

Selectmen's minutes of meeting Nov. 2, 2020

Members present: Brian O'Rourke, Mark Newman, George Riley, Joanne Grybosh by remote
Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Remote participation information provided for the public.

Minutes reviewed and signed

Purchase orders reviewed and signed

Reviewed and signed the Notice of Recording for the 20 day appeal period, annual business license and special permit for Rose Nelson DBA Sunny Rose Farm.

Motion by Mark, second by George to appoint Brian O'Rourke as the designated point person for any potential future marijuana cultivation negotiations as recommend by Town Counsel.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to appoint Lynn Rubenstein to the Recreation Committee.

Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to appoint Barbara Kershner to the Cultural Council.

Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko presented a grant for \$5,000 from the Center for Tech and Civic Life specifically to be used for the public purpose of planning and operationalizing safe and secure election administration. She would like to purchase an LED purification wand, 2 election booths with handicap accessibility, handicap accessible chairs and handicap accessible tables.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to accept the grant.

Discussed having an All Boards meeting. The Finance Committee would like to have the opportunity to explain the quarterly forecasting and the budget process. We will have an All Boards meeting Monday, November 16 at 6 p.m.

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and signed warrants

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko read into the minutes a response to the Sandisfield Times article "Have you voted Already".

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November 2, 2020

To the Editors of the Sandisfield Times:

I am responding to your article "Have you voted already?" in the November edition of the Times. I have always thought that when something was in quotation's it is actually what someone has said. NEVER did I say "I don't know who's left to show up on Election Day, but I hope a few people will come in in person. We'll have poll workers there and we don't want to have to play Scrabble all day." There is so much wrong with this statement beside the fact that I didn't make this statement.

We do not play board games. You may see a few people crocheting or reading a book in between voters but I can assure you there will be very little time for that on Nov. 3. We have been working non stop on this election for the past month. Your ignorance is obvious regarding the processes of the election. All the early and absentee voters have to be entered one by one into the ballot box on election day. We are at 312 absentee and early voters. Their votes have to be recorded the same way as in person voters are. So not only will we be checking in all the in person voters, we will be checking in all the absentee and early voters. It takes just as much time if not more than processing in person voters. We will be lucky to have a 10 minute break for lunch. And then throw in all the COVID protocol. I do not look forward to all the sarcastic remarks that I am sure will come from this. I do not appreciate it. Going forward I want any articles you write regarding the Town Clerk's office approved by me before print.

Perhaps you would be enlightened by observing the process on voting day. Once the polls close we are still there until the counting is done. Probably until midnight.

Dolores Harasyko
Town Clerk

She then received a response from Bill Price as follows:

"Delores. I wrote the piece that offended you. It was intended as a light-hearted comment, including your supposed quotation which in fact I invented. The quote also was intended to be light-hearted, while at the same time acknowledging the long day's work at the polls. The last thing I intended was to give you grief or for pollsters to be the butt of sarcastic comments. I know your team works hard and takes their work very seriously. So do we at the

Times, and the piece was mine alone. I apologize for any grief I've caused my friends at the Town Hall, Sincerely, Bill Price."

Dolores felt it was important to bring this up at the Selectmen's meeting since the Times only prints once a month and she wanted it known that she did not make those comments that she strongly feels are offensive to the election officials.

Brian announced that the contract is signed for 4 miles of Cold Spring Road paving to be paid for by Tennessee Gas for \$500,000. They are also paying \$300,000 in penalties and payments to the Massachusetts Natural Resource Damages Trust.

Brian read aloud the following statement "The Town of Sandisfield is extremely grateful for the efforts of the Attorney General and Representative Smitty Pignatelli for assisting the Selectboard in getting Cold Spring Road restored.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley

Mark Newman