

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board
June 13, 2022

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 7:00PM at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: Steve Seddon, Alex Bowman, Jonathan Sylbert

Called to order at 7:00PM

1. Call to order: Note that the meeting is being recorded

2. Discuss and act on Temporary Occupancy of Mobile Home/ Trailer Permit on Rood Hill Rd

Steve summarizes the applicant has an active building permit and no complaints or oppositions have been made. The Select Board signs their Temporary Occupancy of Mobile Home/ Trailer Permit.

3. Discuss and act on Website Posting for Cannabis Committee

Steve summarizes that in the newly approved Cannabis Bylaw, the Select Board is to establish a sub-committee that will advise special permit applicants. The goal is to establish the committee proactively. They will post a request for applicants online.

4. Discuss and act on Job Postings and Annual Appointments

Steve reviews the vacant positions to be posted on the website as employment opportunities, which include DPW Administrative Assistant, Transfer Station Attendant, Treasurer/Tax Collector Assistant, Principal Assessor, Assistant Town Clerk, Public Safety Officer, and Webmaster.

Additionally the Town Manager position should be posted. Town Manager Search Committee member Barbara Cormier suggests posting the position in the Shopper's Guide, The Beacon, the Berkshire Eagle, and the Boston Globe.

5. Discuss Senior Tax Write-Off Program

Barbara notes she has been working with the Town Hall staff to come up with a list of job opportunities for the Senior Tax Write-Off Program.

6. Sign Chapter 90 Project Request

This is a contract for road line painting, which will be covered by the Chapter 90 grant. Alex motions to approve the state aid for line painting. Steve seconds. Motion passes.

7. Discuss Process of Firetruck Purchase

Steve summarizes at Town Meeting the town initially proposed the purchase of a used fire truck for \$350,000, but was amended to spend up to \$700,000 for a new, used, or demo truck. Steve requests specs and opinions from the Fire Department.

Mike Morrison speaks on behalf of the Fire Department, stating Sandisfield has waited far too long to replace their fire truck. He goes on to present a demo fire truck that is ready to be purchased for \$580,000, and suggests the Select Board secure this truck as soon as possible, noting it will be featured in the New England Fire Show where it will likely be purchased and the next available demo truck will be \$80,000 more. He quickly goes over the warranty and the specifics of the vehicle.

Tegan Abear introduces a financial advisor, who explains that while he found it difficult to find comparable towns to Sandisfield in regards to their fire truck requirements, he was able to determine that the price of this particular vehicle made sense and notes the inflation rate of fire trucks is 14%. He suggests purchasing this truck promptly, and notes that while the value of the vehicle will depreciate significantly after the first year, the town will save on insurance with a new vehicle.

Steve reviews a used 2015 fire truck he found online. Ralph informs Steve that this vehicle is too large to fit in the Fire Department garage bay.

It's summarized that the seller will hold the fire truck for the Sandisfield Fire Department until June 23, 2022, the date of the New England Fire Show. He notes two other Fire Departments have expressed interest in the vehicle. Alex expresses concern approving this purchase before digesting all the information and specs for the vehicle, for the Select Board had not been provided with the information before the meeting.

Steve will pursue one additional lead for a used truck. However, the Select Board agrees to schedule a vote on purchase of the truck either way at their next meeting, Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

It's asked how the demo truck specs compare to the truck they are trying to replace. It's confirmed the specs are very similar, but compromises are being made. It's also noted that some of the equipment on their current trucks date back to 1968.

8. Discuss adoption of MGL Title 7, Chapter 40U

Alex summarizes MGL Title 7, Chapter 40U is the state law for municipal finance that allows the Select Board to move unpaid fines to tax liens. This would encourage violators to pay their fines. The Chief Procurement Officer would handle enforcement.

9. Discuss and act on Financial Policies

Jonathan explains he sent all town financial departments a list of financial policies suggested by DOR/DLS to be adopted by the town. He notes there are a few policies he considers uncontentious and could be adopted as soon as possible.

10. Town Clerk Updates

Douglas Miner summarizes he attended the Town Clerk Conference, his department is now actively looking for an Assistant Town Clerk and election workers, and he requests the purchase of two poll pads to assist with election check in and out. The Select Board questions whether this purchase is financially viable, Douglas believes it would be, noting it would remove four paid election positions. Should the Select Board approve the purchase tonight, the poll pads could be delivered and ready to use for the September Primary election.

11. Interim Town Manager Updates

Jonathan updates the fuel budgets have been locked in:

6,056 gallons of heating oil at \$4.44/gal

8,500 gallons of diesel fuel at \$4.787/gal

3,000 gallons of gasoline at \$4.505/gal

Spectrum has yet to be installed at the town buildings. Jonathan has reached out to them multiple times, but has yet to see any progress.

The Principal Assessor requested adding the 911 numbers to the mapping software used to print their maps. Ralph notes this may be difficult because on occasion the house numbers do not match the 911 numbers. The Assessors would have to manually

cross reference the numbers. Jonathan presents the Select Board with an estimate for this service to consider.

The Select Board discuss the dark sky bylaw and options/areas that should be addressed to aid light trespass within Sandisfield.

Jonathan mentions an additional source the Town Manager Search Committee may want to look into for recruitment of candidates. Barbara notes they are going to do local advertising before they go further with professional recruitment.

Jonathan notes that he has tried numerous ways to contact the Country Journal to submit a letter to the editor identifying significant misinformation that was published about Sandisfield's Town Warrant. He is now sending an email to the Turley Publication as a whole.

12. Select Board Updates

Steve updates that road work will begin on the dump hill tomorrow, Tuesday, 6/14 and continue to the end of the week. Culvert work will continue on Route 183.

Alex met with Brad and Jonathan to go over some priorities for road maintenance.

Steve reached out to the Select Board in Tolland to open a dialogue about renegotiating the Ambulance Agreement. Tolland felt a specified amount per call would be fair. Ralph is asked to develop fees per call.

13. Future agenda items

Mike Morrison notes the town needs to appoint an Animal Control Officer as soon as possible.

Dolores Harasyko requests the status of bringing broadband to her home. Jonathan reports it is in the works.

14. Discuss and sign Year-End Transfers

Steve motions to transfer funds from Employee Incentives to Street Lighting, Legal Services and Operations Maintenance and Repair. Alex seconds. Motion passes.

15. Review and sign minutes of meetings, purchase orders, warrants, and mail

16. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:35PM.

Steve Seddon

Alex Bowman