

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board Work Session held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 10:00AM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: Steve Seddon, Alex Bowman, John Field

1. Goals and Priorities of the Select Board & how members can work towards them

The Select Board discusses the areas Sandisfield lacks in creating a place for new growth in the community for new families and businesses. The taxpayers need to be convinced to invest in their town.

Alex Bowman expresses the importance of re-introducing an elementary school into the town as a way to encourage young families to move here. Steve Seddon notes starting a school is extremely difficult, as the state will not assist in funding. Additionally, he believes Farmington River provides enough draw since it is fairly close by.

Creation of a metric system for the departments in Sandisfield could increase productivity and transparency within the town. The emergency service department struggles with a lack of volunteers, which may cause a lower response time. Steve suggests the possibility of hiring another Public Safety Officer, which will provide the town with two EMTs. Additionally, the town could offer a 50% tax credit to all EMTs after two years of service, pay for all training, and/or increase stipends for these positions.

The Select Board discusses how to determine the efficiencies within the DPW's road maintenance in the winter, as the current policy may not meet the necessary criteria. The importance of supporting the DPW Superintendent to assure confidence in the department and taxpayers is noted. Once the GPS units are installed in the DPW vehicles, it may be easier to identify any inefficiencies. The website module to send notifications to subscribers via text or voicemail is discussed, as public service announcements could be sent alerting residents of poor road conditions, requesting minimal road usage, or reminding residents to make the appropriate preparations should they need to travel (leaving early, having four-wheel drive & snow tires, etc).

John Field demonstrates the calendar module his company uses to assure accountability and create an efficiently run business. This module may be an effective tool that can be used for the DPW, Police and Fire.

- 2. Discuss Members Scope of Work Regarding Grant Projects**
- 3. Discuss Community One Stop for Growth expressions of Interest**

Meeting adjourned at 11:29am

Steve Seddon

Alex Bowman

John Field