

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: Steve Seddon, John Field, Robert Fedell, Jonathan Sylbert

1. Call to order: Note that the meeting is being recorded

2. Verizon Pole Public Hearing

Verizon has requested the installation of a new pole located on the southwest side of West Street at a point approximately 641 feet northwesterly from the centerline of Lower West Street. The installation has been requested because the distance between the two already installed poles is too far and has caused the wires to sag.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the pole installation at the location identified.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

Additionally, Verizon agreed to correct other open connections on the lines on West St.

3. Discuss Town Economic Development

• Economic Development Committee - Barbara Cormier, Planning Board/ Town Charter Comm

Barbara Cormier notes that Sandisfield should work towards creating better relationships with businesses, which would include a friendly welcome and offering assistance with any information they may need to conduct business. Should the Select Board be unable to fulfill this request, establishment of a committee might be considered.

The Planning Board will look into establishing business and residential districts, which may draw more businesses into town. A business by-right would also need to be established. Additionally, the Planning Board will begin creating a welcome packet outlining the Zoning Bylaws and permit requirements for new residents/businesses. They will review similar documents from surrounding towns for reference.

4. Year-End Transfers

Transfers include:

\$92.47 from Employee Benefits to Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

\$100.00 from Employee Benefits to Public Health Nurse

\$3,804.33 from Employee Benefits to Operations, Maintenance & Repair

\$43.20 from Employee Benefits to Select Board Expenses

\$1,500.00 from Cemetery Committee Salaries to Cemetery Committee Expenses

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Year-End Transfer as indicated.

Steve Seddon	Aye
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John Field	Aye
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Robert Fedell	Aye
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5. Town Manager Project List

Select Board reviews list to identify items to include on upcoming agenda.

6. Town Manager Updates

Chapter 90 is an amount of money all municipalities receive from the state for road work. The total allocation has been \$200-million for the entire state for the last 15 years. This amount has lost a lot of its purchasing power, but instead of increasing the amount, the state has proposed adding \$150-million worth of transportation related grants. This poses a problem because smaller municipalities, such as Sandisfield, that do not have the resources to apply for these competitive grants will not receive any of the additional funding for road projects. Another problem that arises is that when towns save their Chapter 90 funds, as one year's worth is not enough to complete a large project, the legislature does not understand this and assumes the town simply isn't using the funds and does not require any more. MMA is supporting the small municipalities, and Jonathan suggests the Select Board send a letter to Paul Mark and Smitty Pignatelli to identify the issues this proposed bill creates.

The NHTSA grant for traffic safety is available for a total of \$12,000. These funds can be used to pay for extra police patrols, including overtime, or traffic equipment like cones or signs. The Police Department is responsible for applying for this grant.

7. Select Board Updates

The COA will hold a BBQ for all seniors, Town employees, and all Board/Committee members. A date has yet to be confirmed.

8. Future Agenda Items

- Cemetery Committee Appointments

9. Topics Not Anticipated

10. Review and vote to approve minutes of meetings

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve minutes of 5/2 & 5/3.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

11. Review and sign purchase orders, warrants, and mail

12. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Steve Seddon

John Field

Robert Fedell