

Town of Sandisfield  
Board of Selectmen  
Minutes

for meeting Monday, September 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex.

Members present: Select Board: Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, George Riley. Town Administrator, Fred Ventresco, Bob O'Brien, public Works super.

Chairman Newman called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting is being recorded.

1. Review and sign minutes of meetings  
Signed September 4 and September 10 minutes.

2. Highway Dept. updates

a. Update on Rugg Bridge

Selectmen Newman and O' Brien gave the update. The Town had a detailed conference with all parties just last Thursday. The Town asked for at least a 5-year warranty. Bridge will be closed 4-5 days during repair—not open at all during this period. Not certain when it will take place. We told them they had to pay for all added expenses going forward, including incidentals such as detail, road signage, and the like. Composite Engineering, the deck manufacturer sub-contractor, and Joe our structural engineer initially disagreed on how the repair should be done, but they came to a compromise; our engineer compromised quite quickly Brian and Mark noted. The contractor will have to get a PE stamp from a licensed Massachusetts engineer for their proposed repair since it is their proposal primarily. We asked for the guarantee to be from the general contractor, Maxymillian, since they are the ones we have an agreement with and make payments to. It was noted by the Board and Town Administrator that Maxymillian said nothing on the conference call, so we presume they are all set with all of this. We had the conference call late last Thursday, so we are still discussing this and waiting for more details. We are not done yet. The Town has contracts with and pays only Foresight Engineering and Maxymillian, the general/main contractor, so we are looking to them to make certain this is all done correctly.

Nina asked from the audience why no one noticed the deck was being done improperly when it was being put down since there were a number of overseers. Brian explained that they are claiming that it was not so much that something was done incorrectly, but that the assumptions of how much the deck would expand/contract/move did not hold out for our particular situation, as they have for past projects in this region of the country and beyond. They will be changing the gluing product, among other things. The bridge deck has to be 70 degrees for 4-5 hours when they seal it, not the air temperature. They have heating devices if needed. Temperature should not go below 45 in the day nor 40 at night during repair.

b. Update on Cold Spring Road

Bobby updated: Started last Wednesday, did the bridge to the pipeline crossing. They did not grind Friday due to not having the machine there. The grinder is here now, as of today, and they are grinding. They are to start chip sealing it Thursday/Friday, depending on weather of course. Selectman Newman noted that this is the pipeline company's project, not the Town's.

c. Update on Fuel Reading program

Estimates for this should be coming tomorrow. The Town Administrator and Highway Superintendent explained that just recently the insurance adjuster that has been overseeing this project all along just abruptly left, so they are regrouping. Bobby is filling them in on all he has discussed with the former adjuster. Fred said that the overseer now will probably be John Veronesi/JPV Consulting, the one that has been overseeing rebuilding of the garage. It may not cover the moving of the tank, according to Bobby, but not certain.

d. Update on Roosterville Road signage

Bobby is still waiting on the signs. Town Administrator Fred Ventresco relayed to the Board that the resident who is concerned about this called him again just today to see when this would be done.

Other PW business:

Chairman Newman asked what happened to the sign on Bosworth Road about being closed for winter maintenance. Bobby was not aware of this. He will check. Nina asked Bobby if it rains as much as they expect tomorrow to check the Library to make sure the new gutters are holding up and no flooding is occurring. She also asked why Shade Road had been seeded. Bobby explained that the last time the Road was graded, it rained afterwards, and this took away much of the topsoil and road. He explained in detail the process. He will be able to repair it more appropriately when he finishes the general NOI and the Conservation Commission approves it. We need this to do work in all wetland areas.

Selectman Riley suggested that the Recreation Committee and organizers of the 5K race scheduled for September 30 should have an alternative route, as he does not think the roads around the pipeline area will be suitable since it is being chip sealed. Among other things, this does not give a good impression of Sandisfield with its first run event. Bobby thinks that it should actually be fine since it will have just been laid and the road will not have experienced much traffic to stir up the gravel. It was agreed to ask Billie/Recreation about it when they come to next week's meeting. Kathy Burrows asked if Public Works could do some brush work at the cemetery, as they are supposed to do. Bobby responded that the issue is the tractor is in the shop and will not be repaired anytime soon. Simon Winchester offered his Kabota if they wanted to use it.

3. The Broadband Committee in to present the first draft of the action plan developed by MBI for the Town's broadband network

There is still no action plan from Crocker, according to a message from the Broadband committee, so they are not here tonight. This is tabled, to be put on next week's agenda. Nina asked if the Board would read an article in last Sunday's Eagle about Whip City broadband. Towns are

getting a lot of money for going with them, she said. Chairman Newman said that we should not discuss any broadband topics since the Broadband Committee is not here. All agreed but they will accept and read her article later.

#### 4. Review and discuss the Special Town Meeting Warrant

Selectman Riley wants articles 2 and 1 reversed in their placing. He also recapped that two of the articles are essential to getting Green Community designations and the funds that come with it: adoption of the Stretch Code, and the large-scale solar by-law. There will be a Planning Board public hearing on Tuesday September 25, as part of the process for people to learn more and voice questions/concerns. Nina asked that these articles be forwarded to the Green Team when final. Selectman Riley added that the plan is to approve the whole warrant at next Monday's meeting, this gives us about a week's play time so as not to be rushed, but we could wait one more week if need be, he added.

Town moderator Simon Winchester announced that he will not be able to be there, so he is appointing Jean Atwater to be his fill-in. It was discussed if he could do this or the Board. It was thought that since he was elected he should be able to do this, but there is some uncertainty. If no issue, it is noted here that he is officially appointing Ms. Atwater.

Chairman Newman asked for the following about the funding for Rugg Bridge to be written into the minutes, as he read it in its entirety for all:

#### “Funding for the Rugg Bridge

The only fund available to us at this point without going out for a loan or using Chapter 90 is the Stabilization Account. Free Cash has not been certified yet. The article for the additional funds will be written to appropriate \$200,000 from the Stabilization Account.” The minutes of the Special Town Meeting will clearly state that we will transfer \$200,000 from Free Cash once it is certified. We cannot make this statement in the article itself because you cannot vote on something you don't have, we don't have Free Cash at this time. Once Free Cash is certified, we will make the transfer at the next special town meeting if we have one, if not then it will be an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for fy2020.”

Newman noted that the main change here is that we will be asking for \$215,000 for the Bridge, not \$200,000. We hope we will not need it all, but it is the engineer's best estimate.

Nina pointed out an apparent error in the draft warrant at Article 3, Section 3.A, beginning of third line; it was agreed to replace the word “the” with “any”. The Town Administrator asked if the Board was OK with all the dollar amounts in the spending articles; the Board confirmed them: \$215,000 for Rugg Bridge, \$14,711.50 for the CPR machine and, although not on the warrant draft here, \$2,500 for the Yanner park expense account.

#### 5. Selectmen's updates

Selectman Riley: The accomplishing of the Green Communities criteria is moving along well. The Green Communities Team is working on the figures of Town Buildings' energy use. The Board has to pass a resolution that it is dedicated to reducing the baseline energy use by 20% over five years. We also need a statement from the Town's attorney to finish up the requirements.

Selectman O'Rourke: The main focus is working with the engineers and contractor to correct the bridge issues. Also, the Board had a very productive meeting last Thursday with the Treasurer/Collector's Office. He explained that he had asked Chairman Newman for a meeting with them so he could understand some of their operations after residents asked questions of him. He feels some solid mutual respects was gained from this meeting. The Treasurer/Collector's Office also needs some new software and technology upgrades desperately, which they will be working on getting.

#### 6. Town Administrator updates

##### a. Technology update regarding the Assessors office

It looks like the cost will be about \$2,900; this includes \$1,700 for our local technician and \$1,200 for the software vendor. Mr. Ventresco emphasized that this is only to get the assessor's computer to back up to the Town server; this does not include the wiring issue for that side of the building to increase their speed which is another approximately \$7,000. John Burrows asked why we don't back up to the cloud/off site; it is not good to back up only on-site in case of fire, he advised. The Town Administrator said that he was wondering this as well and was surprised when he discovered this and will ask John Shannon. We do currently back up the server to tapes daily, and store them in fire-proof file cabinets. Jean Atwater from the audience said it is good to have both on-site and off-site/cloud backup.

Mr. Ventresco mentioned that he, John Burrows, and Bobby will be pursuing a grant to update the Town's hazard mitigation plan. Chairman Newman asked about the Chapter 90 funds survey Mass Municipal sent out a little while ago. No one has responded yet, and the Town Administrator asked the Board to please send any comments to him or Bobby if they want to contribute. We have not answered it yet, but the deadline is October 1.

Newman also asked if he knew when the new coalition of Towns on Route 57 was going to meet. Fred said that when he received the notice about three weeks ago he sent them back an email saying that the Board of Sandisfield would indeed like to be involved and mentioned that we and Tolland actually had begun such an effort as well. He has heard nothing back so far. He will send an email to remind them/get an update.

#### 7. Discuss future agenda items

--Broadband

--Warrant approval for October Special Town Meeting

#### 8. Review mail

9. Review and sign warrants

10. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

Adjourned 8:13 PM