

# Town of Sandisfield

## Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

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

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

### **2. Discuss Responses from Board of Assessors**

The Select Board had a number of follow-up questions after their meeting with the Board of Assessors on March 27, 2023. It was reported that the BOA had multiple homes that were overdue for assessments, and the Select Board requested a plan on how they would go about getting caught up.

The BOA claimed land assessments did not change, as there were not enough land sales to prove the need for any adjustments. The Select Board would like to see the data verifying the number of land sales, as well as confirm the amount of sales that need to occur to justify an adjustment.

### **3. Review FY24 Budget Adjustments**

Town Clerk, Douglas Miner submitted a budget increase for Town Clerk from his original submission. This will allow for more flexibility in his department.

The Cemetery Committee resubmitted their budget, as there are all new members to the committee. \$1,000 for the Cemetery Superintendent, \$650 for the CIMS software, and \$100 for office supplies. Additionally, the Committee has asked for \$23,250 for maintenance work for the five Sandisfield cemeteries. This request would be put on the warrant as a Special Article.

It's noted that some of that funding would be used towards engraving already purchased headstones to replace broken ones. It's questioned whether this is truly the responsibility of the Cemetery Committee. Lynn Rubenstein explained the Committee will try to reach out to a family member of the broken stone owner to ask that they make the repairs, but since the majority of these stones are extremely old, it's likely they won't be able to find a descendant. It's suggested the Committee confirm their responsibility with replacing stones. Another option would be to leave the damaged stones as is, and install a marker with all the information that may not be clear anymore due to weathering and damage. Lynn likes this idea, but notes the previous committee

members already purchased the 10 stones for this project and she would like to do something with them.

The Select Board agrees to include the \$23,250 as a Special Article on the warrant.

The Highway Maintenance budget will be reduced by \$5,000 and Highway Machinery Maintenance budget reduced by \$15,000. Since new equipment has been purchased, less maintenance will be required and there will not be a need for rental services. Jonathan will look into the maintenance expenses for the Fire Department, as the purchase of a new fire truck last year may allow for a decrease as well.

\$87,495 will be appropriated from Free Cash to pay for FY23 deficit spending for snow and ice removal. The total operating budget has a 1.93% increase and the school budget increased by 6.29%, making the overall budget increase by 3.7%.

#### **4. Review Warrant Items for the May 2023 ATM**

- \$8,000 for EMS training
- \$2,500 for a pig roast
- \$14,262 for plows
- Move \$85,000 from Free Cash to the Capital Improvement Plan Stabilization
- \$174,000 for the loader
- \$35,000 for tractor attachments
- \$120,000 for capital projects
- \$60,100.75 for power stretch lifter
- \$57,298 to reduce tax levy for FY24
- M.G.L. c. 60, § 62A: Municipalities; payment agreements wording change
- Finance Committee configuration
- Disposal of 105 acres on Beech Hill Rd
- Remove Planning Board shall “serve without pay” from bylaws
- Caucus process specifications
- Dilapidated vehicle bylaw language change

#### **5. Town Manager Updates**

The Treasurer is going to put together an investment policy for Sandisfield, and meet with Sandisfield’s bank representatives and the Treasurer’s Association to confirm the investment laws.

#### **6. Select Board Updates**

All the agreed upon streetlights have been removed.

Alex has sent a letter to the person in charge of payments in lieu of state owned land, Paul Mark and Smitty Pignatelli outlining the incredible difference in land valuation between Sandisfield and its surrounding towns and requesting the discrepancy be revisited and altered.

The Memorial Day parade will be held on May 28th at 10:00am followed by a BBQ at the American Legion.

## **7. Future Agenda Items**

- Facilities improvements - Old Town Hall exterior lights, bulletin boards

## **8. Review and vote to approve minutes of meetings, 3/13, 3/20**

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve 3/13 minutes.

Steve Seddon	Aye
Alex Bowman	Aye
John Field	Aye

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve 3/20 minutes.

Steve Seddon	Aye
Alex Bowman	Aye
John Field	Aye

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

## **10. Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm

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Steve Seddon

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Alex Bowman

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John Field