

# Town of Sandisfield

## Select Board

Minutes for Select Board Work Session held on Friday, February 10, 2023 at 2:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: Steve Seddon, John Field, Jonathan Sylbert, and Alex Bowman by remote

### **1. Review Budget and Capital Plan Rough Draft**

The DPW freightliner and Police Department F350 have been moved from FY24 to FY25 for replacement. \$83,000 for the roadside mower is a Chapter 90 expense, which will be expended this year. The power-lift stretcher is on the list for replacement this year; taking this out of the Ambulance Stabilization fund should be considered. There will be between \$355,000-\$358,000 in certified free cash this year, and \$600,000 in each Stabilization Fund, General and Capital.

### **2. Review Budget Submissions for Fire/ EMT, Police/EMS, & DPW**

The DPW materials have been taken out of the Highway Maintenance account to clearly show how much the town is spending on items including, salt, sand, etc. Alex questions whether more funds should be allocated towards materials to create a better maintenance level, or if we should take funds out of this account and put those funds towards complete road reconstruction. Currently, Sandisfield is using a portion of the \$85,000 engineering funds to determine which roads among Dodd, South Beech Plain, North Beech Plain, and one other road require complete reconstruction. By the end of the budget season, the town will have an estimate on the cost of at least one of these projects. At this point the town must decide whether to use funds from Capital Stabilization, Free Cash, or Chapter 90 for one of the projects.

The Highway Maintenance account will still include things like uniforms and uniform cleanings. Purchasing a washer/dryer may be an option, as Cintas has increased their costs significantly. Over \$4,000 has already been spent on Cintas for cleaning and replacement this fiscal year, and will likely reach \$7,000 by the end of the fiscal year..

Due to the purchase of new vehicles and equipment, the Highway Machinery budget should decrease. Brad should be asked to revisit this number. Highway Fuel will increase to \$62,000 to cover potential price increases.

Numerous options are discussed regarding the Facility Maintenance Technician position, including making the position and Transfer Station Attendant one job and therefore becoming full-time, lowering the hours of the Transfer Station so the double position would still fall under part-time, creating another part-time position for two hours per week, or simply contracting out all maintenance work.

The Fire/Police would like to increase their part-time hourly rate from \$20.46 to \$25/hr. The Select Board agrees with this increase. The possibility of hiring another Public Safety Officer, rather than having multiple part-timers is discussed. Jonathan recommends splitting the stipends from the part-time salaries to create transparency.

The Police Department has requested an increase in the Police Chief stipend from \$5,163 to \$7,500. The Select Board will review the request. John Burrows would like to increase his hourly wage from \$16 to \$18 for his administrative work with the Fire and Police Departments; the Select Board agrees with the request. Lastly, the PD has requested the PSO salary increase from \$59,703 to \$72,000, citing the position is not competitive. This is equivalent to \$36/hr. Steve requests background showing competitive salaries for the PSO before making a decision.

There are five firefighters to have EMT training in June. Jonathan recommends making this a special article since it will be a one time expense, rather than including it in the EMS training budget. The Select Board agrees with Jonathan's recommendation. Steve notes establishing a commitment from the EMS officers in exchange for the town paying for their training.

Ralph Morrison has requested a stipend increase from \$10,000 to \$15,000. The Select Board will review this request. The new stretcher is suggested to come out of Ambulance Stabilization, which would be appropriated at Town Meeting, but would not reduce Free Cash. Alex requests separating Fire Department Maintenance from Ambulance Maintenance, which is currently a combined budget line.

### **3. Review Suggested Modifications to the Select Board Budget**

### **4. Review Amortization Schedules Representing a Broadband Down Payment Against the State Sponsored Loan**

Items tabled.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12pm

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Steve Seddon

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Alex Bowman

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John Field