

# Town of Sandisfield

## Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 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. MIIA Health Benefits Trust Agreement**

After surveying all town employees who receive health/dental benefits, it's been decided to switch from Berkshire Health Group to MIIA as the provider. The Select Board sees no issue with the agreement; they sign.

### **3. FRRSD Agreement Update**

The Otis Select Board has declined Sandisfield's invitation to assign a point person to discuss steps moving forward with drafting the FRRSD amendment. The School Committee will begin assembling a RAAC Committee.

Jonathan sent a letter to Otis School Committee Chair, Carol Lombardo inviting her to meet with him and FRRSD Superintendent Robert Putnam to discuss how they can move forward with the amendments and RDA productively. Carol did not respond, nor did she respond to a follow-up email sent the next week. The Select Board confirms they would like to send a letter (with the original attached) to the entire School Committee, Otis Select Board and Town Administrator to request a response from Carol.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to send a letter to the Otis Select Board and all School Committee members requesting a response from the School Committee Chair.

Steve Seddon	Aye
Alex Bowman	Aye
John Field	Aye

It's reiterated that a plan needs to be made to proceed with the RDA in a very transparent and public way. It's suggested they reach out to the Otis Select Board once more to disclose the intentions of working cooperatively and effectively with one another while adjusting the RDA.

Alex Bowman's interest in filling the vacant position on the Sandisfield school Committee is noted. There have been no other interested candidates. Since the School Committee meets the first Monday of the month, it suggested the Select Board move their Monday meeting to Tuesday, so they can attend the School Committee meetings.

#### **4. Green Committee Heat Pump Grant**

Green Committee Chair, George Riley explains the grant is for \$65,129 to install a heat pump heating and cooling system in Town Hall. Since the Green Committee has already completed Phase One of their green initiative (solar panels), the heat pump will be powered by solar and is estimated to save the town \$7,000 in oil costs annually.

The Green Committee has already gotten the majority of the engineering done, acquired the bid specs, and evaluated bids. In recognition of this work, and the upcoming budget management and progress reporting, the DOR has allocated 10% of the grant, a little under \$6,000, for administrative fees. George would like to serve as the project manager and receive the administrative fee.

The project timeline is dependent on the installer, but it is hoped to begin in April and be completed in September. The system would provide five mini-splits in the building.

#### **5. Tips List Clarification**

Sandisfield has not received a bridge grant since 2013. Modest repairs have been made to two bridges since then, as well as more in-depth repairs to another.

There is discussion about preparing shovel ready projects in an attempt to increase likelihood of receiving grants. Jonathan recommends not conducting any engineering prior to receiving a grant.

The Select Board is waiting to receive a breakdown of what engineering/repairs need to be made to all Sandisfield roads/bridges. There is currently a Road Survey which outlines the problems of the roads, but does not provide solutions.

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

The American Legion Lease agreement is up for renewal this year. There are a few terms to be negotiated. The lease will fall under the Select Board's jurisdiction this budget season.

The Finance Committee has been requested three times to meet and approve a reserve fund transfer, as there have been multiple unforeseen expenses regarding Town Hall maintenance. The Finance Committee has been unresponsive to the requests.

There has been no interest among Sandisfield residents for appointment to the Bylaw Review Committee. Jonathan will begin looking into grant opportunities to address the need for bylaw review.

Two resident members are still needed for the Charter Committee. The contract has been signed with the Collins Center to begin the charter process.

## **7. Select Board Updates**

Alex Bowman submitted his resignation from the Select Board effective May 14, 2023. His resignation serves ample time to avoid an additional Special Election, allowing for a 1-year term to be on the ballot for May 15, 2023.

## **8. Future Agenda Items**

- School Committee Appointment
- Cloud/Generator Server Stability
- Snow/Ice Treatment of Roads

## **9. Review and sign minutes of meetings, purchase orders, warrants, and mail**

## **10. Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

---

Steve Seddon

---

Alex Bowman

---

John Field