

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

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

Participants: Jane Kaufman, Alex Bowman, Rita Kasky, Jeff & Melissa Bye

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

Jane Kaufman is also recording as a reporter for the Berkshire Eagle.

2. Acting Department of Public Works Supervisor Appointment – Jonathan Sylbert

The DPW Superintendent position is still vacant. Jonathan has been taking on many of the responsibilities for this position. Steve believes the Select Board should make the position more official by appointing Jonathan as Acting DPW Supervisor.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to appoint Jonathan Sylbert as Acting Department of Public Works Supervisor

Steve Seddon	Aye
John Field	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

3. Finance Committee Resignation & Vacancies

Finance Committee Chair, Olivia Konstam has resigned. There are now only two of the five required members on the Committee, which means they cannot meet quorum.

Should anyone be interested in joining the Committee, please send a letter requesting appointment to jbeardsley@sandisfieldma.gov

4. Conservation Commission Enforcement Letter and DEP Notification

Jonathan is currently in the process of seeking proposals for new engineers to determine how to address Dodd Rd. John Field confirms the cease and desist from the Conservation Commission was for culvert replacement that had previously been done on Dodd Rd without receiving an NOI first. The culverts were replaced to prevent washouts at the bottom of the road.

Alex Bowman questions the process for determining a public versus a private road. Jonathan states Dodd Rd is not a private road. Alex questions whether Dodd Rd would need to be accepted as a public way at a Town Meeting. Jonathan does not believe so, as there are many unaccepted public roads in Sandisfield. Alex notes that KP Law published guidance on this topic and confirmed voting at Town Meeting determines a public way. Jonathan agrees, but notes there are multiple ways to establish a public road. Alex notes that while Dodd Rd may not be considered private, if it has not been accepted as a public road, it may not be the responsibility of the Town to maintain. Before the Town spends a large amount of money on engineering and reconstruction, he wants to be sure that it truly is the responsibility of the Town.

Jonathan notes that Alex's concern is not what the agenda item references, as the cease and desist received from the Con Com is for work already done and now needs to be fixed.

5. Budget Discussion

Jon briefly reviewed the budget updates, which include an increase in Technology and a 1.61% increase to the School budget. Mitchell Birkett, member of the Finance Committee, notes he has reviewed the budgets and does not have any concerns at this point. He hopes to meet with the Finance Committee to review as a group in the next few weeks.

The importance of appointing another member to the Finance Committee is noted, as there are Reserve Fund Transfer that need to be made. Dominic Konstam has volunteered to be appointed to assure quorum. The Finance Committee Appointment Committee will need to make this appointment.

Carl Nett notes that the School budget could change, as the budget was created with the 2022 Equalized Evaluations. When the 2024 data is released adjustments will need to be made. Carl does not expect this to have a significant impact. Additional events that may affect the School budget include changes in the state legislature impacting State Aid or if the Administration decides to create more reserve than they currently have in the budget.

6. Town Manager Updates/Project List

7. Select Board Updates

8. Future Agenda Items

9. Topics Not Anticipated

10. Public Comment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm

Steve Seddon

John Field

Robert Fedell