

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

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

Participants: Barbara Cormier, Jeff Bye, Brian O'Rourke, Robert Platt, Willard Platt, Tegan Abear, Michael Morrison, Mary Turek, Jane Kaufman (remote)

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

2. Discuss Gravel Road Improvements: Dodd Rd, Bosworth Rd, Richards Road

These roads have received requests for improvements and subsequently updates on those projects. The DPW has been able to plow to the only driveway on Richards Rd. However, the owner of this home has since requested the road be plowed beyond the driveway about a quarter of a mile to create a turnaround. Brad has been able to repair the road the requested distance, but cannot yet create the turnaround. This project is on hold and the requester is satisfied for the time being.

A lot of tree removal has been done on Bosworth Rd to ready a new home for electricity. The road will now be open year-round from both directions. Jonathan warns that as more people come into town to build new homes, the Town should prepare for an influx of road maintenance requests.

There are some options to repair the road from 45 Dodd Rd to Brian O'Rourke's property. The first option would be to have the Sandisfield DPW conduct all the work with their crew and equipment, potentially with an extra rental. Another option would be a combination of utilizing the Heavy Equipment Bid winner and the DPW crew using material the Town is already in possession of. The last option would allow the Heavy Equipment Bid winner to use the Town owned material themselves. The work would include widening the road, creating swales, and laying down the new material. The work is estimated to take three days and cost under \$20,000. This information will be confirmed with the Heavy Equipment Bid winner by the end of the week. Brian O'Rourke clarifies his request for repairs to Dodd Rd stem from his intent to log and build a home on his property, which is currently inaccessible under the current road conditions. He asks that once the road is repaired it will be properly maintained moving forward. He plans to build a few homes on Dodd Rd, which will be a great revenue source for the Town.

3. Emergency Management Director Vacancy

Michael Morrison has resigned as Emergency Management Director. The vacancy will be posted online and in local publications.

4. Board Review of Policy Options for Fire Department Apparatus:

- **NFPA guidelines for annual inspections of fire equipment including, but not limited to, pumps, hoses, ladders**
- **DOT vendor inspections of all fire vehicles**
- **Annual emergency vehicle service/inspection vendor for maintenance**

It's clarified that MA is moving towards following the OSHA guidelines, and the requirements for this change will be extensive. Robert Fedell reviews the basic NFPA guidelines Sandisfield should be following: annual pump testing, annual hose static testing, and ladder testing. Robert supports establishing a policy for these tests.

Robert confirms that the Town hired Bulldog Fire Apparatus to conduct inspections on all the Fire Department vehicles and return a detailed report of their findings. The list is extensive and raises some major concerns and has the potential to expose even more issues should an even more tedious inspection be done. The liability now falls on the Town to address these issues. Robert notes that the 1995 Kenworth Tanker has some serious issues and recommends the vehicle be taken out of service. The other vehicles will need to be looked at and a schedule of priority established. The Select Board would like to meet with the Fire Chief to begin this process.

5. Town Manager Updates/Project List

6. Select Board Updates

Work on the heat pumps at Town Hall from the Heat Pump Grant will begin in December. A backup generator will also be installed January 1, 2024. A new light has been installed at the Transfer Station to replace the one mistakenly removed.

7. Future Agenda Items

- Transfer Station Hours

8. Topics Not Anticipated

9. Public Comment

10. Review and vote to approve minutes of meetings

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve minutes of meetings 10/12 & 10/16

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

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

12. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 6:13pm

Steve Seddon

John Field

Robert Fedell