

# Town of Sandisfield

Select Board  
March 21, 2022

Minutes for Select Board Work Session with the Finance Committee held on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 5:00p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: George Riley, Alex Bowman, Steve Seddon, Roger Brown, Brad Curry, Larry Dwyer

## **1. Discuss FY23 budget planning**

Brad Curry is in to go over his budget with the Select Board. He briefly goes over his budget lines and explains the variances. Many of his budgets have increased due to the significant inflation especially with fuel and salt. He notes that the line titled Highway Con Consultant should be changed to reflect that these are funds that go towards engineering, which would assist in getting projects shovel-ready for grants.

The Highway Tree Account funds are expected to be used almost entirely. An increase in tree work is scheduled, which includes removing trees or branches that may be a road hazard. Brad notes he goes out with a tree specialist to determine what trees are healthy, for he avoids cutting down healthy trees whenever possible. Brad is an active member of the Tree Warden Association and receives training to determine hardness of trees. He reports that the state has suggested getting rid of any ash trees on your property in an attempt to prevent ash beetles from infesting the trees and reproducing. George expresses concern with this and supports only removing the trees that are infested. Alex questions the proposed increase in the budget. This may be a line that can be compromised on.

Alex requests a list of the priorities and projects that will fall under Highways/Bridges Maintenance. It's reported that a meeting with the engineer needs to be had in reference to a culvert replacement that would cause a shutdown on Sandisfield Road unless a bypass is established. Brad notes that creating a bypass may cost more than a shutdown.

It is suggested a meeting to discuss Chapter 90 spending be scheduled for the near future.

A brief discussion about where the town stood with Elderly Transportation took place. Joanne Grybosh notes the town planned on giving \$5,000 to Great Barrington to join their transportation program for one year. However, she is unsure if the town was ever invoiced or paid the budgeted \$5,000. The Select Board will confirm with the Accountant. It's noted that purchase of a town owned van was considered.

Brad is not responsible for the Town Building Custodian Salary budget. George spoke with the Treasurer and determined this line should be budgeted for \$10,900.

The Select Board goes over the Transfer Station budget. Research will need to be done to understand how the Sandisfield Transfer Station compares to surrounding towns. Alex will only support level funding this budget, for he notes Sandisfield's dump is open at least four more hours than surrounding towns and believes Sandisfield's hours should be decreased.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM.

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George Riley

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Alex Bowman

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Steve Seddon