

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board
November 8, 2021

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 7:00p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: Alex Bowman, Steve Seddon

Called to order at 7:00PM

1. Appoint Select Board Chair for the meeting in the absence of George Riley

Alex Bowman will serve as Chair for the meeting.

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

3. Review and sign minutes of meetings. Points to minutes

4. Review and sign purchase orders

5. Appoint Roger Brown as a member of the Capital Planning Committee

Alex motions to Appoint Roger Brown as a member of the Capital Planning Committee. Steve seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

6. Brad Curry in for DPW Updates

Brad notes that the Driveway Permit application is almost complete. There were two adjustments to be made. Janey Beardsley corrected the application and will send it to be uploaded on PermitEyes soon. Brad mentions he shut down a resident building a driveway without the proper permits.

Brad updates the DPW submitted their bids for sand, salt, and stone chips in preparation for winter. The sand and stone chips remained the same price, but the salt increased from \$52.47 to \$62.48 per ton delivered. The DPW typically averages between 1,500 to 2,000 tons of salt. He notes they don't usually use their entire stock, but like to have extra for emergencies. Treated salt also increased from \$59.99 to \$78.49 per ton delivered. Between 200-300 tons of treated salt is typically purchased for winter. Brad notes that the policy for salt use is 2,000 pounds per mile of road. However, there are certain roads that need more.

Brad explains there was some wear on the front end of the two new Western Star trucks, as well as significant wear on the tires. He sent them to Superior Spring for a front end alignment for \$120 and replaced the tires for \$400. Brad explains he will go to

more local auto shops for smaller repairs, but Superior Spring is the closest auto repair shop that can maintain the large trucks.

Alex requests a policy that will assist in being proactive to the complaints the winter months bring to the DPW. The list should include what roads are plowed first, how long residents should expect to wait for the roads to be plowed, etc. Brad states a policy exists and he will try to find it to publish on the town website.

Brad updates the DPW is still working on fall cleanup, which includes some road patching and culvert replacement. He intends to complete these items by the end of the week. He notes that a hazard leading into winter is the 350 truck, which will need to be replaced. Brad does not see it making it through the winter in its current condition. The truck has a broken frame and filters. However, the purchase of a new truck will need to be brought to Town Meeting and once approved, he is unsure when a truck will be available.

Alex questions about bridges he thinks are deteriorating. Brad states these bridges will not be tended to until after winter. Alex mentions one particular bridge on New Hartford Rd that appears unsafe. Brad explains maintenance on this bridge will need to be approved by the Conservation Committee because it's over an active river. Alex requests Brad begin the process on this, and hopes that once a Town Manager is hired they will be able to find someone to help Brad with this type of secretarial work. In the meantime, Alex suggests adding jersey barriers to the bridge making it a narrow or one-lane road. Brad states this is a reasonable temporary solution.

Brad updates they are waiting on a part to fix the grader. There are still four roads that need to be graded. The machine has been temporarily fixed until the needed part is delivered.

Two reimbursements for Chapter-90 projects have been received, one for \$215,393.95 and another for \$136,834.42. Both covered the entire cost of the project. The projects included work on Route 183, Sears Rd, Town Hill Rd, and South Beech Plain Rd. Brad will be submitting for reimbursement for their West St project shortly, which cost over \$300,000. These Chapter-90 projects will be over \$700,000 by the spring, and Brad requests a Work Session with the Select Board before budgets are due to go over what projects should be prioritized in the next fiscal year.

The Pavement Protection Program will be paving part of Sandisfield's roads in the spring, accumulating around two million dollars in paving work.

Brad explains the reason behind not applying for the STRAP grant was because he felt it necessary to utilize the grants they had already received before asking for additional money for other projects.

Doug Segrin questions whether a grant could have been used to fix the culvert outside his home. Brad explains these types of culverts are the resident's responsibility. Doug complains that there are significant drainage issues causing flooding at the three homes following his own.

Liana Toscanini and Richard Migot explain that there is now a deep ditch between their driveway and the Segrin's. They are concerned the ditch is a hazard and someone could back into it. Alex suggests the DPW install a new culvert returning the driveways to their original design and fill in the ditch. Brad expresses concern that if they should fill in the ditch, it may cause water to flow over the road which will freeze and cause a hazard in the winter. Alex proposes they lengthen the culverts, but leave the ditch for water flow. This will lower the risk of driving into the ditch because the driveway will now be wider.

Richard suggests waiting on lengthening the culverts because this does not fix the depth of the ditch and he would rather wait to see if the ditch proves to be a serious concern. However, he requests something be done about the erosion alongside the road, for he predicts water will soon begin to dig out underneath it. It's decided laying down larger rocks along the white stone is the best solution to the erosion.

Brad proposes looking into installing a pipe with a draining top across both driveways. All homeowners are supportive of this solution. Brad is unsure how much one of these pipes will cost. Alex approves this solution so long as the pipe does not prove to be too highly priced.

7. Acting Town Manager Updates

8. Select Board Updates

Alex points out that transfer station stickers for 2022 need to be ordered soon. Brad suggests moving transfer station sticker renewal from every calendar year to every fiscal year to assist with DPW budgeting. He proposes giving all residents who currently hold a 2021 sticker access to the transfer station until the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1, 2022, at which point a new sticker will need to be purchased.

9. Future agenda items

Steve would like to discuss the Special Permit application from Berkshire Mountain Cannabis.

10. Review mail

11. Review and sign warrants

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

Barbara Cormier requests confirmation that Dennis Olson was appointed as a member of the Capital Planning Committee. His appointment will be on next week's agenda.

Carl Nett requests the Board of Assessors attend a meeting in the future to report on the process by which improvements and increases in value of properties are captured in the tax rolls when homes in Sandisfield are renovated. Carl notes he does not believe they are calculating this accordingly, for he's noticed large homes built in the 70s that have since been completely renovated, but still value less than smaller outdated homes. Alex requests Carl email Alex his examples, so he can discuss this with the Assessors. Steve notes that homes are not assessed every year.

Barbara suggests the Select Board ask Berkshire Mountain Cannabis to obtain licenses to provide products for medical use, as well as recreational.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm

Alex Bowman

Steve Seddon