

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board Executive Session held on Monday, November 17, 2023 at 3:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

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

Participants: Michael Morrison, Jared Collins (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 reads the fact findings for issues to be discussed during this executive session.

On August 7, 2023, Police Chief Michael Morrison asked Officer Bredenfoerder to check the registration on the DPW fleet vehicles. Being this was the second time Officer Bredenforerder was asked to do this, she looked in the vehicles herself and then fell exiting the truck. She has been out of work for roughly 10 weeks recovering from the injuries she sustained. It is not clear if this order was legal.

On September 23, 2023 Michael crashed the 1988 tanker truck that had a rejected inspection sticker. After conducting further research, it was found that other fire apparatus was missing current registration and inspection stickers.

On October 24, 2023 the review of the tanker crash was Item 7 on the Select Board agenda. This item was subsequently tabled, as they agreed to conduct the discussion in executive session. Police Chief Michael Morrison, Fire Chief, and volunteer firefighters in attendance left the meeting immediately thereafter, but waited outside for 40 minutes for the Select Board to exit. Both the Fire and Police Chief cornered Bob Fedell and John Field in the parking lot and attempted to intimidate and harass the members due to their displeasure in the tanker accident being designated to an executive session. Witness statements have been submitted to corroborate this fact.

On October 26, 2023 the Select Board received a formal complaint against the Police Department from Tara Birkett, wife of Select Board member John Field. The complaint reported that there was an Officer sitting outside of her home with blue lights on at 6:15am on October 25th. She felt as though this was a clear act of intimidation and abuse of power due to the previous night's altercation.

Steve invites Michael to make any comments regarding the facts he's laid out.

Michael argues that the incident of October 24th is excluding details, as Robert Fedell drove down to the Police and Fire Chief in the parking lot voluntarily and John Field walked over to them. Robert then left to avoid an open meeting law violation. He and the Fire Chief did not approach the Select Board members. John Field agrees this is the correct series of events leading up to the verbal altercation. Robert notes for the record he did not feel "cornered." Michael would like the fact finding description of this incident to be struck from the minutes. While the events leading up to the altercation may exclude some details, they have now been cleared up, and this does not change the seriousness of the altercation.

Michael reports he was not there during the incident that resulted in the formal complaint from the Select Board members wife on October 26th. He confirms Officer Adam Gonska asked to sign on at 6:00am the previous day, as goes out to patrol and wait for the school buses, as the students like to see the cruiser. When he came to Rood Hill Rd, he stopped with his steady burn lights on, which remain on in dim light so the cruiser is easily identifiable. Adam claims the reason he stopped was to reboot the MDT system, as he had lost it going over the road. Upon seeing another car on the road he drove off. Adam did not feel he was doing anything wrong, and Michael claims he did not tell Adam to go on Rood Hill Rd, as Adam typically goes wherever he feels comfortable patrolling and is not given direct orders where to be. Adam has spoken to Jonathan Sylbert regarding the incident. John Field states that the optics are really bad and that the incident made his wife extremely anxious. He notes an apology to Tara may have gone a long way. Michael apologizes, but assures this was only a coincidence. Jonathan notes upon looking at Adam's patrol logs, there was only one day since July 1, 2023 that he started at 6:00am.

As for the incident of August 7th, Michael reports that Officer Mary Bredenfoerder was ordered to check the status of the registrations on the Town equipment that was not registered. Michael claims he did not give her any direction on how to gather this information and does not know why she entered the truck. He explains she should have written the plate number down and run it through the MDT terminal. Steve questions why she was tasked with this to begin with. Michael claims this was because

there were several unregistered Town-owned vehicles, including the loader and tractor. John asks again, why Mary was in the truck if they were not among the vehicles with questionable registrations. Michael reiterates he did not order her to do this and he does not know why she did. Jonathan notes they have witness testimony that states Mary was very uncomfortable about getting the registrations and she had refused to obtain them when previously asked. It's questioned whether a Police Officer would enter private property to check the registration on a resident's vehicle. Michael claims Officers often do this and argues the DPW garage is not private property. Jonathan notes that should he ever give a subordinate vague instructions that led to an accident, he would take responsibility. Michael states he takes responsibility for ordering Mary to check the registrations, but will not take responsibility for her actions. There is a brief discussion on the registration status of the DPW equipment. Michael notes that should Mary have found there not to be a registration on any of the equipment, he would make the issue known to Jonathan. John questions whether Mary could have populated a list of registered vehicles owned by the Town of Sandisfield in the Police Department office. It's confirmed she could have, but Michael notes she may not have known this was an option. The optics of this situation seem like the Police Department is going after the DPW instead of working together. Michael states he was just fulfilling his duties as Police Chief to make sure all the Town vehicles were registered and in the event an accident were to occur, the Town would be covered.

Michael does not have more to say regarding the events of the tanker crash on September 23rd, but notes that as far as he knows there is only one additional missing inspection and all the registrations were accounted for. Steve questions why the Fire Department would not receive notification from the RMV for inspection requirements, as any private citizen would. He emphasizes the lack of concern with a failed inspection sticker as opposed to a grader without a registration.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the facts as amended.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

The amended items include removing that Fire Department apparatus was missing current registrations from events on September 23rd and removing "cornered" from the events of October 24th.

The Select Board will review and determine relevance with the following charges associated with these facts:

- a. Insubordination

- b. Abuse of power
- c. Intimidation/retaliation

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the charges. Discussion opens.

Adopting the charges does not mean Michael is guilty of these charges, but indicates the Select Board is agreeable to the relevance of these charges in the series of incidents laid out above.

John agrees with the insubordination charge. However, both abuse of power and intimidation/retaliation are serious accusations for a Police Officer. He notes that the way in which our public officials present themselves is very important, but supports only pursuing the insubordination charge at this point. Robert notes that Michael must use his authority and power only to benefit the Town and not let family loyalty negatively affect his decisions, but does not support any of the charges presented at this point. Steve notes the optics of all these situations are very negative, and while the incident of October 25th may have been a coincidence and August 7th may have been a misunderstanding between the Public Safety Officer and Police Chief, the incident of October 24th seems to be a clear instance of insubordination, which is not a criminal violation. Should the Select Board agree to charge Michael with insubordination, another executive session would be had to discuss potential disciplinary action.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the charge of insubordination. Discussion opens.

John asks whether Michael has any history of complaints or charges brought against him. Michael confirms he has served as Police Chief for 42 years and does not have any violations in his personnel file, nor has he ever been called before the Select Board in an executive session to discuss complaints or charges brought against him.

John would rather let this be a learning opportunity for Michael rather than pursue bringing any charges against him; Robert is in agreement. Despite Steve's support in pursuing the insubordination charge, the other members disagree and the motion dies.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to exit executive session.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

3. Adjourn the Meeting

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to exit public session.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

Meeting adjourned at 4:38pm

Steve Seddon

John Field

Robert Fedell



**Town of Sandisfield
Select Board
(413) 258-4711 Ext. 3
Sandisfieldma.gov**

November 15, 2023

BY HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Michael Morrison
Police Chief
Sandisfield Police Department
3 Silverbrook Road
PO Box 45
Sandisfield, MA 01255

Re: Notice of Executive Session

Dear Chief Morrison:

Please accept this letter as written notification that on Friday, November 17, 2023, at 3:30 PM, the Sandisfield Select Board will vote to convene in Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(1) to discuss your actions following an accident during your operation of a Town vehicle (1988 Mack Water Tanker) on September 26, 2023. The Board also will discuss a related complaint made against the Police Department on October 28, 2023. Additionally, the Board will discuss your actions related to injuries sustained by an on-duty Police Officer under your command on August 7, 2023.

The Board's meeting will be held at Sandisfield Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, Massachusetts 01255.

As the subject of the Executive Session, you have the right to be present for the Board's discussion which pertains to you; you have the right to speak on your own behalf; you have the right to appear with counsel or a representative of your choosing, for purposes of advising you, but not for active participation; you have the right to record the meeting by stenographic or other means; and you have the right to request that the Board conduct the meeting in Open Session.

A copy of this letter will be placed in your permanent personnel file.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Sylbert
Town Manager
Town of Sandisfield

Fact summary regarding complaints against and actions of Michael Morrison

- On August 7th Officer Morrison asked Officer Bredenfoerder to check for registrations of the DPW fleet vehicles. Since this was the second time officer Bredenfoerder was asked by her boss she decided to look inside the vehicles. Officer Bredenfoerder fell exiting the truck and has not yet returned to work now roughly 10 weeks later due to the injuries sustained. It is not clear if this order was legal.
- On September 23 Officer Morrison crashed the 1988 Mack Tanker that had a current rejected inspection sticker on it. With further research it was found that other fire apparatus was missing current registrations and inspection stickers.
- On October 24th at the selectboard meeting, the tanker crash was item 7 on the agenda. It is decided the item will be tabled and 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 selectboard members to exit the meeting 40 minutes later. Both the Fire Chief and Police Chief with volunteer firefighters cornered selectboard member Bob Fedell in the parking lot, also member John Field, when he came to see if everything was alright. Both Fire and Police Chief's then attempted to intimidate and harass both selectboard members due to their displeasure about the Tanker accident discussion being designated to executive session. Witness statements have been submitted that corroborate this fact.
- On October 26th at the selectboard received a complaint against the Police department from one of the selectboard members wife for intimidation actions. After the altercation after the 10/24 Selectboard mee insubordination and abuse of power ting she felt this was a clear act of intimidation and abuse of power.

Ask Michael if he would like to speak to these facts.

Motion to accept the facts.

Charges associated with these facts,

- Insubordination
- Abuse of power
- Intimidation / Retaliation

Motion to adopt charges

Motion to have another executive session to discuss disciplinary action.

From: [mary bredenfoerder](#)
To: [Sylbert, Jonathan](#)
Subject: accident
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 3:41:31 PM

Good afternoon, in reference to my accident in August, My supervisor wanted me to check the registrations of the DPW Town vehicles. I had stopped once before and there was no one there, and all the trucks were out. On this day he mentioned it again and since the cruiser was at the repair shop, I decided I would go and see if anyone was there. When I got there the secretary, Connie, was there so I asked her if there were copies of the registrations in the office, she checked and there were not. I then decided to check in the trucks that were there, I did not find the registration and when getting down from the truck I missed the bottom step and fell, causing the injury.

Mary Bredenfoerder

From: [Morrison, Michael](#)
To: [Sylbert, Jonathan](#)
Subject: Re: Statement regarding injury at the DPW
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:41:22 PM

As I recall,
I asked Mary to check on the status of the unregistered equipment at town garage.
Mike

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 14, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Sylbert, Jonathan <Manager@sandisfieldma.gov> wrote:

Hi Mike, the Board would like a written statement from you regarding the circumstances leading up to Mary's injury at the DPW.

Can you please provide that?

Thanks,
Jon

Jonathan Sylbert
Town Manager
66 Sandisfield Road, Suite 1
Sandisfield, MA 01255
T: (413) 258-4711 x1
F: (413) 258-3365

Please note the Massachusetts Secretary of State deems all email created or received by an employee of a government unit is a public record.

Incident at Sandisfield Highway Garage on Monday, 8/7/23

Late Monday morning, around 11:30, Mary, the Sandisfield Police Officer, stopped by the highway garage. I asked her how she was and she replied she wasn't feeling too well, but she had instructions from her supervisor about a job she needed to do.

She said she was uncomfortable about the instructions and didn't like being in the middle of Brad and her boss, but she had been told to obtain the registration expirations of all of the town vehicles. Four trucks were parked in the garage.

We have binders for each vehicle so I checked for registrations but the binders did not have them.

I asked her to wait until the guys could climb into the trucks and give her the information, but she said she could climb up and down with no problem.

She checked the red truck first and then the passenger side of Tony's truck (the smallest of the big three green trucks). I then returned to the office.

Next I heard a crash and moaning. I went out by the truck, calling to Mary but couldn't find her until I went around the plow to the driver's side. Mary was on her back on the garage floor. I told her I would call 911, but after a few times telling her this, Mary finally said she was 911 and couldn't answer her own call. If I had called for an ambulance she said she would receive a call to answer 911, and that was impossible.

I told Mary to take her time trying to move and that I was not going to touch her or help her to get up. She did say she bit her lip, hit her elbows, and her rear-end hurt. She felt her police radio hitting the concrete floor was the noise I heard. She said she missed the second step and fell. I asked about her head and she rubbed it a number of times during the remaining conversation and said she didn't think she hit her head hard because there was no lump.

Mary did stand in my presence and said she would go to town hall to file an accident report and use me as a witness. I returned to the highway office and a short time later Mary said she used the truck inspection stickers for her task.

I saw Mary around 2 pm in the parking lot at the police station. She indicated she was leaving to be "checked out". At that point she was moving stiffly and slowly.

Constance E. Cooper
8/10/23

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.

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

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

From: Contact form at Town of Sandisfield MA <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: October 26, 2023 at 2:07:03 PM EDT
To: "Seddon, Steven" <SSeddon@sandisfieldma.gov>
Subject: [Town of Sandisfield MA] Police presence (Sent by Tara Birkett, Tara.birkett@bhrs.org)
Reply-To: Tara.birkett@bhrs.org

Hello sseddon,

Tara Birkett (Tara.birkett@bhrs.org) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.sandisfieldma.gov/user/2201/contact>) at Town of Sandisfield MA.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.sandisfieldma.gov/user/2201/edit>.

Message:

Dear Steve,

I am writing regarding the presence of a member of the Sandisfield Police Department on Rood Hill Road this morning at approximately 6:50 A.M.

When I reached the end of my driveway (38 Rood Hill Road), a police vehicle was parked several hundred feet to the north of my driveway. Blue lights were illuminated and it was stationary. I paused for about 30 seconds and it still did not move. I decided to exit my driveway and the police vehicle began to slowly move down the road. It exited right from Rood Hill onto S. Sandisfield Road.

I felt this was a clear example of the intimidation I have been expecting. I have voiced my concerns regarding this very thing to my husband John Field given the nature of town politics as of late. I knew I would be subjected to this type of abuse of power; I was not disappointed. I'm sure the explanation will be "routine patrols" but that is a flimsy excuse given I have witnessed no such acts in my 13 years in Sandisfield.

I will not tolerate any type of further intimidation or undue stress, certainly not first thing in the morning outside my own home or anywhere else in town.

I appreciate your attention in this matter.

Tara Birkett

TO: Town Manager Jonathan Sylbert
Selectman Chair Steven Seddon
Selectman John Field
Selectman Robert Fedell
Chief Michael Morrison

10/29/2023

From Officer Adam Gonska

On Thursday October 26, 2023, I signed on duty at 0600hrs in Sandisfield cruiser 1358 via the MDT (Mobile Data Terminal). As I made it out onto Tolland Rd I turned on the overhead blue lights on steady burn (non-flashing constant illumination) like I do on my patrols day or night for the most visibility for both residents and the public passing through town. I do this so everyone can see that there is a police officer in town and that is active on patrol. On patrols I always go below the posted speed limit, as per my training and experience I look for things that are out of the normal with the homes in town, for example open doors windows open that I've never seen before etc. I do my best every time I work to not have a pattern and to change up where I patrol and at what time which is why I came in at 0600hrs which helps with the illusion of an overnight shift/24hr dept. I decided to patrol the west side of the town when I came in. So I patrolled Sandisfield Rd to New Hartford Rd at around 0615hrs. I patrolled New Hartford Rd to its end and continued to patrol onto Sandy Brook Turnpike end to end. I turned around at the New Marlborough town line and patrolled back to Norfolk Rd and went up there. I finished Norfolk Rd and went onto Rood Hill Rd, coming to the Sandybrook Turn Pike Intersection I then crossed over to the other section of Rood Hill Rd it was now around 0645hrs. As I went up the hill a White Pickup truck pulled over to let me by being the road is narrow in some spots. I continued to an area where my MDT then made an audible notification (pop) sound alerting me that it has regained cell service, due to the limited cellular coverage in town certain spots we actively get service which allows us to use the MDT. This is a spot I know it regains service as it has done the same many times before on patrol. I looked behind me saw no vehicles so I pulled to the edge of the road stopped the vehicle and began to login to utilize the services (IMC and CJIS). There is a public safety exception to the law allowing police to use the MDT while in performance of their duties (Mass General Law Chapter 90 Section 13B sub Section c.) but if I can avoid driving and using the MDT I do. I had just finished typing in my username and password getting ready to update my log, when I looked into my drivers side mirror and a vehicle about 200ft behind me was at the end of their driveway. Not wanting to hinder anyone getting to work I took my foot off the brake and slowly accelerated down the road again at my normal patrol speed, the vehicle then slowly pulled out onto the road and drove in the same direction as me. I stopped at the Rood Hill Rd and S. Sandisfield Rd intersection put on my turn signal and turned right. I watched the vehicle behind me turn on their left turn signal and stayed there at the intersection until I could no longer see them. I continued my patrol until having the MDT make the same audible notification "pop" sound regaining cell service again, I pulled to the right and entered patrol log as previously stated.

At 0741hrs I received a phone call on my personal cell phone from Select Member John Fields. I answered and stated, Good morning Sir how are you. Mr. Fields tone of his voice seemed agitated when he asked, what was I doing on Rood Hill Rd this morning, that with the current things going on in town it was weird to see the cruiser on his road which he has never seen in 14yrs. I stated had been out doing

my patrols and what roads I'd been on for the morning and explained how I signed on at 0600hrs. He stated that with everything going on in town and how this looked his wife had felt like I was trying to harass them. I explained this is absolutely not what was going on, I stopped because I had just regained service on the MDT and was logging in as I pull over to type which is safer than typing while driving. I also drove with the blue lights on steady burn as I want everyone to see that I'm out. I apologized if I had caused any duress to his wife as that is not my intention and that I was just out patrolling the road like I had done many times in the past. Mr. Fields stated that he had been my friend for many years and that he believed and trusted me on my explanation about this morning, he would let his wife know to put her at ease about it all.

At 0930hrs returned to the Sandisfield Police Station to assist Chief Morrison in processing some LTC's that had come through. While there I informed Chief Morrison of the phone conversation I had had earlier with Mr. Fields.

I continued my patrol shift until 1200hrs when I ended and went off duty. At 1510hrs I received a phone call from Chief Morrison to inform me that I was now the subject of an email pertaining to our prior conversation at the police station. For which he stated he had replied to Town Administrator Sylbert that Officer Gonska had spoken with Select member Mr. Fields earlier and he had believed that after the conversation this was resolved. Now over 6 and a half hrs later an official complaint had been submitted.

I would like the board to adjudicate the claim against me as I believed the complaint was resolved at 0741hrs by myself and Mr. Fields. An official complaint of intimidation by a police officer according to the POST (Peace Officers Standard and Training Commission) an allegation of this seriousness can result in my decertification as a police officer and tarnish my career. As I have been a police officer for 11 and a half years, 8 and half for the Town of Sandisfield. In that time I have always strived to be kind, courteous and truthful holding Honesty and Integrity as my highest core values. I have no understanding why I have this official complaint which is now a matter of public record as my only intention was to patrol and protect the citizens of Sandisfield.

Re: [Town of Sandisfield MA] Police presence (Sent by Tara Birkett, Tara.birkett@bhrsd.org)

From: "Morrison, Michael" <PoliceChief@sandisfieldma.gov>
To: "Seddon, Steven" <SSeddon@sandisfieldma.gov>
Cc: "Sylbert, Jonathan" <Manager@sandisfieldma.gov>, "John Fields" <john@fieldtreeservice.com>, "Fedell, Robert" <RFedell@sandisfieldma.gov>, "Adam Gonska" <gonski@email.com>
Date: Oct 26, 2023 9:05:00 PM

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 26, 2023, at 6:08 PM, Seddon, Steven <SSeddon@sandisfieldma.gov> wrote:

Hello everyone,
This will be on the 10/30 agenda for the board to review.

Steven Seddon Sr.
Select Board Chair
Town of Sandisfield
413-563-1483

On Oct 26, 2023, at 3:01 PM, Morrison, Michael <PoliceChief@sandisfieldma.gov> wrote:

I believe John and Adam have already spoken on this matter.
According to Adam he was just that out patrolling which is what they are supposed to be doing . Adam worked 6-12 today ,That is why he was up in that area this morning.
Doing patrol , the lights are on steady burn which is just that when they are on patrol until they are needed to be put on flashing to pull someone over.
Nothing more
Mike

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 26, 2023, at 2:48 PM, Sylbert, Jonathan <Manager@sandisfieldma.gov> wrote:

Hi Mike, please see below and provide the Select Board with a response and explanation.

I have copied Steve on this.

The Board will have this on the agenda next Monday for a full review.

Thanks,

Jon

Jonathan Sylbert

Town Manager

66 Sandisfield Road, Suite 1

Sandisfield, MA 01255

T: (413) 258-4711 x1

F: (413) 258-3365

Please note the Massachusetts Secretary of State deems all email created or received by an employee of a government unit is a public record.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Contact form at Town of Sandisfield MA <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: October 26, 2023 at 2:07:03 PM EDT
To: "Seddon, Steven" <SSeddon@sandisfieldma.gov>
Subject: [Town of Sandisfield MA] Police presence (Sent by Tara Birkett, Tara.birkett@bhrsd.org)
Reply-To: Tara.birkett@bhrsd.org

Hello sseddon,

Tara Birkett (Tara.birkett@bhrsd.org) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.sandisfieldma.gov/user/2201/contact>) at Town of Sandisfield MA.

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I felt this was a clear example of the intimidation I have been expecting. I have voiced my concerns regarding this very thing to my husband John Field given the nature of town politics as of late. I knew I would be subjected to this type of abuse of power; I was not disappointed. I'm sure the explanation will be "routine patrols" but that is a flimsy excuse given I have witnessed no such acts in my 13 years in Sandisfield.

I will not tolerate any type of further intimidation or undue stress, certainly not first thing in the morning outside my own home or anywhere else in town.

I appreciate your attention in this matter.

Tara Birkett