

Town of Sandisfield
DPW/Highway Dept. Meeting

Date: March 1, 2018

Location: Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM

Members Present: Joe Gelinas, Tom Jacobs, Mark Newman, Bobby O'Brien, Brian O'Rourke, Fred Ventresco (ex-Officio Committee Member)

Members Absent: NONE

1. Brian moved and Joe seconded the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on February 22, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Committee discussed its dismay that a dump truck was purchased to replace one of the trucks lost in the DPW garage fire. The following points were discussed:
 - a. The purchase may have been needed for existing and pressing road repairs. Dirt roads are in tough shape with the thaw. There have been many complaints and a 1-ton truck is being used to haul material from the DPW yard to make repairs to roads.
 - b. Mark stated that the truck purchased was a good deal (demo truck with 1,000 miles, fully equipped, 2-wheel drive, etc.). Many additional features than the 2017 purchased last year at no additional cost to the town.
 - c. Mark stated that there is no similar truck available anywhere in New England at this time. A similar truck would need to be ordered and not be available for 9-12 months.
 - d. The committee wondered if the insurance payments are as stringent as we are being told. That is, do we really need to replace all three trucks in 12 months or can we do it gradually to set up a truck-rotation system as we had planned? Also, do we need to buy three dump trucks given the trucks that have been given to us? We suggested further negotiations with the insurance company and discussion with our legal advisors.
 - e. Again, while the committee may have agreed with the purchase, they felt marginalized when they were not consulted. The committee will request a meeting with the Select Board chair to clarify the committee's role.
 - f. The committee is committed to a process of "dialog, discussion, and analysis" before making recommendations regarding the DPW. However, none of that

happened in the case of this truck purchase. We would like to see more transparency in the decision making process in town governing.

3. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 5:30 on the Town Hall Annex.

4. Adjournment: 7:15 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Joe Gelinas



Tom Jacobs



Mark Newman



Bobby O'Brien



Brian O'Rourke

