

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, October 3, 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. Brad Curry in for DPW Updates

Steve requests anyone with questions or comments for Brad Curry should be sent to Jonathan prior to the meeting. This will create a more focused DPW update.

One of two trucks has been repaired and returned to the garage. The other truck is scheduled to be returned Wednesday, 10/5. Additionally there are some issues with one of the tractors.

The bid ends on the last piece of surplus equipment tomorrow. There are only three more vehicles/equipment waiting on pick-up. Already, over \$90,000 has been earned from the sale of equipment.

Line painting will begin October 13 and 14 at 8:00pm. Additionally, two miles of Town Hill Rd and $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile on Cold Spring Rd have been repaved.

It's summarized Sandisfield has received a small bridge grant for the Silverbrook bridge for \$500,000 and to cover the cost of engineering. However, the bridge is estimated to cost around two million dollars. Other grant opportunities may be available to offset the cost, but lobbying to Smitty Pignatelli and other representatives will likely need to occur. Additionally, a preservation grant will be explored to improve the Beech Plain Rd bridge since it would act as a detour while Silverbrook bridge was being worked on.

3. MIIA Risk Management Grants, Rewards, and Public Safety Committee

Jonathan reports Sandisfield can receive a reduction to its insurance costs, as well as public safety grants up to \$10,000. The grants can cover the installation of the GPS units for town vehicles/equipment.

In order to receive the reduction in insurance, the town would need to establish a Public Safety Committee composed of members from the Police, Fire, DPW, Library, COA, and the Town Manager. The Committee would meet four times annually to discuss possible training and plans that can reduce the cost of insurance. It is possible that Police/Fire are already completing some of the training programs, which would just need to be recorded with MIIA. A MIIA representative will attend the first meeting, which is scheduled for November 15 or 16.

4. EMS Grant Proposal

Jonathan intends to apply for a Community Compact Best Practices Grant focused on Public Safety. The EMS proposal will be included, which outlines a method to research and create a plan to assist with the lack of EMS resources, funding, EMTs, review response times, and ambulance agreement with Tolland.

Ralph notes that there are less people willing to be voluntary EMTs and this is an area that definitely needs to be addressed. The Tolland Select Board will be discussing Sandisfield's request for a payment increase for EMS calls at their meeting tonight. The payment increase requested was \$1,000 for the ambulance ride, and \$1,300 for Advanced Life Support. However, it's noted the research to be done may prove Sandisfield should be charging even more.

5. Post Office Update

Steve reports the Otis Postmaster has spoken to both potential buyers of the Sandisfield Post Office, and neither have mentioned interest in not renewing their lease with the USPS, and therefore there is no concern at this point in time. She will notify the town should this change.

6. Discuss Sending Abandoned Vehicle Bylaw Enforcement Letters

Letters will be sent to all seemingly abandoned vehicle owners asking for proof of registration, for the town cannot prove whether a vehicle has officially been abandoned otherwise. Once confirmed, the town can move forward from there. Jonathan will draft a letter for the Select Board to sign and send to the list of potential abandoned vehicles owners. Alex suggests amending the bylaw to include the ability to screen/remove the vehicles from public view.

7. Set date for the STM

The STM is scheduled for November 17, 2022.

8. Review Municipal Calendar Deadlines

The Select Board runs through the municipal calendar. It's confirmed the town is ahead of schedule.

9. Town Manager Updates

Jonathan reports the levy will be lower than it was three years ago, coming in at around \$3,161,000. This will lower the aggregate tax bill.

MIIA provided an estimate for health/dental insurance costs, which proved only a little less than Sandisfield's current contract with a Collaborative. However, MIIA offers a lot of prerequisites that are worth consideration. Jonathan is scheduled to meet with MIIA to get a better understanding of the benefits.

The final ARPA payment has been received, \$200,000 of which has already been used to pay for the grader.

10. Select Board Updates

Alex expresses concern with the rumble strips on Route 57, as they have caused drivers to come a lot closer to cyclists in order to avoid hitting the strips. Mike Morrison has also noticed this and reports that other towns have requested MassDOT fill the strips back in. Alex is reaching out to MassDOT to come up with a solution.

Ron Pachulski reports he's filed a complaint that brushcutting at Center Cemetery was mishandled.

Mary Turek expresses concern with the dirt roads in town and notes there are times throughout the year they are unpassable. She suggests a plan be created to prioritize and permanently repair these roads. Jonathan notes repairing the roads needs to happen, but it will essentially require doubling the budget. Data will need to be acquired to compare the cost of complete repair versus constant maintenance.

11. Future Agenda Items

- 10/17 - Tax Classification Hearing
- Fire/Police Department Update

- 12. Review and sign minutes of meetings, purchase orders, warrants, and mail**
- 13. Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm

Steve Seddon

Alex Bowman

John Field