendance:

Marc Johnson
Rob Zeif
Jeff Dexter
David Kiernan
Colleen York
Laura Hammler
Maria Timmerman
Lisa Maggio
Andrew McKeever

1. Call to Order at 7PM – Chair Todd Lawrence
2. Introduction of Board Members
Todd Lawrence, Bruce Mattison, Marty Nadler, Anthony Thompson, Rick Timmerman
3. Approval of the minutes from March 10, 2025, Selectboard Meeting
Mover: Marty
2nd: Anthony
Result: Pass
4. Public Comment – No Comment
5. Planning Commission Nomination of Laura Hammler for Appointment
 - Todd read aloud letter from planning commission to unanimously appoint Laura to the board.
Mover: Marty
2nd: Tim
Result: Pass
6. Energy Committee Update
 - Municipal Energy Resilience Program Grant update
 - Centerline Architects for MERP Grant Project Manager
 - Jeff stated that we could be considered a hardship community which would allow us to get minimally 20% (\$40k) up front to assist in making payments.
 - This would require a documented narrative from the Selectboard to qualify for the hardship. We would have to show we couldn't make the payments or if we had an emergency utilizing our available funds.
 - We will have to request this at each phase and the percentage received may vary at each request.

- Update from BCRC suggested that they would be making payments within 3 days if we went the net zero sum route.
- Jeff confirmed that Arlington went the hardship route and within a few weeks were approved to receive 40%. They Cited the Building Maintenance Fund and Town Garage Fund did not have the amount needed to float these expenditures.
- Centerline's agreement is ~\$13k and would be our first payment due.
- Rick questioned whether these funds were secure, would they take some of this money to cover funds for other projects that lost federal funding. BGS doesn't think it could be taken back but would never guarantee it.
- Jeff can confirm if these funds are secure and available.
- Marty agrees it would be more comfortable to remain on the positive side of the funding.
- Jeff provided an outline of next steps. First step is to get Centerline working and within two weeks they'll review the scope. Week 3 will be a building visit and review. Within 6 weeks, they will make their recommendations for work.
Motion to apply for and submit the Hardship portion of the grant
Mover: Marty
2nd: Bruce
Result: Pass

- Jeff updated the board that Green Up day is 5/3.
- Jeff noted that Orvis and GMP are planning to participate early

7. State Ethics Municipal Requirements – Marty

- We need to submit a code of ethics template per Act 171; which Marty has prepared. Suggesting that we keep along with our existing forms. Marty still looking for a model Harassment policy and Sexual Harassment policy. Marty will send the board a copy of the draft personnel policy as well.
- Jeff questioned whether this would be adopted by the town as a whole or if this would need to be separately adopted by Planning and Zoning, etc. Todd will have to follow up with an answer.

8. Road Liaison – Bruce

- Marc updated the board on this year's paving project for Class III roads; 0.4 miles from Kelly Stand up North Road, up almost to Cobbs Road. This would help clear up all of the bumpy culvert crossings. This could be accomplished a little bit sooner. We have \$150k out of \$215k already and the rest of the funds would be available by July 1st.
- The next stretch in the future (FY2026) would be for Class II roads, would put in a grant and we would have to pay 20% if we received one. This would be from the Arlington Town line to the covered bridge. Grants are coming out now and we would figure out what Sunderland would receive once this was reviewed. Due no later than April 15th.
- Marc updated us on the wear items on the excavator bucket that are overdue to be replaced. This would cost \$25,400 which we do not currently have budgeted. The Highway Special Projects has ~\$35k available and would typically be utilized

if tree removal was necessary. Road Projects Reserve did not have anything added this year.

- Repairs have already accumulated to somewhere between \$6k to \$10k over budget.
- Marc's requested that we purchase a \$6k 40' container from over by Washington County Fairgrounds plus a \$600 delivery fee. Or we could purchase (2) 20' containers for the same price. This would house all of the items that are cluttering the garage currently (i.e. spare tires, equipment, etc.). David mentioned that while Town garages are exempt from the town bylaws, it is not recommended based on using a container and setbacks from the railroad. Bruce noted that previous discussions were held in support of getting these. Marc would look at possible Vermont suppliers for a local source.

Table the discussion regarding containers until it could be added to the Agenda for our next meeting on April 14th.

Motion to authorize the proposal of \$215,246 to pave the section of North road through Cobb Road.

Mover: Rick

2nd: Marty

Result: Pass

Motion to sign the Town Road and Bridge Highway Grant

Move: Bruce

Amend the motion to have the board sign the FY26 Town Highway Grants, Bridge Inspections, Class II Centerline Pavement Marking

Mover: Marty

2nd: Bruce

Result: Pass

Todd to Table the discussion regarding the \$25,400 repair to the Excavator until our next meeting on April 14th.

9. Emergency Management – Todd

- Updating our website to show the town's Emergency Management Coordinator as vacant until we could fill it.

10. Special Projects Funds Update – Marty

- Dry Hydrants – Waiting for more information on these costs
 - Grant for this is due either April 1st or next round which is June 1st.
- 2016 T&G Merger would give the town the opportunity to buy the school back for \$1 but would not be able to sell
- Todd to email the facilities manager to start figuring out the costs associated with maintaining the School.

11. Old Business

- Municipal Planning Grant application status

12. New Business

- BCRC – Act 181: Need to have a new future land use mapping; will need to set up time on the agenda to visit the Selectboard. Nick Zaic will be replacing Janet Hurley.
 - Need to establish an alternate to Rick as a representative.
 - Annual meeting on May 15th
- Rick to meet with the Sheriff to talk about patrol activities and report back to the board
- Martina Barnes to visit during our April 28th meeting to give an update from the US Forest Service
- Sunderland Elementary would like to donate an Oak tree based on their wishing tree

Motion to acknowledge the school and move forward with the plan to plant an Oak at the Town Hall

Mover: Marty

2nd: Bruce

Result: Pass

Motion to have Bruce approve overweight permits

Mover: Marty

2nd: Anthony

Result: Pass

13. Review of Correspondence/Signing of warrants.

14. Executive session to discuss Zoning Legal Update

Motion to enter executive session at 8:35 PM

Mover: Marty

2nd: Anthony

Result: Pass

Motion to exit Executive Session at 9:07

Mover: Marty

2nd: Bruce

Result: Pass

Motion to allow our Zoning Administrator to continue discussion with the town attorney.

Mover: Marty

2nd: Rick

Result: Pass

15. Next Business Meeting for the Sunderland Selectboard will be April 14, 2025, 7PM,

16. Adjourn – 9:08 PM

Mover: Rick

2nd: Marty

Result: Pass