

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting  
Monday April 14, 2025, at 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Todd Lawrence  
Bruce Mattison  
Antony Thompson  
Rick Timmerman (via Zoom)

Others in Attendance:

Andrew McKeeever  
Maria Timmerman  
Jeff Dexter (Via Zoom)  
Colleen York (via Zoom)  
Alyssa Johnson (via Zoom)  
GNAT (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order at 7PM by Todd Lawrence
2. Introduction of Board Members:  
Todd Lawrence, Bruce Mattison, Marty Nadler, Anthony Thompson, Rick Timmerman
3. Approval of the minutes
  - a. Motion to approve the minutes from March 24, 2025, Selectboard Meeting  
Mover: Bruce  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Anthony  
Result: Pass
  - b. Motion to approve the minutes from March 26, 2025, Special Selectboard Meeting  
Mover: Anthony  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Rick  
Result: Pass
4. Public Comment
5. Vermont 250th Commemoration Update – Andrew McKeeever
  - a. Big events to start May 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - b. Ira Allen House will be a part of a tour from Pownal through Dorset 10-2 on May 4<sup>th</sup>
6. Lucy Prince Home Site Historical Marker Application – Jeff Dexter
  - a. Motion to approve the sign and moving forward with the state, as well as to support installation with the town crew, if necessary.  
Mover: Rick  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Bruce  
Result: Pass
7. MERP Grant status update – Todd Lawrence/Jeff Dexter
  - a. Financial Hardship request approval

- i. State responded that Sunderland is approved for 20% (~\$41k). Next step is to submit the forms necessary to process the payment related to this request.
  - b. Motion to accept the financial hardship funds and authorize signatures for the necessary forms (affirmation of use form and payment request form).  
Mover: Anthony  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Bruce  
Result: Pass

- c. Centerline Architects agreement for MERP Project Management services
          - i. Callie Fishburn has assured us that we are moving right along with submission of paperwork and securing contracts as compared to other towns. There will be priorities which may exclude some of the items at the bottom of the list due to increased costs since the creation of the grant.
  - Motion that upon approval for the hardship funds, we sign the contract with Centerline.  
Mover: Rick  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Anthony

Amendment to the motion that we have the chair sign the contract upon completion and submission of necessary forms for the hardship funds.  
Mover: Bruce  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Rick  
Result: Pass

**8. Road Liaison – Bruce Mattison**

- a. Discussion on purchase of new excavator bucket
  - i. Rick and Marc looked for a better price for this equipment. Todd requested that we get a few formal quotations from a dealer.
- b. Highway Department request to purchase shipping containers for storage
  - i. Todd requested that we get a formal quotation for the containers.

**9. Emergency Management – Todd Lawrence**

- a. ICS402 training for Town Leaders 04/28 11:00-3:00pm Manchester  
b.) AED's
- b. Todd to investigate any grant opportunities to install an AED at the town office and Town Garage. Jeff added that the Red Cross typically offers free training.  
Motion for Todd to research and report back to the Selectboard any grant opportunity to have an AED installed at the town office and town garage.  
Mover: Todd  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Anthony  
Result: Pass

**10. BCSWA – Anthony Thompson**

- a. The expected cost to towns is going to exceed the budget but will receive specific figures from Q3 financials at the next meeting on 4/16.

**11. Communications Union District – Todd Lawrence**

**12. VT Council on Rural Development Community Visit update – Alyssa Johnson**

- a.** via zoom at precisely 8pm
- b.** Alyssa explained we would start by putting together a planning committee. Need a one-time planning meeting at the Town Hall in May (maybe 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>). Looking to have 15 different people to be included with differing backgrounds and ties to the community. Asking what are the topics important to Sunderland residents. Use that information to schedule 3 town meetings in June, July, and August. These meetings would be held at the Sunderland Elementary School. They would design a flyer and we could send them out or reimburse them after sending out. Anthony to be the Selectboard's contact to the VT Council on Rural Development.
  - i.** June meeting all about idea. Includes dinner and live music. Community forums before and afterwards
  - ii.** Focus questions:
    - 1.** What do you like about Sunderland?
    - 2.** What are the challenges?
  - iii.** July meeting asks all of the Sunderland residents what is the most important to them out of all of the suggestions.
  - iv.** August meeting the action planning meeting and resource providers.
  - v.** Needs from Selectboard
    - 1.** Mailing List to have invitation
    - 2.** A designated liaison to participate

**13. Old Business**

- a.** Municipal Planning Grant submitted
- b.** Sunderland Elementary School Wish tree location and planting

**14. New Business**

**15. Review of Correspondence/Signing of warrants**

- a.** Motion to have Bruce sign off oversized permits and other forms.  
Mover: Rick  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Todd  
Result: Pass

**16. Executive session if needed**

**17. Next Business Meeting for the Sunderland Selectboard will be April 28, 2025, 7PM**

**18. Motion to adjourn at 8:57PM**

Mover: Anthony  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Bruce  
Result: Pass