

Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting
Monday January 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM
104 Mountain View Road Sunderland, VT

<u>Members in Attendance:</u> Todd Lawrence Bruce Mattison Marty Nadler Anthony Thompson Rick Timmerman	<u>Others in Attendance:</u> Brian Hawley - Road Crew
--	--

1. Call to Order at 7:00 PM
2. Introduction of Board Members:
Todd Lawrence, Bruce Mattison, Marty Nadler, Anthony Thompson, Rick Timmerman
3. Additions or deletions to the agenda
 - a. Add highway discussion to number 8c
4. Approval of the minutes

Motion to approve the December 22, 2025 Selectboard Meeting minutes

Mover: Bruce

Second: Anthony

Passed

5. Public Comment - none
6. Discussion and possible action: Request for 2026 Town Meeting Article- Australian Ballot for Public Questions 17 V.S.A. § 2680 (“Shall the voters of Sunderland vote on all public questions by Australian ballot?”)
 - a. Bruce thinks that having it on the ballot will give people more of a voice because some may not be able to attend the in-person meeting.
 - b. The Selectboard will let this be passed to the people for a floor vote. If the people approve it, then it goes onto the Australian Ballot the following year.

Motion to request for the 2026 Town Meeting an article added: the Australian Ballot for public questions, saying “Shall the voters of Sunderland vote on all public questions by Australian ballot?”

Mover: Todd

Second: Bruce

Passed (3 approve, 2 oppose)

7. Town Budget Review for FY26/27

Marty would like the Selectboard to consider making this budget as lean as possible because the effect of reappraisal on the community's taxpayers is not known. This will prevent a significant reappraisal from dramatically affecting the Town Budget.

Marty also suggests that the Selectboard get a frequent (monthly) computer printout of the budget as it operates. It will include four columns: (1) Budgeted Amount, (2) Encumbered Amount, (3) Expended Amount, (4) Current Balance.

a. General Fund (Comparative Budget Report sent on December 22, 2025) and Highway Fund

Motion to lower the retirement to \$3,500 (for 2027)

Mover: Rick

Second: Marty

Passed

Motion to leave the proposed Software Maintenance and Contracts at \$12,000

Mover: Rick

Second: Anthony

Passed

Motion to increase the Heating propane for the Town Garage up to \$6,000

Mover: Rick

Second: Bruce

Passed

Motion to increase the Equipment Maintenance from \$55,000 to \$75,000

Mover: Rick

Second: Anthony

Passed

Motion to move the Salt Budget to \$65,000

Mover: Bruce

Second: Marty

Passed

Motion to decrease the proposed Gravel Budget from \$55,000 to \$45,000

Mover: Marty

Second: Bruce

Passed

Motion to reduce the proposed Equipment Reserve Fund from \$85,000 to \$70,000

Mover: Marty

Second: Bruce

Passed (4 approve, 1 opposed)

Motion to reduce the proposed Pavement Reserve from \$85,000 to \$70,000

Mover: Bruce

Second: Marty

Passed (4 approve, 1 opposed)

Motion to increase the Guardrail Reserve Transfer Fund to \$5,000

Mover: Rick

Second: Anthony

Passed

- i. The location of Town Meetings that had previously been held at the Sunderland Elementary School, so considerations for occupying another meeting place will be necessary with all of its logistics.
- ii. The Roadcrew Employee ratings may need to be discussed in a further meeting
- iii. There was discussion about the culverts and how much BCRC is requesting to get paid to work on it, Rick will find out more information.

8. Highway Liaison Update - Bruce Mattison, Brian Hawley

a. Operations Update

- i. Discussion of ordinance to better communicate with people about closed roads
- ii. Dysfunctional road truck (for highways): 2-4 months for a new truck
- iii. Grant for road repairs (due February 2): Brian expressed an interest in getting support for navigating the grant

b. Kelly Stand Rd. winter status

- i. The road crew has been keeping up their work and dealing well with the weather

9. Review of estimate for repairs to Town Garage structure steel - tabled

10. MERP Grant Amendment (for air handlers)

Motion to have Todd sign the amendment for the MERP Grant

Mover: Rick

Second: Marty

Passed

11. Old Business - none
12. New Business - none
13. Review of Correspondence/Signing of warrants
14. The next business meeting for the Sunderland Selectboard will be Monday January 26th, 2026 at 7PM, *Special Meeting Friday, January 16th, 2026 at 7PM
15. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 10:14PM

Mover: Marty

Second: Rick

Passed

Motion to reduce the proposed Equipment Reserve Fund from \$85,000 to \$70,000

Mover: Marty

Second: Bruce

Passed (4 approve, 1 opposed)

Motion to reduce the proposed Pavement Reserve from \$85,000 to \$70,000

Mover: Bruce

Second: Marty

Passed (4 approve, 1 opposed)

Motion to increase the Guardrail Reserve Transfer Fund to \$5,000

Mover: Rick

Second: Anthony

Passed

- iv. The location of Town Meetings that had previously been held at the Sunderland Elementary School, so considerations for occupying another meeting place will be necessary with all of its logistics.
- v. The Roadcrew Employee ratings may need to be discussed in a further meeting
- vi. There was discussion about the culverts and how much BCRC is requesting to get paid to work on it, Rick will find out more information.

8.

9.