

Town of Sandisfield

Board of Selectmen

Minutes of meeting Monday, May 14, 2018 at 7:00 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

Chairman Skrip opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. Highway Dept. update

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

Last week they started grading Gremlar Road, and putting in new culverts and other things that are needed. They will begin shutting down South Sandisfield Road for part of the days this week to prepare for the upcoming resurfacing. Also Stage and Webster are scheduled to be graded this week, and some other roads as well. Bobby explained that the bridge deck on Rugg Bridge has some imperfections which they will be correcting. There are ridges going across the deck surface and since the ridges are going across the bridge they will cause trouble when plowing, among other issues. They are giving the Town a three-year warranty. Of course we have an overall 20 year warranty on the deck, Bobby explained. Ralph Morrison said that three years is not enough time; we had similar issues last time he said. Bobby explained that anytime we see issues that they will come back and redo the whole thing during this three-years. Bobby is still stressing that we would like the bridge open for Memorial Day. The person doing the painting of the bridge will not apply the paint until the bridge is washed properly, as he feels it has not been. Bobby is working with the contractor, Maxymillian, to correct this. Both the engineer and the State agree this is an issue.

Ralph Morrison from the audience asked if we are going to get a rebate for the light set up through the detour, since it has not worked properly quite often throughout the project. We can try seemed to be the consensus, as it is deserved. The Kinder Morgan contractor is working on the roads affected by the pipeline installation as well.

Alex from the audience said that he understands that the PW has or either had the money to hire another full time person, and asked why this has not been done. Bobby and Dawn explained that they did advertise quite extensively last fall but could get no good-fit, qualified applicants. Bobby said that he wants someone who will stay a while as well. Also the Board stressed that they are re-negotiating the Union contract at this time, so there may be some changes, of course they cannot discuss this at this time. Selectman Newman and others commented that a number of surrounding communities have been looking for people as well for their road crews and cannot find them or have had to hire and rehire multiple times. Town Administrator Ventresco commented as well that it is common to have difficulty filling these types of municipal positions, and indeed for most municipal staff positions; this is especially true in a tight labor market as we are experiencing now in the economy in some respects/sectors.

2. Recreation Committee in to do presentation on a field trip to the Boston Aquarium.

Billie Anderson Pachulski

of the Recreation Committee stated that they tried to come up with something for everyone, not just kids to enjoy. She handed out a one-page flyer (attached) detailing the trip on June 24. The cost per person/family are outlined in the page. In response to Selectman Skrip's inquiry, she and Dawn confirmed that the Town is subsidizing the bus expenses to the tune of \$1800, and it is within this year's budget. **Selectman Skrip made a motion to go forward with the trip; motion seconded by Selectman Newman. Both voted in favor/unanimous.**

The Recreation committee will also be organizing assisting kids to decorate their bikes to participate in the Memorial Day parade. They will also be looking over the playground equipment behind the school to see if it is suitable.

3. Selectmen's updates

Selectman Newman asked if they could back up a PW topic to mention that we had a crew in Town from the correctional department that has been cleaning up the roads over the last few days. Bobby confirmed this and said that they might possibly be back as they were not able to do the whole Town in the time they were here. Mr. Newman also announced that we need to schedule the bulky waste collection for early June, and that Tony only wants one dumpster at a time; they will do this soon, to be announced. Mark also commented that he and Fred are working on the cardboard compactor grant that is due in fairly early June.

Selectman Skrip asked the Town Administrator about the deadline for the other grant, the one for the van for the seniors. Both grants are due about the same time in the second week of June. Fred said that he did not think we had too good a chance for the van grant; he went to the orientation last week and most of the points and information were focused on places that already have some kind of a fleet already. We will try, of course, if that is the Board's wishes.

Ralph Morrison from the audience commented in general about grants that we need to notify our State Representatives/Senators whenever we apply for grants, otherwise they don't go to the hearings and to bat for us.

4. Town Administrator updates

In addition to the things just mentioned, Mr. Ventresco updated that he is working on procuring the items for the Complete Streets Grant, working on the grants mentioned above, and getting quotes from vendors for the doors for the buildings that need them, among other things.

Ralph Morrison, following up on his suggestion at the Annual Town Meeting last Saturday, asked the Board to appoint a committee to consider care and upkeep of the Town buildings. Mark and John prefer not do it tonight (it is not on the agenda anyway, since the Town Meeting was held only last Saturday, since the election is tonight and by the next meeting we will have the "new" Board. Whoever is on at that time will deal with this. Fred said that he will make sure to remind/inform the new Board, whoever is on it, of Ralph's request to do this.

5. Discuss future agenda items

None mentioned, as elections are tonight for new Board Members and two seats are up.

6. Review and sign minutes of meetings

7. Review and sign warrants

8. Review mail

9. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

Seeing no other business, Chairman Skrip made a motion to adjourn at 7:37PM; Selectman Newman seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.

John Skrip

Mark Newman

