

Selectmen's minutes of meeting March 11, 2019

Members present: Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, George Riley, Fred Ventresco
Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Reviewed and signed minutes of meetings.

Discussed FY2020 budgets.

Fred reviewed the updated spreadsheet.

Brian asked to have the Employee Bonus listed in it's own article labeled Employee Incentives.

Fred reviewed the Police Dept. budget, we will hold off until we get clarification on patrol hours.

We are currently \$18,000 under the cap.

Discussed the school operating budget. The Selectmen requested of the school committee to transfer \$40,000 from their E & D account to help reduce their budget of which \$16,000 would be Sandisfield portion. They only approved a total of \$15,000 of which Sandisfield will get a reduction of \$6,000.

Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to amend the Solid Waste Account to \$17,784 for salaries and \$42,216 for expenses. The overall budget is level funded.

Discussed the school budget. The Select Board unanimously does not support the budget as presented with only a \$6,000 reduction. Brian reviewed the information provided to him by Joe Gelinus of the Finance Committee regarding the formula used to determine Sandisfield's share of the school budget. If we use the formula that was agreed upon when the regional school was created in 1992 we would have a \$28,000 reduction. The school's administrator feels that the 1992 agreement has to be ratified each year. Nina Carr who was on the school committee at the time the region was formed strongly opposed this. She said it was an agreed upon formula to be used every year. The school have been using the state formula not the agreed upon formula. She suggested the school committee discuss this with the school administrator. At this time the selectboard will not support the schools budget, this may change following a meeting with the school.

The Public Safety Officer, Library and School budgets are still in question.

Brian asked Billie Pachulski who is a school committee member and is present at this meeting why Sandisfield's school committee members did not second the motion made at their meeting to transfer the \$40,000 from the E & D Account. He explained by not seconding the motion it did not allow any discussion to happen. Brian reviewed the budget meeting we held with Sandisfield's school committee members John Skrip and Nick DellaGiustina. At that meeting John and Nick agreed to ask the school to transfer \$40,000 to help Sandisfield avoid Prop 2 ½ override. Billie was not present at that meeting. John made the motion, neither Nick or Billie seconded the motion. An Otis school committee member made the motion to transfer only \$15,000 which leaves us short. Billie explained that the issue wasn't conveyed correctly at the school committee meeting and she didn't understand the issue completely.

Billie Pachulski in representing the Recreation Committee to request permission to use the Old Town Hall for yoga classes on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m., permission given.
She provided a list of upcoming events, they are a paint & sip class, Easter egg hunt, continuing arts and crafts at the library, the parade in May and a Boston trip also in May.

Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Tom Jacobs from the MVP Committee.

Selectmen's updates:

There is no update on Route 57 at this time as Smitty Pignatelli has been dealing with family issues. Discussed the deterioration of Route 57. The EMT's are having a difficult time working on patients in the ambulance due to the rough ride on Route 57.

The Selectmen are having a work session with the road superintendent on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 2p.m.

They have been busy working on the school budget issues.

Town Administrator updates:

Fred continues to work on RFP's for the cardboard compactor, mowing bids and speed signs.

Discussed future agenda items:

Budget discussions, special permit hearing

Larry Dwyer asked for another name of a business regarding heat pumps for the Green Community.

Simon Winchester discussed the future use of the Silverbrook Café and the back of the post office as a café. There has been a 24 hour café in New Marlborough for the past 15 years. Costumers help themselves and leave money in a secured cash box. They have access to fresh and frozen products. Simon would like to start one at the post office in town. Dolores directed him to the building inspector, board of health, planning board and conservation commission. They will need a special permit since it is a change of use.

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and sign warrants

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley