

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

November 29, 2021

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, November 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: George Riley, Alex Bowman, Steve Seddon, Kevin Flynn

Called to order at 7:00PM

- 1. Call to order: Note that the meeting is being recorded**
- 2. Review and sign minutes of meetings. Points to minutes**
- 3. Review and sign purchase orders**
- 4. Chief Morrison in to discuss Massachusetts Police Reform and its implications for the town**

Chief Mike Morrison announces all Sandisfield officers have to go through 200 hours of in-service training. The State is dividing up the training in alphabetical order, so in Fiscal 2022 two officers, Mary Bredenfoerder and Dana Beardsley would receive the training. However, Dana opted not to continue training and will retire from the department as of June 30, 2022. The training will consist of 80 hours online, plus four exams on all the material; the exams will be taken at Springfield Academy. As well as 40 hours in-service firearm training, each trainee is required 1,500 rounds. Mike has requested the firearm training be done in Pittsfield, but this request has yet to be approved. An additional 40 hours of protective tactics is also required, which Mike is also trying to get through the Pittsfield Police Department. 40 hours of emergency vehicle operation is also required, which can only be done at Fort Devens, meaning room and board will need to be accommodated.

This process is being done to make all Massachusetts Police Officers full-certified. Mary Bredenfoerder is the only officer without enough time on the force to transition over immediately, for she still needs 2,400 hours of police work. On a part-time basis, this would take about 5 years, and full-time would take about two years.

Each officer will need to undergo a medical exam, which is about \$300 per officer. All officers will receive the same training. As officers begin training in alphabetical order, they must complete their training between September of the current year and June 30 of the following year. A-H expires 2022, I-P expires 2023, and Q-Z expires 2024.

Mike raises concerns that by 2024 there will be a shortage of police officers because there will no longer be reserve officers. This means there won't be officers to patrol or detail.

Mike notes the cost of the room and board for some of the training has not yet been determined. Sandisfield officers have started their in-service training during work hours, and hopefully officers can complete some training while running radar in the cruiser. Currently, the 80 hours of in-service training will come out of the Police Department budget without issue. Dress code for the training will be khaki pants and a shirt adorned with their name, which will have to be provided by the department. George requests a list of all this information and expresses concerns about overspending the police budget. Mike states that the in-service training is covered, but the department does not have the funds for room and board or apparel.

5. Discuss and act on the sale of surplus DPW equipment

The Select Board goes through a list of surplus DPW vehicles and equipment with Highway Superintendent, Brad Curry. Mike suggests going over all the surplus Town vehicles and equipment from all departments.

Brad notes that some of the larger vehicles at the top of his list have not moved from their parking spot since he began working for the town. These vehicles have a lot of rot, broken lines and unsecure battery boxes. The cost of fixing these vehicles would outweigh the cost of getting a new smaller vehicle.

The 2001 international was one of the most well-used trucks the Town owns, but now the oil pan has rusted out, the transmission housing has rotted, the brakes are unusable, and the vehicle quickly loses prime. This truck has not been used within the last year.

The 2001 Ingersoll-rand 10 ton roller has been having problems for around seven years. It now needs its drums replaced, which is around an \$8,000 repair. Before the Town spends the money to repair the roller, Brad suggests the Capital Planning Committee take a look at how much it would be to replace it. The roller is primarily used in the summer after the dirt roads are graded.

The one-ton stag blower has not moved since Brad started. It does run, but is not operator friendly. This piece of equipment has since been replaced. There is also a three-axle trailer with spring issues and other body damage. This trailer can carry ten tons, but the DPW recently got a new ten-ton trailer. A sweeper attachment can also be surplused.

A dump truck has been routinely scavenged for parts and Brad suggests scrapping it. An old York broom without bristles has been replaced already, so the old one can be surplused. A small sander was damaged during an accident and can no longer support the chains to equip it to a vehicle, all that's left is the sanding tub. Other miscellaneous truck parts can also be surplused.

Brad has spoken with a GovDeals representative who would be willing to come out and take a look at the equipment to determine what is still sellable. Brad will coordinate with

Ralph to include some of his department's surplus equipment in the assessment as well. Fire and Police Departments will need to provide the Select Board with a list of their surplus equipment.

George motions to authorize Brad to surplus and scrap his listed DPW equipment and vehicles. Alex seconds.

Roll-call vote: Steve, yes. George, yes. Alex, yes.

6. Discuss and act on transfer station sticker fiscal year change

Brad suggests moving transfer station sticker renewals to every fiscal year, rather than calendar year. He states that since the municipality operates on a fiscal year, the sticker revenue coming in does not get a proper reading for their budget. If it is decided to change from calendar to fiscal year, the Town would allow all current sticker owners to continue to use their 2021 sticker until July 1, 2022.

George notes the Transfer Station budget comes out of a revolving account which would not affect the DPW budget. He also worries that a change like this would cause too much confusion for the residents. The Select Board does not move to change transfer station sticker renewals to the fiscal year. The letter informing residents of renewal deadlines will go out shortly.

7. Brad Curry in for DPW updates

The Complete Streets Grant project is 86% completed. One issue that arose was the state sign posts proved too weak. However, replacing them with stronger posts puts the DPW over their grant budget by \$3,700. This money could be taken out of the Highway Sign account. Brad provides the proposal for this grant that must be approved by the Select Board. He summarizes this project includes the changes of four speed regulation signs.

Brad reports the grader broke down again and is being repaired for around \$3,000. They hope to have it back within the next week or so.

Brad notes he received estimates on possible solutions to a resident complaint about a ditch between their driveway and their neighbors. The total for the project would be \$480; the Select Board will need to authorize this purchase. It is estimated 3-4 weeks before all the materials are delivered. The Select Board authorizes the purchase of this material and once the material is received, the DPW can begin the process of repair as soon as the weather permits.

Mary Turek questions whether the town is liable should a vehicle fall into the ditch. Should Brad be unable to install the new culvert due to the weather, he will install flags or a cone to notify vehicles there is possible dangerous terrain.

Brad reports he was notified by the State Bridge Inspection crew, they are lowering the weight limit on the small bridge located on Route 57 at the Silverbrook Inn. The weight limit is now 26 ton tractor trailer, 16 ton three-axel, and 11 ton two-axel. Brad will apply for a grant to repair or replace this bridge. New signs noting the weight change have been installed.

Brad notes that a culvert by the Beardsley home at 90 Sandisfield Rd has yet to be replaced because they are waiting for Eversource to move two poles. A crane needs to place the culvert, but does not feel comfortable operating in such close proximity to the wires.

8. Discuss Select Board FY22 goals and objectives

Select Board tables this item.

9. Acting Town Manager Updates

○ Tax deposit status update

George updates that he and the new Town Manager, Kevin Flynn have covered a good amount of topics and projects that need handling. George also reports that he has reached out to their Interim Treasurer/ Tax Collector, Laura Lee Bertram to request she operate on a temporary basis to assist the new Treasurer/ Tax Collector, Gina Campbell with the backlog of real estate and property tax payments. Laura agreed to operate as the Tax Collector temporarily to allow Gina to catch up on her other work. A meeting between Laura, George, Gina and Kevin will occur tomorrow to determine the technicalities of her temporary employment. Select Board Assistant, Janey Beardsley will assist with some of the routine work as well.

Mike questions whether the decision to hire Laura was discussed at a Select Board meeting with the other members. George reports it was not, but they were included in all email exchanges pertaining to the issue. Mike believes matters like this should be brought to a Select Board meeting.

Alex expresses frustration that Gina has been unable to provide a definite answer when the tax bills will be deposited. George notes that Gina did let Alex know that she is working as fast as she can and hopes to get them deposited as soon as possible. George also requested that Alex respond to an email from a resident explaining the situation and that the tax bills should be deposited soon, Alex has yet to do so.

10. Town Manager Updates

Kevin has posted the Town Manager/ Select Board Assistant position online with a job description. He requests permission to post an inquiry for a handyman position as well. George agrees and states that it should be noted in the posting that the position could be a senior tax writeoff. The handyman position compensation would come out of the Operations, Maintenance, and Repair budget.

11. Select Board Updates

12. Future agenda items

- Looking over the Planning Boards draft Cannabis Bylaws.
- Sale of Police and Fire Department equipment.

13. Review mail

14. Review and sign warrants

15. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

George Riley

Alex Bowman

Steve Seddon