

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting
Monday June 22, 2026, at 7:00 PM
104 Mountain View Road Sunderland, VT**

<u>Members in Attendance:</u> Todd Lawrence Anthony Thompson Rick Timmerman Marty Nadler Michael Pugliese	<u>Others in Attendance:</u> Robb Zeif Joe Boutin Brian (Road Foreman) Callie Fishburn
--	--

1. Call to order at 7:00 PM
2. Introduction of Board Members
3. Additions or deletions to the agenda
 - a. Executive session
 - b. Review of Correspondence/Signing of warrants: add e-trans paperwork
4. Approval of the minutes

Motion to approve the June 8th, 2026 Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Mover: Marty
Second: Anthony
Passed
5. Public Comment
 - a. Joe Boutin - wanted a review about what was discussed in the informational meeting (June 18) concerning the Sunderland Elementary School
6. Opening of sealed bids for Sunderland Town Garage Insulation and Roofing Project
 - a. Centerline put out the bids
 - b. One bid received: from Pro Builders Construction LLC - \$172,374
 - i. Alternates: #1: for replacing the entire roof - \$40,500, #2: for deduction of demolition, insulation, and finishes of the lower portion of the wall - \$55,000
 - c. The work is intended to be completed by September 30, 2026
 - d. A followup, more details, and further discussion at the July 13th Selectboard meeting
7. Taconic and Green Regional School District Offer to Town to Purchase the Sunderland Elementary School Property
 - a. Discussion and possible recommendation (SWAG)
 - i. SWAG group: David Kiernan, Rick Timmerman, Laruen McGraph, Tim Stewart, Peter Vanblek, Robb Zieif

- ii. Timeline: April 15 - Selectboard received the formal offer from Taconic & Green; April 27 - Selectboard established SWAG; May 18 - first formal meeting; May 28 - SWAG toured the building and property; June 2 - Tim Stewart and Rick Timmerman met at the Taconic & Green to review original building plans/drawings; June 4 - SWAG met to discuss possible uses; June 18 - Special Selectboard meeting was held as a public informational meeting
- iii. There were no significant ideas for use of the building as is now that would benefit Sunderland; use for the property alone would require tearing down of the building which is very expensive; there are also multiple acres of wetlands that would not be viable for building on; management delegation may also be problematic
- iv. Todd commented that, although losing the school is a big loss for the kids and families affected, choosing to decline the offer for purchase will indirectly support these same people. Therefore, doing so will prevent the town from being in a financially unstable position where they may have to raise taxes, etc.

Motion that the Selectboard decline the Taconic & Green regional school districts offer to sell the Sunderland Elementary School property to the town of Sunderland for \$1

Mover: Marty

Second: Michael

Passed, 4 in favor, 1 abstaining

8. Highway Liaison Update

- a. Route 7 (South of exit 3) culvert: Shaftesbury is interested in holding a meeting concerning this because it will affect them
- b. Recent work: removal of trees, F600 new truck body is in, replacement of plow
- c. Grant received for paving (\$200,000) - rough estimate, this amount will likely not be enough for the project
 - i. Should the town do small sections of road to ensure the money will cover the cost? Bids? This issue should be addressed in the future budgeting discussion; spending items such as this must be planned on an organized budgeting record detailing timeframe, logistics, and costs
- d. Vermont Covered Bridge Society banner: \$80, "Bennington Battle, Spirit of '76", July 4 -August 8`

9. Law Enforcement Liaison Update

- a. Review updated Bennington County Sheriff's contract: it is in line with the old contract, however they have increased their hourly rate from \$80/hr to \$88/hr,
 - i. therefore the board's hours have to decrease from 9.2 hrs/wk to 8.5 hrs/wk to maintain the same budget

Motion to amend the sheriff contract for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to 8.85 hours/week

Second: Marty

Passed

10. MERP Grant Update

- a. New minisplit unit in the town office, LED lightbulbs will be put in soon, garage columns have been started for fixing
- b. Todd will reach out to Kelly (Centerline) and Callie (BCRC) regarding upcoming work

11. Old Business

- a. Lucy Terry Prince historical marker dedication Sunday 07/26/26 at 4PM
- b. External audit draft

12. New Business - none

13. Review of Correspondence/Signing of warrants

- a. Draft Bennington County Regional Plan Public Hearing 30-Day Notice, Thursday July 16, at 6PM Merk Forrest in Rupert (remote attendance will be available too): will be discussing county plan, future land use maps, state designation program areas, municipal housing targets
- b. Certificate of membership for the Vermont Covered Bridge Society: booth at the Arlington Village Farmers Market August 7 from 4-7PM

14. Executive Session

- a. Contracts: 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A)

Motion to enter executive session at 8:34pm

Mover: Todd

Second: Marty

Passed

Motion to exit executive session at 8:46pm

Mover: Marty

Second: Anthony

Passed

Motion to approve \$25/hr for the Assistant Clerk and Assistant Treasurer position

Mover: Todd

Second: Michael

Passed

15. The next business meeting for the Sunderland Selectboard will be Monday July 13, 2026 at 7pm

16. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:48pm

Mover: Anthony

Second: Marty

Passed