

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: Steve Seddon, John Field, Robert Fedell, Jonathan Sylbert (remote)

Participants: Ron Pachulski, Michael Morrison, Jeff & Melissa Bye, Barbara Cormier (remote), Carl Nett (remote)

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

2. Cemetery Committee Appointment

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to appoint Ron Pachulski to the Cemetery Committee.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

3. Discuss Police Department Vehicle Cameras

Steve Seddon explains the Town was notified by MassTrak, the company that monitors the GPS/cameras in Town vehicles, that the Police Department cruiser cameras were obstructed. Police Chief, Michael Morrison has confirmed he unplugged the cameras. Michael previously expressed concern with how the camera footage would be stored and utilized, and claimed he would contact the Berkshire Police Chiefs Association for a policy.

Steve reports that MassTrak has finished labeling/assigning all the vehicles and beginning next week, Mike Morrison, Ralph Morrison, Brad Curry, the Select Board and Jonathan Sylbert will all have access to the GPS/camera footage/data. Jonathan will be the administrator on the account, and will be able to run any necessary reports.

Mike notes that anything pertaining to the Police Department is confidential information, and he does not know whether anyone, but himself can have access to that footage/data. John Field does not agree passenger-facing cameras should be in the Police vehicles. Steve notes that Mike should have had a conversation with the Select Board instead of unplugging the cameras himself and requests he create a better line of communication with the Select Board moving forward.

4. Review Security System Bids (Amenitek, ABC, Protection Security) -

<https://www.sandisfieldma.gov/town-manager/pages/grants>

Sandisfield was recently awarded an IT grant to upgrade and install security systems in all Town buildings. Protection Security was the low bidder at \$33,238.45, Amenitek came in at \$49,521.61, and finally ABC, who currently monitors the Town building's security protection, came in at \$85,790.00. All of the bids appear to be apples to apples, except for the low bidder, which also includes the Transfer Station. The Select board agrees to invite the low bidder to a meeting to go over their bid and the systems that will be installed.

5. Review Sandisfield Times Article Submission

John Field wrote a response to Simon Winchester's article in the September issue of the Sandisfield Times titled "Bridge Over Troubled Wetlands." Simon's article implied that it was up to the Select Board to decide what conservation regulations needed to be followed and criticized the choice to close the road for a month. John's article clarifies that the Select Board is required to follow conservation regulations established by the Wetlands Protection Act and the cost of a temporary bridge to keep one lane of the road open would surpass the amount provided by the grant significantly. John's article will appear in the October issue of the Sandisfield Times.

6. Discuss EMS Feasibility Study

The Collin's Center is still waiting on information from the Fire Chief for their EMS Feasibility Study. Rico Sanchez will work on gathering this information. The Select Board signs a letter to formally request the information by October 4, 2023.

7. Discuss Audit Options

Two years ago funds were appropriated to audit the Town's finances. The Accountant, Treasurer, and Town Manager have had a difficult time getting in touch with the auditing company that's been utilized in the past. Another option may be Adelson & Company, who is contracted in surrounding Towns.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to give the Town Accountant permission to look into other options for a Town Financial Audit.

Steve Seddon	Aye
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John Field	Aye
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Robert Fedell	Aye
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8. Review Union Contract

The DPW Union contract was negotiated last year, during which a wage matrix was established. The matrix is based on licenses and credentials the employee holds in order to encourage employees to earn these credentials for an increased hourly rate. Due to inflation, the matrix proved not competitive, so the Select Board re-opened negotiations to create an addendum to the matrix. Additionally two new job titles were created, Grader Operator and Working Foreman. Both job descriptions/qualifications are included in the addendum.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the addendum to Article 12, Wages of the DPW Union contract.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

9. Review Select Board Annual Town Report

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Select Board FY23 Annual Town Report.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

10. Town Manager Updates/Project List

11. Select Board Updates

12. Future Agenda Items

- Police Chief update on camera/GPS policy

13. Topics Not Anticipated

Carl Nett reports the FRRSD budget was reduced to \$40,000 for undesignated contingency funds last fiscal year in an attempt to avoid inappropriately spending these funds. Now, the School Committee may consider requesting a reserve fund be established in Sandisfield and Otis for undesignated contingency funds for emergency uses, which may include special needs children joining the district. This will allow the Select Board to approve the transfer from the reserve fund at a Select Board meeting

instead of at a Town Meeting. Additionally, it will create more transparency as to what FRRSD considers an emergency. The Town of Lenox utilizes this procedure.

14. Public Comment

15. Review and vote to approve minutes of meetings, 9/18

16. Vote to release Executive Session minutes of 5/31 & 9/11

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to release Executive Session minutes of meetings held on 5/31/2023 & 9/11/2023.

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

17. Review and sign purchase orders, warrants, and mail

18. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:16pm

Steve Seddon

John Field

Robert Fedell