

Town of Sandisfield  
Board of Selectmen

Minutes of meeting Monday, May 7, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex.

Those present: John Skrip, Select Board Chair; Mark Newman, Selectman; Fred Ventresco, Town Administrator; Public Works Superintendent/Director Bobby O'Brien.

1. Highway Dept. updates

Public Works/highway Director, Bobby O'Brien gave the report.

Almost all ditching is done on South Sandisfield Road in preparation for the paving. He and the crew are also working on Gremlich Road first as it needs work and will be one of the detours when South Sandisfield is being done. The Prisoners are in Town doing work cleaning up the roads. By the end of the week the deck should be on Rugg Bridge. Also, there is no reason the Memorial Day Parade cannot go across the bridge by then.

The new PW building will be delivered the second week in June; the rebuilding process is moving forward well. We are still waiting on the insurance company to move the old trucks that they want to salvage; they are having trouble getting them started. The Dodge 250 is back and running so far. The 350 is being worked on. Bobby will be returning the truck to Lee soon, the one they have lent us since the fire. Selectman Newman said that we need to send them a major thank you when he does, so let him know. Kinder Morgan will only be chip sealing the area of roads in the pipeline area. Bobby does not agree with this, but this is all they will do; he prefers at least some full paving in key areas. He is working on making the area passable in the meantime. The beavers are back at Mark's house.

2. Review, vote and sign the MVP Grant for the Highway Dept.

This is the grant that Lt. Governor Polito recommended during her visit. The Board tonight is to officially approve to send it in. Chairman Skrip stated that Fred is working diligently to get this in with very short notice with the assistance of Bobby and Dawn. **Motion by Selectman Newman to submit and commit to the Municipal Vulnerabilities Preparedness (MVP) grant; motion seconded by Selectperson Skrip. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Discuss bulky waste schedule

Mark has talked with Tony and Dolores. We usually do this in June it looks like. Tony is not quite ready yet. We should know by next week the dates and other specifics, or the week after at the latest.

#### 4. Discuss personnel policy update

John said that the revision of the personnel policy is about 90% done. He will be done with it soon. When he is done, it will be passed to the non-union staff to review and give feedback.

The Town Administrator said that he actually put this on the agenda for another reason as well. He would like to change the rule in our current policy to have all vacation and other benefits to be based on the fiscal year (July-June) and not date of hire. This should make things more consistent and easier to track, among other benefits. The Treasurer is all for it as well. The Board was fine with this and said it is Fred's decision; he is not changing anyone's pay or benefits or anything like that and we think it is a good decision as well.

#### 5. Sign cemetery deeds

The Board signed the deeds.

#### 6. Selectmen's updates

John has received more details of the proposal from Crocker, the current broadband provider the Broadband Committee and Board have selected to go with at this time. It has everything they had agreed to and a bit more. They have guaranteed that the fees/charges to customers will not change for three years if they can get the extra Federal monies they are anticipating; they should know soon. He also signed the agreement with Kinder Morgan to release the \$50,000; as mentioned before, this is just some money to show they want to be a "good neighbor," as their attorney put it, according to Skrip. The money will go into Free Cash and can be used for whatever the Town wants, with Town Meeting approval, of course, by normal procedure. This is not in lieu of fixing the roads that need repair due to the pipeline construction, however. That is still to be done in addition. Barbara from the audience asked when the Board was going to address the code violation issues. Chairman Skrip said after the elections.

Mark announced that he and the Town administrator met with Veronique Blanchard from the DEP about the Cardboard Compactor grant. She also recommended we apply for a swap-building grant. Relatedly, Selectman Newman also stated that he told the Town Administrator to make certain that, since we need a new electric service at the Transfer Station, that he make sure to ask the electrician to consider that it needs to be able to handle any new Compactor we might get. They are really pushing a pay-for-throw/per-bag set up.

#### 7. Town Administrator updates

Mr. Ventresco, wants to bring to the Board's attention that that the COA has obtained quotes to re-tile the floor in the Annex basement. Town Administrator Ventresco noted that the COA obtained the quotes themselves, but the total is under \$10,000, so no structured quote or bidding process was required, and they did get two good quotes. The Board said that it is not on the agenda tonight because we have to prioritize the many capital needs we have. "Give us some more time," Chairman Skrip said. We have many other capital items we have to consider including a number of door replacements, among other things. Barbara Cormier from the audience said that the COA may be able to contribute half of the cost for the floors with the monies the COA gets from its yearly grant. The Board will consider this.

8. Discuss future agenda items

None stated. But decided to go ahead and have a meeting next Monday even though it is Election Day.

9. Review and sign minutes of meetings

10. Review and sign warrants

11. Review mail

No major correspondences. No complaints, Skrip commented.

12. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

Someone brought up the vandalism of the Town excavator while it was parked on South Sandisfield road overnight last Thursday night; Bobby confirmed this. Also, Ron Pachulski brought up that he has seen some very excessive speeding going on in Town, one example being a Corvette that he said had to be reaching 100 MPH, no exaggeration he said, on 57 and West Street. Chairman Skrip said that he would mention this to the PD Chief.

Selectman Newman motioned to adjourn at 5:35 PM, seconded by Skrip. Passed.

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John Skrip

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Mark Newman