

# Town of Sandisfield

Select Board  
October 4, 2021

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:00p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: George Riley, Alex Bowman, Steve Seddon

Called to order at 7:00PM

## **1. Review and sign minutes of meetings. Points to minutes**

## **2. Review and sign purchase orders**

## **3. Discuss and take action to approve new language in home rule petition for retirement age**

George Riley states he and Ralph Morrison reviewed the home rule petition and cannot identify the new language. He believes the new language to be identical to the original.

George suggests they approve the new language in the home rule petition for retirement age, regardless of the new language being unidentifiable. He will contact Smitty Pignatelli to confirm the lack of a change later in the week.

George motions to approve new language in home rule petition for retirement age. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

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

## **4. Discuss and take action on Indigenous Peoples' Day proclamation**

George reads the Indigenous Peoples' Proclamation the Select Board has written, which states Sandisfield will recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October.

George motions to accept and sign the proclamation. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

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

## **5. Review and take action on guidelines for Select Board meetings**

George reads the meeting guidelines and motions to approve the guidelines for Select Board meetings and open them up for discussion. Alex seconds.

Alex requests clarification between “public input” and “topics not reasonably anticipated.” George explains “public input” is a time to bring matters before the Chair that require a minimal discussion and are on the agenda. Items not on the agenda are discussed under “topics not reasonably anticipated.”

Alex asks if people can request agenda items by email, as well as phone. George will add email contact information to the guidelines.

Roger Brown raises concerns regarding the public comment section, and not giving people a chance to speak about a specific agenda item at the appropriate time. Roger suggests allowing public comment after each agenda item to avoid people commenting on agenda items that have already been voted or acted on.

Alex recommends enforcing the Massachusetts General Law, which states the Select Board Chair must recognize a speaker before they address the public body.

George proposes this item be tabled and the guidelines be revised.

## **6. Acting Town Manager Updates**

George explains that because the town hall is mostly made up of part-time employees, only essential items are being accomplished and any other tasks are being delayed. He believes this will begin to adjust when the Town Manager begins.

The first Monday of every month DPW Superintendent, Brad Curry will attend the meeting with DPW updates.

## **7. Select Board Updates**

Alex plans to create a digitized version of the Special Permit Application. Janey Beardsley has already begun the process of rewriting the application.

George announces the tentative date for the Town Manager to begin is November 1, 2021. Ralph Morrison asks if there will be something written in the Town Manager’s contract that will allow the Select Board to terminate their position without severance pay should they not meet the Select Board’s expectations. George explains that is standard practice and all new employees will receive a six month evaluation.

## **8. Public Comment**

Kathleen Segrin clarified from last week's meeting on September 27, 2021 that she did not intend to place blame on any DPW employee for the disruption to the culvert in her driveway. Kathleen requests that action be taken to determine the appropriate adjustment to her driveway. Alex will communicate with Brad to schedule a time to discuss the issue.

## **9. Future agenda items**

Larry Dwyer updates he's been looking through the town website and noticed some outdated material and committees, including the Strategic Planning Committee who hasn't posted meeting minutes since 2015. Larry suggests the Select Board add dissolving the committee to next week's agenda, which will give the committee, should there still be active members, time to respond. George wonders if the Strategic Planning Committee has been superseded by the Capital Planning Committee, which also does not demonstrate much activity.

## **10. Review mail**

## **11. Review and sign warrants**

## **12. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting**

George reads a letter he received from Sandisfield's Emergency Management Director, Eric Pachulski announcing his resignation effective October 31, 2021. The letter states Eric's recommendation of appointing Michael Morrison to the position. George believes this position is becoming more important as climate change continues and finds it necessary to fill the position as soon as possible. George proposes the Select Board meet with Michael to discuss his availability and willingness to take over the position. Alex thanks Eric for all the work he has done for the town.

George motions to accept Eric Pachulski's resignation as Emergency Management Director and will write a letter thanking Eric for his time and effort in the town. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

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George Riley

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Alex Bowman

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Steve Seddon