

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

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

Participants: Ralph Morrison, Kathleen McCormick, Brian Maser (remote)

1. Motion to open session

2. Motion to open Executive Session under G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(1) - To discuss complaints or charges brought against a public employee

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to open Executive Session under G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(1) - To discuss complaints or charges brought against a public employee

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

Steve Seddon reads the fact findings summary for the tanker crash. On Tuesday, 9/26/2023 at approximately 6pm the Sandisfield Fire Department responded to a mutual aid call for a fire on Stubbins Rd in Otis, MA. Assistant Fire Chief, Michael Morrison was following Fire Chief, Ralph Morrison in the 1988 Mack Water Tanker Truck. During operation of the truck, Michael lost control of the vehicle on Webster Road in Tyringham, MA and crashed. He was not injured in the crash. State Police responded and an accident report was filed, which the Town has still not seen. According to both the Fire and Police Chief, they were driving on Webster Road because they were given the wrong directions by another firefighter. Later that night, R.W. Towing of Lee, MA towed the tanker to its facility where it was stored in a securely locked yard.

The next morning, 9/27, Ralph towed the vehicle from R.W. Towing to a private garage he owns in Tolland.

On 9/28, the MIIA adjuster inspected the vehicle at an "off-site" storage facility. Ralph submitted a tow bill in the amount of \$5,400 to MIIA from his shop, A&M Auto, for towing the truck from RW's to his private garage in Tolland and for storage.

At a Select Board meeting on 10/2, Michael stated that the brakes on the tanker did not get hot and there was a mechanical failure. Ralph also guessed the brakes/slackers had not been touched since the vehicle was purchased in 2019, and confirmed it had not been serviced at all since this time.

On 10/5, Michael was quoted in Berkshire Eagle saying the "tanker smoked quite a bit."

At the 10/12 Select Board meeting, Michael stated that he exited the tanker and smelled hot brakes. Ralph stated that he towed the tanker to his personal property to keep it out of sight of all the spectators, and according to an email on 10/16 from MIIA, he cited the reasoning because “[H]e said it was to protect the truck and keep it out of the way from lookyloos.” Ralph claimed MIIA confirmed they were fine with relocating the tanker. This has not been verified; however, the tanker was already at Ralph’s property when it was inspected by the adjustor. Ralph verified only the initial post-purchase safety inspection was done in 2019 and he had not done an annual safety inspection on the tanker since then. It was also verified that the Department does not maintain maintenance logs for fire or police vehicles. At the meeting, the Select Board voted to use an outside third-party to conduct all maintenance, servicing, and safety inspections of all town owned vehicles moving forward.

On 10/13, Ralph sent a revised bill to MIIA totaling \$6,175 for towing and storage of the tanker.

On 10/16, the rescue truck and 2022 fire truck were inspected at Ormsbee Garage. Additionally, the Town was informed of Ralph’s \$6,175 bill to MIIA. At the Select Board meeting that night, the Board reported that a post-accident inspection cannot be conducted due to the chain of custody of the vehicle being broken.

On 10/19, Ralph emailed MIIA to: “disregard the bill from A & M, we are waiving all fees.”

On 10/24, the “Estimate of Record” was finalized and the cost to repair the truck was estimated at \$113,441.73. The tanker truck was insured for \$25,000 with a \$1,000 deductible. At the Select Board meeting that night, the tanker crash was item 7 on the agenda, which was tabled to be discussed in executive session. Ralph, Michael and volunteer firefighters left the meeting immediately after, and waited outside for the Select Board for 40 minutes. Ralph, Michael, and the volunteer firefighters cornered Robert Fedell in the parking lot, followed by John Field when he came to see if everything was alright. Ralph and Michael then attempted to intimidate and harass both Select Board members. Witness statements have been submitted.

On 10/30, Copart, MIIA’s salvage yard, towed the truck to its property and charged \$2,485.64.

On 11/9, the Select Board requested Ralph “provide a statement of your involvement in the accident and any and all subsequent related events by this Friday.”

On 11/10, Ralph responded as follows: “As you know, we have had two select board meetings regarding this issue everything was reported at those meeting. I have nothing to add to the verbal statement and discussion with the select board.”

As of today, 11/13, the original tanker truck Title has not been signed over and received by MIIA. This prevents the tanker from being auctioned.

Kathleen McCormick, Ralph's legal representative, would like the record to reflect that Ralph is no longer the Sandisfield Fire Chief, as he submitted his resignation today, effective immediately.

Steve asks if Ralph would like to speak on any of the facts presented. Ralph does not dispute any of the facts.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the fact findings summary as read.

Robert Fedell would like to make one change to the events of 10/24, as he did not feel "cornered" in the parking lot, and his interaction with Ralph and Michael was voluntary.

Kathleen would like to be given a greater opportunity to review the fact findings before the summary is adopted as fact. Jonathan explains the Select Board is required to adopt the summary at this meeting. Kathleen would like the record to reflect that they are not admitting that the summary was fact, but Ralph does not wish to make further statement.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adopt the fact findings summary as read with Robert Fedell's one revision.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

Steve reads the list of potential charges:

- a. Failure to properly inspect and maintain Department apparatus resulting in loss of property;
- b. Negligence;
- c. Making False Statements to the Select Board;
- d. Conduct Unbecoming a Public Employee;
- e. Abuse of Office;
- f. Self-Dealing;
- g. Possible Ethics and Criminal Violations;
- h. Suppression of Evidence;
- i. Insubordination

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adopt the charges as read.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

Robert asks for clarification of the adoption of the charges. Brian Maser, legal representative for the Town of Sandisfield, explains that based on the fact findings the Board has adopted, the Select Board is now developing possible charges against former Fire Chief, Ralph Morrison as a result. He notes that the vast majority of the charges are moot upon Ralph's resignation, as the Town has accepted and filed it with the Town Clerk. Some of the charges are relative to possible ethics or criminal law violations, and the Board must decide whether they would like to refer these out to another agency. Brain recommends making the motion as specific as possible.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to forward the ethical or possible criminal violations to the appropriate external authorities.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

3. Adjourn the Meeting

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

Meeting adjourned at 6:43pm

Steve Seddon

John Field

Robert Fedell

Fact Finding Summary, Tanker Crash, Sandisfield Select Board, November 13, 2023

What I am about to read are the facts gathered from the Town's review of the Tanker Crash that occurred on September 26, 2023.

- On Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at approximately 6pm, the Sandisfield Fire Department answered a mutual aid call for a fire on Stebbins Road in Otis, Massachusetts. Fire Chief Ralph Morrison and Assistant Fire Chief Michael Morrison responded. Following the Fire Chief, Michael Morrison was driving the 1988 Mack water tanker truck. During operation of the truck, Michael lost control of the vehicle on Webster Road in Tyringham and crashed. He was thankfully not injured in the crash. State police responded to the scene and an Accident Report was filed. [We still do not have that report.] According to both the Fire Chief and the Police Chief, they were driving on Webster Road because they were given the wrong directions by another firefighter. Later that night, R.W. Towing of Lee retrieved the tanker from the site of the accident and towed it to its facility where it was stored behind a building at their facility inside a securely locked yard.

- On Wednesday morning, September 27th, Fire Chief Morrison towed the vehicle from R.W. Towing to a private garage he owns in Tolland.

- On September 28th, the MIIA adjuster inspected the vehicle at an "off-site" storage facility. Fire Chief Morrison submitted a tow bill in the amount of \$5,400 to MIIA from his shop, A&M Auto, in Sandisfield, for towing the truck from RW Towing to his private garage in Tolland and for storage.

- At the October 2nd Select Board meeting, Michael Morrison stated that the brakes on the Tanker didn't get hot and there was a mechanical failure. Fire Chief Morrison guessed the brakes/slakers had not been touched since the vehicle was purchased in 2019. It was also later confirmed that the Tanker had not been serviced at all since it had been purchased in 2019.

- On October 5th, Michael Morrison was quoted in the Eagle saying the "tanker smoked quite a bit."

- At the October 12th, Select Board meeting, Fire Chief Morrison stated that the brakes were cooked. Fire Chief Morrison stated that he towed the tanker to his personal property to keep it out of sight of all the spectators. (According to a later email on October 16th from the insurance company, the Fire Chief explained why he towed the truck to his private yard: "[H]e said it was to protect the truck and keep it out of the way from lookyloos."). Fire Chief Morrison stated that he checked with the insurance company and they were fine with relocating it. [This has not been verified, but the tanker was already at Fire Chief Morrison's garage when it was inspected by the adjustor.] Fire Chief Morrison verified that only the initial post-purchase safety inspection was done in 2019, and he had not done an annual safety inspection on the tanker since then. It was also later verified that the Department does not maintain maintenance logs for fire and police vehicles. At the meeting, the Select Board voted to use an outside 3rd party to conduct all maintenance, servicing, and safety inspections of all town owned vehicles moving forward.

- On October 13th, Fire Chief Morrison sent a revised bill to MIIA totaling \$6,175 for the towing and storage of the tanker.

On October 16th, Rescue truck and 2022 Fire truck inspected at Ormsbee's.

- On October 16th, the Town was informed that Fire Chief Morrison invoiced MIIA in the amount of \$6,175 for towing the tanker from RW Towing to his private garage.
- At the October 16th Select Board meeting, the Board noted that a post-accident inspection cannot be conducted due to the chain of custody of the vehicle being broken.
- On October 19th, Fire Chief Morrison emailed MIIA to: "disregard the bill from A & M, we are waiving all fees."
- On October 24th, the "Estimate of Record" was finalized and the cost to repair the truck was estimated at \$113,441.73. The tanker truck was insured for \$25,000 with a \$1,000 deductible.
- At the October 24th, Select Board meeting, the tanker crash was item 7 on the agenda. The item was tabled to be discussed in executive session. The Fire Chief, Police Chief and volunteer firefighters in attendance left the meeting immediately after that item. They waited outside for the Select Board members to exit the meeting 40 minutes later. Both the Fire Chief and Police Chief with volunteer firefighters cornered Select Board member Bob Fedell in the parking lot, and also member John Field, when he came to see if everything was alright. Both the Fire and Police Chief's then attempted to intimidate and harass both Select Board members. Witness statements have been submitted.
- On October 30th, Copart, MIIA's salvage yard, towed the truck to its property and charged \$2,485.64.
- On November 9th, the Select Board requested Fire Chief Morrison "provide a statement of your involvement in the accident and any and all subsequent related events by this Friday."
- On November 10th, Fire Chief Morrison responded as follows: "As you know, we have had two select board meetings regarding this issue everything was reported at those meeting. I have nothing to add to the verbal statement and discussion with the select board."
- As of today, November 13th, the original tanker truck Title has not been signed over and received by MIIA so that the truck can be auctioned.

CHARGES

- a. Failure to properly inspect and maintain Department apparatus resulting in loss of property;
- b. Negligence;
- c. Making False Statements to the Select Board;
- d. Conduct Unbecoming a Public Employee;
- e. Abuse of Office;
- f. Self-Dealing;
- g. Possible Ethics and Criminal Violations;
- h. Suppression of Evidence;
- i. Insubordination

Vehicle	Last Inspection	Annual Inspections Missed	MIIA Notes	Confidence Level	Actions
Fire – 2012 Ambulance	Jan 2023	None	MIIA VIN incorrect	100%	
Fire – 2009 Smeal	Jan 2023	2021, 2018, 2013, 2012		100%	
Fire – 1996 Freightliner	May 2020	2023-2021, 2019, 2018		100%	
Fire – 1995 Kenworth	Jul 2023	2021, 2018		100%	
Fire – 1993 Ford	Jan 2023	2021, 2018	MIIA: plate # & VIN incorrect	100%	
Fire – 1988 Mack	May 2020	2023-2021		100%	
Fire – 1988 GMC	None	All		>80%	Confirm plate # & VIN
Fire – 1972 Dodge	None	All		>80%	Confirm plate # & VIN
Fire – 1984 Kaiser	None	All		>80%	Confirm plate # & VIN
Police – 2000 Ford	None	All		>80%	Confirm plate # & VIN
Police – 2015 Ford	Jun 2023	2019		100%	
Police – 2017 Ford	Dec 2022	TBD (need correct VIN)	MIIA: no plate #, incorrect VIN	100%	Need correct VIN
Police – 2021 Ford	Aug 2023	None	No MIIA plate #	100%	

Missing new pumper – need plate # and VIN on that – and may be missing other vehicles

If any of these vehicles listed above have been removed from service, sold etc need to know when that occurred

Below is an abbreviated version of the table better suited for a SB meeting

Vehicle	Last Inspection	Annual Inspections Missed
Fire – 2012 Ambulance	Jan 2023	None
Fire – 2009 Smeal	Jan 2023	2021, 2018, 2013, 2012
Fire – 1996 Freightliner	May 2020	2023-2021, 2019, 2018
Fire – 1995 Kenworth	Jul 2023	2021, 2018
Fire – 1993 Ford	Jan 2023	2021, 2018
Fire – 1988 Mack	May 2020	2023-2021
Fire – 1988 GMC	None	All
Fire – 1972 Dodge	None	All
Fire – 1984 Kaiser	None	All
Police – 2000 Ford	None	All
Police – 2015 Ford	Jun 2023	2019
Police – 2017 Ford	Dec 2022	TBD (need correct VIN)
Police – 2021 Ford	Aug 2023	None

A & M Auto Service

COMPLETE AUTO CARE CENTER
TRUCKS, FOREIGN & DOMESTIC
ROUTE 57 P.O. BOX 12
SANDISFIELD, MA 01255
(413) 258-3381

Sandisfield Fire Department
P.O. Box 22
Sandisfield, MA 01255
(413)258-4742

1988 Mack 600 Tanker
MFC163 MA
2M2P141C5JC005762

1st
Bill

Called on 9/26/23 for a Flatbed trailer to Webster & Main Rd in Tyringham MA for assistance with recovery of tanker. 9/27/23 Picked up tanker and towed to storage location, where heavy duty wrecker was required to remove from the Flatbed.

Original Bill - See Revised bill

09/26/23	Tractor/Hydraulic Trailer	\$250.00 per hr X 7 hrs	\$1,750.00
09/26/23	Additional Laborer	\$125.00 per hr x 7 hrs	\$875.00
09/27/23	Tractor/Hydraulic Trailer	\$250.00 per hr x 4 hrs	\$1,000.00
09/27/23	Additional Laborer	\$125.00 per hour x 4 hrs	\$500.00
09/28/23	Heavy Duty Wrecker	\$350 per hour x 2 hrs	\$700.00
09/28/23	Additional Laborer	\$125.00 per hour x 2 hrs	\$250.00
	Storage from 9/27/23 to	\$125.00 per day x days	\$125.00
	Administrative Fee		\$200.00
			\$5,400.00

X not
paym
Admin

A & M Auto Service

COMPLETE AUTO CARE CENTER
TRUCKS, FOREIGN & DOMESTIC
ROUTE 57 P.O. BOX 12
SANDISFIELD, MA 01255
(413) 258-3381

Sandisfield Fire Department
P.O. Box 22
Sandisfield, MA 01255
(413)258-4742

1988 Mack 600 Tanker
MFC163 MA
2M2P141C005762

*Storage
will keep
accumulating
@ \$125.00 per
day.50...*

Called on 9/26/23 for a Flatbed trailer to Webster & Main Rd in Tyringham MA for assistance with recovery of tanker. Picked up tanker and towed to storage location, where heavy duty wrecker was required to remove from the Flatbed.
Stand by time at accident scene cut in half for tractor/hydraulic trailer.
Stand by time for additional labor cut in half. There is also no mileage charge for any vehicle or transportation

Revised Bill - Reduced

09/26/23	Tractor/Hydraulic Trailer	\$125.00 per hr X 7 hrs	\$875.00
09/26/23	Additional Laborer	\$75.00 per hr x 7 hrs	\$525.00
09/27/23	Tractor/Hydraulic Trailer	\$250.00 per hr x 4 hrs	\$1,000.00
09/27/23	Additional Laborer	\$125.00 per hour x 4 hrs	\$500.00
09/28/23	Heavy Duty Wrecker	\$350 per hour x 2 hrs	\$700.00
09/28/23	Additional Laborer	\$125.00 per hour x 2 hrs	\$250.00
	Storage from 9/27/23 to 10/13/23	\$125.00 per day x 17 days	\$2,125.00
	Administrative Fee		\$200.00
			\$6,175.00

*will not
pay until
later date*

*will owe
\$125.00 per
day storage*

*we
pay
Fee*

NEW ENGLAND APPRAISAL, INC.

newenglandappraisal@comcast.net
P.O. Box 2744
WOBURN, MA 01888
Phone: (781) 942-2600, FAX:(781) 942-0940
newenglandappraisal@comcast.net

Workfile ID:

b2945ec4

For:

MIIA PROPERTY&CASL. GRP.**Estimate of Record****Owner: TOWN OF SANDIFIELD, MA****Job Number: 10003203**

Written By: GREGORY CUNHA, 7810
Adjuster: MCCOOL, JANET, (781) 939-6880 Business

Insured: TOWN OF SANDIFIELD, MA
Type of Loss: Collision
Point of Impact: 13 Rollover

Policy #:
Date of Loss: 9/26/2023 12:00 AM

Claim #: M23JM52229
Days to Repair: 45

Owner:
TOWN OF SANDIFIELD, MA
PO BOX 22
SANDISFIELD, MA 01255
(413) 258-4742 Business

Inspection Location:
A&M AUTO SERVICE
7 TOLLAND RD
SANDISFIELD, MA 01255
Repair Facility
(413) 258-3381 Business

Repair Facility:
A&M AUTO SERVICE
7 TOLLAND RD
SANDISFIELD, MA 01255
(413) 258-3381 Business

VEHICLE

1988 MACK RD690S 4 GUYS 750GPM FIRE TANKER PUMPER E7-350 RED/WHITE

VIN: 2M2P141C5JC005762
License: FIRE C163
State: MA

Production Date: 1/1988
Mileage/Hours: 44,215
Condition: Good

Interior Color: GRAY
Exterior Color: RED/WHITE

TRANSMISSION

Automatic Transmission

POWER

Power Steering

DECOR

Dual Mirrors

Tinted Glass

CONVENIENCE

Intermittent Wipers

SAFETY

Communications System

SEATS

Cloth Seats

Bucket Seats

WHEELS

Aluminum/Alloy Wheels

PAINT

Clear Coat Paint

Two Tone Paint

Estimate of Record

Owner: TOWN OF SANDIFIELD, MA

Job Number: 10003203

1988 MACK RD690S 4 GUYS 750GPM FIRE TANKER PUMPER E7-350 RED/WHITE

Line	Oper	Description	Part Number	Qty	Extended Price \$	Labor	Paint
1	#	Repl Chrome wraparound front bumper		1	2,250.00	2.0	
2	#	Repl L&R front aluminum diamond plate decking		1	450.00	4.0	
3	#	Repl Hale 750GPM front mount pump & controls		1	9,500.00	32.0	
4	#	Repl Radiator assembly w/braces		1	1,250.00	4.0	
5	#	Repl Grille assembly & opening trim mouldings		1	1,356.80	2.0	
6	#	Repl Charge air cooler w/hoses & clamps		1	950.64	3.0	
7	#	Repl Hood assembly w/lighting, wiring & trim		1	2,680.50	7.0	6.0
8	#	Add for clear coat		1			2.5
9	#	Add for 2nd color white		1			2.5
10	#	Repl Fan shroud, fan blade & fan clutch		1	1,425.86	1.5	
11	#	Repl L&R front shock absorbers w/mounts & hardware		1	424.98	2.5	
12	#	Repl Front axle assembly w/springs & ubolts		1	3,250.80	12.0	
13	#	Repl Pitman arm, drag link, tie rod & steering arms		1	1,164.80	3.5	
14	#	Repl R/F tire Goodyear 11R24.5		1	675.00	1.4	
15	#	Repl Cab assembly w/glass, gauges & wiring		1	1,250.00	32.0	16.0
16	#	Add for 2nd color white		1			6.0
17	#	Repl Cab roof warning light bar assembly		1	1,250.00	4.0	
18	#	Repl R/S cowl mounted air cleaner w/straps & insulators		1	850.00	2.5	
19	#	Repl L/S cab aluminum DP entry step assembly		1	2,250.00	2.0	
20	#	Repl L/S body panel w/compartments doors		1	4,250.00	40.0	16.0
21	#	Deduct for overlap		1			-0.4
22	#	Repl L/S hose bed trays		1	1,350.00	4.0	
23	#	Repl R/S body panel w/compartments doors		1	4,650.00	40.0	16.0
24	#	Deduct for overlap		1			-0.4
25	#	Repl Tank body rear cradle assembly		1	3,250.00	24.0	8.0
26	#	Deduct for overlap		1			-0.4
27	#	Repl 2500 Gallon Stainless steel wrapped water tank & piping		1	3,800.00	24.0	
28	#	Repl R/S lower cab entry step		1	225.87	0.5	
29	#	Repl Rear aluminum DP tailboard step assembly		1	2,875.60	8.0	

Estimate of Record

Owner: TOWN OF SANDIFIELD, MA

Job Number: 10003203

1988 MACK RD690S 4 GUYS 750GPM FIRE TANKER PUMPER E7-350 RED/WHITE

30	#	Repl	L/S tail lamp housing w/lights & wiring	1	760.88	2.5	
31	#	Rpr	Setup & gauge frame, remove sway & twist, correct diamond			24.0	F
32	#	Rpr	Pressure clean to remove oil & debris			3.0	
33	#	Repl	Truck cover for prime & finish painting	1	20.00	2.0	
34	#	Refn	Tint to match				0.5
35	#	Rpr	Color sand & buff			4.0	
36	#	Subl	Hazmat disposal	1	10.00	X	
37	#	Subl	Graphics as original	1	2,500.00	X	
SUBTOTALS					54,671.73	291.4	72.3

ESTIMATE TOTALS

Category	Basis			Rate	Cost \$
Parts					52,161.73
Body Labor	267.4 hrs	@		\$ 150.00 /hr	40,110.00
Paint Labor	72.3 hrs	@		\$ 150.00 /hr	10,845.00
Frame Labor	24.0 hrs	@		\$ 175.00 /hr	4,200.00
Paint Supplies	72.3 hrs	@		\$ 50.00 /hr	3,615.00
Miscellaneous					2,510.00
Subtotal					113,441.73
Total Cost of Repairs					113,441.73
Net Cost of Repairs					113,441.73

PER MASSACHUSETTS REG. TITLE 212 CHAPTER 2.02(5), "THIS ESTIMATE HAS BEEN PREPARED AND SWORN TO UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY."

CCC ONE Estimating - A product of CCC Intelligent Services Inc.

The following is a list of abbreviations that may be used in CCC ONE Estimating that are not part of the MOTOR CRASH ESTIMATING GUIDE:

BAR=Bureau of Automotive Repair. EPA=Environmental Protection Agency. NHTSA= National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration. PDR=Paintless Dent Repair. VIN=Vehicle Identification Number.

October 25, 2023

On October 24, 2023 after leaving the Select Board meeting, I observed people in the parking lot. After driving closer to the group, I identified the people as Michael Morrison, Ralph Morrison, and John Field. There was a lot of shouting, so I rolled down my window and told them to “stop this now.” John said to Michael, “if you want to talk, we can talk.” Michael proceeded to yell, to which John responded that he would not have a conversation with him. After which Michael and Ralph both accused John of not supporting the Fire Department and not standing up for it. John explained he was “just doing his job.” When the Morrison’s brought up moving the tanker so people wouldn’t observe it, John noted the optics looked bad. Ralph stated he called the State Police and the collision unit informed him they didn’t investigate municipal vehicles. John replied that is not the same information he received after speaking with the State Police, to which Michael proceeded to yell, “are you calling my brother a liar?” and continued to repeat, “you’re calling my brother a liar!” John remained very composed throughout the entire interaction, despite Ralph and Michael yelling and acting like bullies. The altercation lasted for at least 15 minutes. Bob Fedell then came out to witness the yelling. After a moment, he left as to not violate open meeting law, but received assurance that John was okay. The yelling continued after Bob left, to which I told John to “get in his truck and leave.” John left immediately after me. I was appalled at the behavior of our Police and Fire Chief.

Barbara Cormier
413-258-4402

Sylbert, Jonathan

From: Fedell, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 8:51 PM
To: Sylbert, Jonathan
Subject: Witness Statement 10/24

After the selectboard meeting of 10/24 I was walking to my truck to leave and saw that there were a handful of people, who I recognized to be members of the fire department.

As I approached my truck Ralph Morrison hollered "Hi Bob" across the parking lot. I got into my truck and stopped as I neared them on my way out of the parking lot. I asked Ralph if he was all set, which he replied that he wasn't. He came up to the window of my truck and stated that the information that Carl Nett provided was faulty. I responded that I recognized that several of the vehicles were no longer in our fleet, and that I had noted that during the meeting on my copy of the paperwork. At this point John Field had come outside and had come over to the group, I assumed to see if they were showing hostility towards me.

Ralph and John started going back and forth about the tanker accident and Michael Morrison got involved as well. Fairly quickly I recognized that things were getting quite heated, but I also saw that my vehicle was blocking everyone else from leaving the parking lot. I reversed out of the way and parked the truck and walked back to the group to try to diffuse any potential fighting. John, Mike and Ralph were going round and round, but after a minute or so it didn't seem like it was escalating. I was standing next to Mike and I explained to him that I was going to leave because I didn't want to violate any Open Meeting Laws since my being there put two selectman discussing town politics. I went back to my truck and exited the parking lot.

Robert Fedell
Sent from my iPhone

Sylbert, Jonathan

From: Field, John
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2023 4:52 PM
To: Sylbert, Jonathan
Subject: Statement

Dear Jonathan,

I think it's important the events that followed this week's (24 October 2023) select board meeting go on record. After the meeting adjourned, I went to the parking lot to find the fire chief and the police chief still in the parking lot. They engaged Bob and I walked over to see what was going on. Bob indicated that there could be an open meeting law violation and left. Once Bob left, Ralph and Mike continued to engage me about the tanker crash and our investigation to date. They clearly were unhappy with us as a board. With a lot of back and fourth about details they started to yell and get upset with me. At one point I disagreed with a statement they made and they repeatedly said I was calling them "liars". Once we moved on from the "liar" comments, they accused me of "not supporting the fire department" which is entirely untrue. At that point, Barbara Cormier suggested I just head home and I did. It is clear to me this is a sign of aggression, intimidation, and abuse of power. I will not tolerate this behavior from town officials.



SANDISFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC
SANDISFIELD, MA 01255



Lease Agreement

Between

The Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc

and

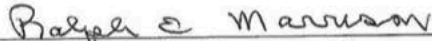
The Town of Sandisfield

Dated, October 15, 2019

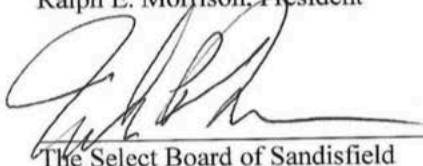
Terms of Agreement: Lease vehicle for the amount of one dollar (\$1.00) for such time that the described vehicle is no longer needed by The Sandisfield Fire Department.

Vehicle to be leased:

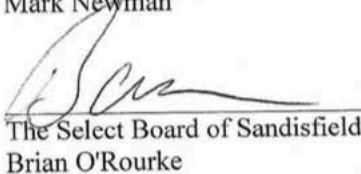
1988 MACK PUMPER TANKER
VIN: 2M2P141C5JC005762



The Sandisfield Fire Department Inc.
Ralph E. Morrison, President



The Select Board of Sandisfield
Mark Newman



The Select Board of Sandisfield
Brian O'Rourke



The Select Board of Sandisfield
George Riley

Dated October 15, 2019

RO # 230927-07

Customer # SAN-229

Paper RO#

P.O.#

Member #

R.W.'s Inc. **Towing & Repairs**

P.O. Box 295
Lee, Massachusetts 01238
413-243-0946 Fax: 413-243-0948

Customer Information

Customer Name:
Sandisfield Fire Dept.
Address:
Box 22 Sandisfield, MA 01255-
Phone Res: Phone Bus:

TaxExempt ☐
Reg. Customer ☐

Vehicle Information

Year/Make/Model:
1988 Mack 600
Color: State: Plate #: Mileage:
Red MA MFC163 44215
FLEET # Location Code: Vendor #:
Tanker 3
Engine: Transmission:
VIN #: **2M2P141C5JC005782** Sticker Due:

Shop Labor and Other Charges

Called for a tanker fire truck that came down Webster Rd, crossed Main Rd and rolled down a steep grade about 150' into trees and brush. Time includes recovery, towing of truck and front axle to our yard.

2 Additional laborers, 5 hours @ \$150.00 per hour each-

Towing Related Charges

M.T.A Towing Invoice #:

1 Rotator

First Mile \$1,500.00 + 7

Miles (Hrs) At \$1,500.00 Per Mile (Hrs) Using 1150R

Driver RB

1 Heavy Wrecker-

First Mile \$850.00 + 7

Miles (Hrs) At \$850.00 Per Mile (Hrs) Using 5130

Driver RM

Storage Charges

Storage for 1 Days at \$125.00 Per Day

Payment:

We will NOT be responsible for loss or damage to this vehicle, its parts or contents while towing or storage. Cash or credit cards accepted ONLY.

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE OF WRECKER DRIVER

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER IF REQUIRED

Subtotal Labor	\$1,500.00
MTA Driver	\$0.00
	\$0.00
Driver RB	\$12,000.00
	\$0.00
Driver RM	\$6,800.00
Subtotal Towing	\$18,800.00
TOTAL STORAGE	\$125.00
TOTAL LABOR	\$3,475.00
TOTAL TOWING	\$23,350.00
SUBLET LABOR	
ADMIN. FEE	\$350.00
ALIGNMENT	
DOT	
MOUNT, BALANCE	
PARTS	\$880.00
STICKER	
GAS-OIL TRANS	\$0.00
Surcharge	\$300.00
OTHE	
TAX	\$0.00
TOTAL:	\$28,480.00

X - NO PAY

PARTS INSTALLED

Qty:	Part #:	Unit Price	Amount
1	16' heavy strap	\$175.00	\$175.00
1	20' heavy strap	\$205.00	\$205.00
1	cutoff blades	\$250.00	\$250.00
1	Chain saw chains	\$100.00	\$100.00
1	Scene lights	\$150.00	\$150.00

Paid 10/10/23

*28480.00 admin fee
- 350.00
28130.00
Pay
\$28130.00*

TOW 1 CALLED BY

Customer

TOW 2 CALLED BY

Customer

TYPE OF TOW

Front End Lift

TIME INVOLVED

Finish 2:30 AM

Called 6:30 PM

Total 08:00

MILEAGE

Finish

Start

Total

TOWING PREP

Unlock Car

Rmv Drive Shaft

Remove Axles

Lights

Other

PEN DATA

In Pen

PEN CRG \$0.00

Location Towed From:

Location of Disposition:

Date of Disposition:

Certified Letter Date:

Certified Letter COST:

\$0.00

Misc Pen Note:

Memo

R.W.'s
Towing & Repairs
P.O. Box 295
Lee, Massachusetts 01238
413-243-0948 Fax: 413-243-0948

RO # 230927-07
Customer # SAN-229
Paper RO#

Additional Shop Labor and Other Charges
9/27/23, restocking and readying of equipment-

1 Scene supervisor- 8 hours @ \$200.00

\$375.00
ST

\$1,600.00
BB

Subtotal Labor \$1,975.00

Additional Towing Related Charges

TOW CALLED BY	DRIVER						
Customer	CP	1st Response Truck with various tools-					\$0.00
		First Mile: \$225.00 + 7 Miles (Hrs) At \$225.00 Per Mile (Hrs) First Response					\$1,800.00
Customer	BB	1 support truck-					\$0.00
		First Mile: \$225.00 + 5 Miles (Hrs) At \$225.00 Per Mile (Hrs) Using F350					\$1,350.00
Customer	DR	1 flatbed-					\$0.00
		First Mile: \$225.00 + 1 Miles (Hrs) At \$225.00 Per Mile (Hrs) Using M2-4					\$450.00
Customer	JT	9/27/23- Addition clean up of debris at scene. 1 laborer 2 hours @ \$100.00. 1 pickup and driver/laborer.					\$200.00
		First Mile: \$225.00 + 1 Miles (Hrs) At \$225.00 Per Mile (Hrs) Using F350					\$450.00
Customer	RB	9/27/23, loading of truck and axle onto landoll trailer to transport to Sandisfield-					\$0.00
		First Mile: \$200.00 + 0.5 Miles (Hrs) At \$200.00 Per Mile (Hrs) Using 5130					\$300.00
Subtotal Towing							\$4,550.00

This is included in bill for 20K