

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

September 20, 2021

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 7:00p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Member present: George Riley, Alex Bowman, Jacki Bitso, Kathy Burrows

Called to order at 7:00PM

1. Review and sign minutes of meetings. Points to minutes

2. Review and sign purchase orders

3. Tax Classification Public Hearing

Principal Assessor, Jacki Bitso read aloud the Assessors recommendations as follows:

1. Residential factor remains 1
2. No discount granted for Open Space
3. No residential exemptions adopted
4. No commercial exemption adopted

The Board of Assessors hereby attest that on September 20, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall Annex in a public hearing on the issue of adopting the percentages for fiscal year 2022, that the Board of Assessors presented information and data relevant to making such determination and the fiscal effect of the available alternatives, and that the percentages set forth above were duly adopted in a public session. The LA-5 excess capacity for the fiscal year is calculated as \$9,483.98*. The LA-5 excess capacity for the prior fiscal year is calculated as \$113,129.57.

George motions to adopt the percentages for fiscal year 2022 presented by the Board of Assessors, and the Select Board understands the fiscal effect of the available alternatives and the percentages set forth were duly adopted in public session. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Roll-call vote: George, yes. Alex, yes.

*The LA-5 excess capacity for fiscal 2022 has since been amended. Fiscal 2022 is now calculated as \$142,326.34.

4. Discussion and vote to increase Town Clerk's pay

Alex explains he received additional information from the Town Clerk, Mary Kronholm about the tasks she's been doing, and quickly summarizes these tasks. Alex inquires about the genealogy requests Mary has gotten. Mary explains she received one very large request which has taken a significant amount of time. Alex shares some

information about genealogy requests regarding administrative fees in other towns. He found that Wales, MA does not charge for the first hour of the Town Clerk's genealogy research, but does charge \$15/hr after that. Joanne Olson suggests sending genealogy requests to the Historical Society. Joanne states she has a background in this type of research and does not mind taking the task over.

Mary requests to increase the Town Clerk's pay by \$100 retroactive to when she started in July. George briefly revisits the option of moving the Town Clerk to an hourly rate. Clarification is requested whether the pay increase would be only until the Special Election came to a close. Mary states the increase would be retroactive and moving forward.

Again, it is suggested moving the Town Clerk to an hourly rate. Mary states she would have no problem tracking her hours, but believes the \$100 pay increase would prove less expensive, for she expects to work more hours than the increase would expect.

After further discussion, Alex agrees that Mary should be paid the additional \$100 retroactive to when she started until after the Special Election. However, he does not know whether the pay increase is appropriate moving forward.

Alex motions to increase the Town Clerk's pay by \$100 retroactive to July 13, 2021 and moving forward. George seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Roll-call vote: George, yes. Alex, yes.

5. COVID screening discussion led by Kim Spring

Kim Spring was unable to attend the meeting. The Select Board tables this item.

6. Future agenda items

Alex would like to revisit the transfer station hours. He notes there was some misinformation being shared about the Select Board wanting the transfer station only open two days. This is not true, the Board plans to keep the transfer station open three days a week, but is considering shortening the hours.

Anina Carr would like to add a discussion about the visiting nurse services to next week's agenda.

7. Review mail

8. Review and sign warrants

9. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting

George motions to appoint Mario Castro Sr. and Janey Beardsley as election officials with the title Inspector. Alex seconds.

Roll-call vote: Alex, yes. George, yes.

Barbara Cormier speaks on behalf of Ralph Morrison noting that the Fire Department retirement paperwork was never received. George states this has been taken care of.

George updates that the Select Board is in the interviewing stage for the Town Manager.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

George Riley

Alex Bowman