

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board
March 21, 2022

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7:00p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: George Riley, Alex Bowman, Steve Seddon

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. Discuss and vote to appoint Douglas Miner as Town Clerk effective March 28, 2022**

Douglas Miner is currently serving as Assistant Town Clerk. Once he officially begins work as Town Clerk, he will appoint Mary Kronholm as Assistant Town Clerk. George motions to appoint Douglas Miner as Town Clerk effective March 28, 2022. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Discuss and vote to appoint Jonathan Sylbert as Budget and Finance Consultant

Jonathan Sylbert was interviewed on Friday. Jonathan was a Select Board member and Finance Committee Chairman in Monterey. He has great credentials and references, and understands Sandisfield's situation and budget. He would be willing to take on the entire role of Interim Town Manager beginning Wednesday, 3/23. Steve proposes modifying the previous Town Manager contract and changing it to an interim position with the intent to review it after six months or sooner should another candidate come along. Jonathan intends to apply for the permanent position, should he find Sandisfield to be a good fit during his short-term role. It's clarified that neither George nor Laura Lee Bertram will continue to serve as Interim Town Manager/budget consultant.

Jonathan does not have definite hours in Town Hall yet, but he would most likely be working in-person 30-40 hours a week.

George motions to appoint Jonathan Sylbert as Interim Town Manager for six months, unless another candidate is identified earlier. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

6. Discuss and vote to appoint Antonio Suares to DPW

Brad reports the DPW's previous new-hire was terminated due to failure to report to work. Antonio Suarez was the next candidate on the list. It's noted Antonio does not have snow plowing experience, but he does have a Class A CDL and is actively looking towards getting his hydraulics license. Brad estimates it to take between two and three months to schedule the hydraulics license test. Antonio will be asked to acquire this license within six months from the time he begins work.

Antonio will need to transfer his Class A CDL license from Florida to Massachusetts. Ralph Morrison questions whether a transfer can be done. Antonio notes the RMV did not mention a problem with transferring the CDL. George requests this discrepancy be sorted out as soon as possible.

George motions to appoint Antonio Suarez to DPW full-time effective immediately, contingent on sorting his license out immediately and getting his hydraulics license within six months. Steve seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

7. Vote to accept Mark Levernoch's resignation as Assistant Plumbing and Gas Inspector

8. Vote to accept Brian Middleton's resignation as Plumbing and Gas Inspector. Appoint Brian as Assistant Plumbing and Gas Inspector

9. Discuss and vote to appoint Charles Pease as Plumbing and Gas Inspector

Items 7, 8, & 9 are tabled until the Plumbing/Gas Inspector position can be posted. Mark Levernoch is willing to stay on as Plumbing/Gas Inspector until the position is posted and filled.

10. Discuss and vote on amending the decision to pay the Interim Building Inspector as a Subcontractor

Town Counsel has advised the Interim Building Inspector be paid as an employee instead of a contractor. This position does not fit into the definition of a contractor, which notes a contractor is hired for a specific task, not general town business.

Alex motions to compensate the Interim Building Inspector as a Town employee operating with the same stipend as the previous Building Inspector. George seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

11. Jeff Bye in to report on Broadband Status

Jeff reports that Spectrum has installed the high-speed internet at Town Hall and would be willing to conduct a demonstration open to the public Thursday 3/31 12pm-6pm and Tuesday 4/4 12pm-6pm.

The construction of the fiber-optic network in Sandisfield has been completed. Additional maintenance and testing may be done through the end of March. Beginning April 1, Spectrum sales representatives will begin visiting property owners and

accepting sign-ups for the service. Sandisfield is divided into three zones, your zone determines when a sales representative will visit your property. If the resident is not home, the representative will leave a business card to call to reschedule a meeting. Bill Haines will also be available to put residents in contact with sales representatives. The zones and background information will be available for review on the Sandisfield website, Connect Sandisfield, and the Sandisfield Times.

A property owner must be present upon installation of the service, for Spectrum will need to enter the resident's home to install the service. Jeff estimates once a resident has signed up for the service, installation will be complete within a few weeks. However, he cannot make any definite claims. Installation will be different for every property, some properties will have aerial wires, buried wires or wires run through a conduit. Telephone, internet and television services will all be available.

12. Kim Spring in to discuss withdraw from The Berkshire Public Health Alliance

The Board of Health has concluded they are paying for a service they are not receiving with the Alliance. They had tried to schedule a monthly blood pressure clinic on Wednesdays. However, the Alliance can only conduct this service on Tuesdays, which does not coincide with the COA schedule. In order to change the date from Tuesday to Wednesday, the Alliance would require contract renegotiations and subsequently charge more money.

Anina Carr notes there have been other issues with the Alliance, including Sandisfield's lack of a COVID vaccination clinic. Kim Spring was told that should Sandisfield be able to exit their contract with the Alliance, they would be able to contract with the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative. Kim estimates it will take at least a year to pull out of their contract with the Alliance. The BOH and COA request support from the Select Board during this transition. Alex will be the point person on this, and requests copies of all correspondence that have been made thus far.

13. Discuss and vote to appoint a Chief Procurement Officer

Item is tabled.

14. Select Board Updates

Steve updates that PermitEyes is not functioning properly, for some boards/committees are not receiving the requests. He notes that a point person needs to be established for each of these boards/committees. Once all the points have been established, Steve and Building Inspector Paul Greene will conduct a demonstration on how to utilize the program.

15. Future agenda items

16. Review mail

17. Review and sign warrants

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

George motions to appoint Laurie Seddon to the Recreation Committee. Alex seconds. Steve abstains.

The Select Board signs business licenses for Ralph Morrision for A&M Auto and a common victualler's license for Dawn Lemon for a hotdog stand.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

George Riley

Alex Bowman

Steve Seddon