

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board
January 10, 2022

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: George Riley, Alex Bowman, Steve Seddon, Kevin Flynn

Called to order at 7:00PM

- 1. Call to order: Note that the meeting is being recorded**
- 2. Review and sign minutes of meetings. Points to minutes**
- 3. Review and sign purchase orders**

4. Public Hearing for Installation of Eversource pole on Silverbrook Road

George Riley summarizes that Eversource has requested to install a pole at 18 Silverbrook Rd in order to provide this home with power. No one has any comment on this item. George motions to close the public hearing. Alex seconds.

George motions to approve the installation of an Eversource pole at 18 Silverbrook Road. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Discuss and appoint DPW employee

This item is tabled.

6. Discuss and designate Chief Procurement Officer

George motions to designate Kevin Flynn as the Chief Procurement Officer for the town of Sandisfield. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

7. Review Special Town Meeting warrant

George summarizes that the Special Town Meeting warrant will need to go to Town Counsel for final review by January 14 at the latest.

Alex Bowman summarizes a suggested additional Article to the warrant, which would accept a Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 258, Section 13 to allow Town Counsel to defend an individual who has had legal action taken against them for work that has been done on behalf of the town.

George notes that this protection has already been written into newer employee contracts, but acceptance of this law would protect all town employees so long as they had not acted purposefully.

George points out that this Article can only be acted on at an Annual Town Meeting. However, employees can be indemnified in the meantime.

Kevin suggests establishing a bylaw that would identify the Town Manager position as a formal town position. George supports this idea in principle, and notes this would assist in protecting the Town Manager position from being abolished by a future Select Board. Kevin will put something together for the next meeting on Tuesday, 1/18.

George summarizes an additional Article to be added which would state any and all fees or other revenue would not accrue to the benefit of an individual, but instead be collected by the Treasurer and put into the General Fund.

8. Town Manager Updates

Kevin updates he received the proposal from Full Circle Technologies for the Transfer Station module added to Permit Eyes. This would be a one time cost of \$2,250, and \$1,000 annually for management.

Kevin notes that already 248 households have received stickers, earning the town a total of \$18,675 thus far.

Alex voices that he does not believe this module will be very effective in saving any time, for it only accepts the money and does not handle any of the physical work of sending the stickers out. He mentions handling of the transfer station stickers could be a senior tax write-off task. He supports moving payments online, but suggests UniPay instead.

Carl Nett suggests creating an option to pay for multiple-year transfer station stickers. This would prevent residents from applying annually and also diminish work within the town hall for processing these applications.

9. Select Board Updates

Steve Seddon updates that he listened in on the School Committee meeting and he notes they did a great job finding ideas for the budget, and suggests the other Select Board members listen to the meeting as well.

Mary Turek requests the toilet at the library be repaired. Kevin will be down later this week. Braman, pest control has not gotten back to George about the mouse traps installed at the library.

Barbara Cormier asks about the status of receiving at-home COVID tests for the town. Kevin updates that BOH, Chair Victor Hryckvich is taking the lead on this and he has been in contact with Berkshire Regional Health Group to acquire COVID tests and N95 masks.

10. Future agenda items

Brad Curry will be in next week for DPW updates.

Carl Nett makes an update on behalf of the School Committee and notes that based on the Otis School Committee being insulted by the suggested amendment, it is assumed that the amendment will not be voted on at all or voted down. He states the next step would be to conduct a citizen's petition that would require 10% of the voting population of the town. If they receive a 10% petition in favor of the amendment, then it will have to go to vote in both towns at Town Meeting. Carl requests the Select Board decide whether his petition could be left at the Town Hall where residents could sign. Carl reiterates this next step depends on the actions of the Otis School Committee, but anticipates needing to exhaust this solution.

11. Review mail

12. Review and sign warrants

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

Kevin explains he received a letter from the Conservation Commission, Chair asking the Select Board to appoint Theresa Spohnholz as their Administrative Assistant for \$16/hr. Definite weekly hours have yet to be determined, but Theresa's total hours at the library and for the Conservation Commission together shall not exceed 19 hours per week.

George motions to appoint Theresa Spohnholz as Administrative Assistant to the Conservation Commission at \$16/hr. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

George Riley

Alex Bowman

Steve Seddon