

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

November 15, 2021

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, November 15, 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. 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. Discuss and act on appointment of Michael Morrison as Emergency Management Director

George motions to appoint Michael Morrison as Emergency Management Director. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

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

5. Discuss and act on appointment of Dennis Olson to Capital Planning Committee

Alex requests documentation that states whether non-residents can serve on a town committee. George states he does not have documentation, but notes it's been practice that only one non-resident may serve on most committees. George states that since there is no bylaw specifying non-resident committee membership, it is up to personal policy whether non-residents can serve on a committee and how many.

George motions to appoint Dennis Olson to the Capital Planning Committee. Steve seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

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

6. Discuss and act on appointment of Bill Haines to Capital Planning Committee

Item is tabled.

7. Discuss and act on establishing Select Board email list

Janey Beardsley will now be the contact person when trying to contact the entire Select Board, she can be reached at jbeardsley@sandisfieldma.gov Contact will also be made

available on the town website. Steve also requests a contact list for all town employees, committee and board members.

8. Discuss Highway Department plow/truck reliability/plan/sales/rental

Alex summarizes from last week's meeting that there is a lot of DPW equipment that can be sold or needs to be replaced. Brad notes that two of the plow trucks are in disrepair; they currently run, but Brad is not confident for how long. There is an issue with the frame on an additional truck that causes the plow to hang too low.

Ralph Morrison, owner of A&M Auto, recommends selling both the 350 and 550 plow trucks and buying one new four-wheel drive truck. He notes the current trucks are beyond repair and it does not make sense for the town to put money into fixing them. Brad states the new truck could be a 550 or 600, it depends on availability. Brad has already looked around for new trucks and there is a very limited selection. He also notes that it may be possible to salvage the stainless steel dump bed from a DPW truck and use it on a new truck.

Alex states the purchase of a truck is not in the budget and would require a Special Town Meeting. Currently the DPW is trying to do the best they can with the equipment they have available, but would appreciate the new truck as soon as possible. Brad notes that hiring out a contractor to plow and maintain the roads in the winter would be just as expensive as purchasing the new equipment. The average contractor costs \$100/hour.

Brad notes that without the truck replacement, Sandisfield will not go without plowing. However, it will now take longer to complete the plowing. It will mostly be smaller, back roads that will be at a disadvantage.

Steve suggests finding money in the budget to install a sander on Brad's truck to create one additional truck capable of plowing this coming winter. Ralph suggests hiring a contractor just to keep up with plowing and sanding for both firehouses and Tannery Rd.

Brad will provide a list of DPW excess equipment and the Select Board will vote to sell this surplus equipment at the next meeting.

9. Discuss and act on Special Permit Application for Berkshire Mountain Cannabis

George explains they were tentatively looking at November 30 for the Special Permit Hearing. However, the hearing needs to be scheduled 14 days from the date of the posting in the newspaper. George estimated it will be posted on Wednesday or Thursday, which would allow the hearing to be scheduled for December 1st or 2nd at the earliest.

The Select Board will schedule a meeting with Town Counsel to discuss the Special Permit Hearing process and language in the Host Community Agreement.

10. Discuss and act on Public Health Nurse Contract

George summarizes that this item stems from dissatisfaction from the Council on Aging with Berkshire Health Alliance which operates their nursing program. Janey was in contact with Jim Wilusz from Tri-Town Health, a nursing program the COA feels would better suit Sandisfield. Jim stated that in order for Sandisfield to join Tri-Town, they would need to withdraw from the Alliance completely and join Southern Regional Public Health Collaborative.

It was noted that the Board of Health should take the lead on any issues with the nursing program, and the first step may be to voice their dissatisfaction to the Alliance directly. It was also suggested that the Select Board conduct a Work Session with the BOH and the COA to determine their next steps.

Alex reads from the signed agreement with the Alliance that a one-years prior written notice is requested before termination. He notes this is an agreement rather than a contract and a mutual agreement may be able to be made allowing Sandisfield to withdraw from the Alliance sooner.

A Select Board Work Session with the BOH and the COA will be scheduled in the near future.

11. Acting Town Manager Updates

A Special Town Meeting will be scheduled sometime between now and March. Items to be discussed during this meeting include the purchase of a new DPW truck and changing the Town Clerk from an elected to an appointed position.

Ralph requests the hours of the Town Hall employees be posted on the town website. George notifies him that the list is being created, but with the influx of new employees, schedules are not final.

12. Select Board Updates

Alex updates that Sandisfield was not mentioned by name by their state representative for broadband financial support in an amendment. However, the state senator has enacted a change in the language law stating money can be used specifically for debt against construction of broadband networks. This language is now in the bill, which will prove beneficial for Sandisfield.

George updates that Sandisfield received between \$30,000 and \$40,000 out of over \$80,000 for CARES Act reimbursements. Mike Morrison suggests they allow other committees to contribute to the ARPA reimbursements in the next fiscal year. George notes that the Capital Planning Committee will take the lead on these reimbursements in the future.

13. Future agenda items

14. Review mail

15. Review and sign warrants

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

George Riley

Alex Bowman

Steve Seddon