

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, September 26, 2022 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: Steve Seddon, Alex Bowman, John Field, Jonathan Sylbert

Called to order at 6:30PM

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

2. Accept Carl Nett's resignation from Cannabis Sub-Committee

3. Appoint Laura Rogers-Castro to Cannabis Sub-Committee

Steve motions to accept Carl Nett's resignation from the Cannabis Sub-Committee. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Steve motions to appoint Laura Rogers-Castro to Cannabis Sub-Committee. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Discuss Impact of the new MA Cannabis Regulation Bill

Steve reports the Governor has passed a new Cannabis Regulation Bill that eliminates the inclusion of community impact fees in host community agreements after the first eight years of a licensee's operation. This will initially only affect new HCAs, but facilities who have already established their HCAs have the potential to argue in court. The town would then have to quantifiably prove how their community is impacted by the facility. Any requested/recommended changes to the Cannabis Bylaw would need to be revisited by the Planning Board.

5. Discuss and vote which town vehicles receive GPS units

GPS units will be installed in six DPW vehicles and four pieces of equipment. Additionally, Steve suggested GPS units be installed in both Police vehicles, and the Emergency Management vehicle. Should all the vehicles be equipped, the price would come in under the estimate. The Select Board agrees to install GPS units in the above listed vehicles/equipment.

6. Americans with Disabilities Act Planning Grant

Jonathan reports there are two ADA grants, a Planning and a Project. It is too late to begin the Project Grant, but he has begun the process to apply for the Planning grant. This grant will eventually assist in accessibility updates for those with disabilities, including replacement of the dilapidated ramps at the town buildings.

7. Joint Meeting with Planning Board on potential next steps from 9/23 Community Outreach

Planning Board Chair, Barbara Cormier motions to open their meeting. Paul Adams seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

EMS capabilities and response times was a large conversation at the Community Outreach Meeting. The town understands it's in need of more EMTs, and the Select Board will try to make an effort to raise awareness and encourage more members of the community to get certified.

Another idea brought up was single-phase versus three-phase infrastructure. It was suggested to look into grants to make this happen in order to attract other businesses and solar/wind projects. A joint work session between the Select Board and Planning Board is recommended to evaluate the options.

The Planning Board reviews the consensus on different topics addressed during the meeting. At this time it's clear the Board should not proceed on any regulation of fossil fuels or a dark sky bylaw. However, a bylaw should be established addressing short-term rentals, and potentially taxing these establishments. It's noted that the hiring of an Enforcement Officer should be considered. A potential STM warrant article could accept a Mass General Law that would set the local room occupancy excise rate up to 6%.

Another Community Outreach Meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2022 @ 7:00pm.

8. Discuss STM Warrant

- **Article to request the School Committee draft an amendment setting forth the terms of Sandisfield's withdrawal from the district**

Steve summarizes this article stems from an amendment being rejected by the School Committee, which would allow any motion to be passed by simple majority, including at least one member from each town. This would show Otis that Sandisfield is serious in requesting equal opportunity to voice their opinions about the school district.

- **Accessory Dwelling Unit Bylaw**
- **Shared Driveway Bylaw Amendment**
- **MGL Chapter 60 Section 62-65 - Tax payment agreements and title taking procedures**
- **Adoption of MGL Title 7 Chapter 40U- Section 12 - Attaching citations to properties as liens**
- **Town Manager/Administrator Bylaw**
- **Appropriate the sum of \$85,000.00, or any other sum, from Free Cash, to purchase and equip a Ford F-550 truck for the DPW**
- **Double Pole Storage Fee Bylaw: \$10 per day will be assessed to the owner of any utility pole on town property in violation of MGL Chapter 164 Section 34B**

Alex reports this bylaw would be in an attempt to get Verizon and Eversource to remove their double poles around town. This article has not yet been included on the STM draft warrant.

Another article item for consideration is to ask the town for permission to sell town property, including 0.22 acres on West St, 3.1 acres on Sandisfield Rd, 105 acres on Beech Hill Rd, 0.78 acres on Hammertown Rd, and 18 acres on Richards Rd.

9. Town Manager Updates

Sandisfield received a \$500,000 Small Bridges Grant. At the time, the estimated cost for engineering was \$194,000 and the bridge construction was estimated at \$490,000, meaning the previous Select Board agreed to apply for a grant that would still cost \$200,000 out of pocket. Additionally, it's suspected to be another \$100,000 more. Sandisfield has also recently received another \$500,000 for the Silverbrook bridge. MassDOT agreed to cover the cost of the engineering for this bridge, but \$500,000 will not cover the cost of construction. It's noted these are not the bridges in the most disrepair either. As of right now, the plan is to bid the project out, and when it comes back far over-budget, Sandisfield will return to the state and request more funding.

Jonathan requests Town Clerk Douglas Miner update the town bylaws on the website, as there are many bylaws that have been passed and are not included.

Paving on Town Hill Rd will begin tomorrow, September 27, 2022.

10. Select Board Updates

11. Future Agenda Items

- Post Office Update

12. Review and sign minutes of meetings, purchase orders, warrants, and mail

13. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Steve Seddon

Alex Bowman

John Field