

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

July 11, 2022

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: Steve Seddon, John Field, Jonathan Sylbert

Called to order at 6:30PM

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

2. Discuss Berkshire Public Health Alliance and other public health options

Jonathan reports he's been discussing Sandisfield's public health groups with their current provider, Berkshire Public Health Alliance, and the Sandisfield Board of Health. In the short-term, the BOH will hire Jayne Smith to take over as Sanitarian. The initial plan is to renew the nursing agreement with the Alliance. There is currently no offer for partnership with the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative.

Laura Kitross from the Berkshire Public Health Alliance offers an option to contract with them in the medium-term. Laura summarizes the services the Alliance would provide, which would include handling of the food, well, and septic inspections.

Kim Spring questions if the grants will cut the cost of hiring the Alliance for this additional work. Laura explains these grants do cut the cost, but do not eliminate it. There are a lot of factors that go into the price, including location. The Alliance can begin immediately upon signing an agreement. Jonathan notes that they have not determined a start date with the Alliance because Jayne Smith has agreed to stay on until she has sorted everything out for a comfortable transition.

Barbara Cormier questions the process for training a Sanitarian. Laura notes that there is no training required by law, but there is a lot that goes into the position and the training process may change soon.

It's noted that the Sandisfield COA and BOH had problems with the Alliance in the past in regards to a lack of services being provided to the town during the pandemic. As of two months ago, the Alliance resumed providing a monthly blood pressure/wellness clinic. Anina Carr recommends Sandisfield terminate their partnership with the Alliance and join the Collaborative since the Collaborative already works with neighboring towns.

Jonathan explains that Jayne recommended renewing the Alliance agreement for the time being because she cannot provide nursing services. If the Collaborative decides it can take on Sandisfield, Laura confirms it should be simple to terminate their agreement with the Alliance because Sandisfield is given 30 days after renewal to opt out.

The Select Board decides to wait for a more definite estimate from the Alliance before they vote to renew their agreement. This will also leave time to pursue partnership with the Collaborative.

Steve votes to appoint Kim Spring into the Board of Health's unexpired term. John seconds. Motion passes.

3. Brad Curry in for DPW Updates

Brad reports the 2007 Ford 550 truck is not running properly and will need to be brought to a maintenance technician. He notes that New Marlborough is looking to sell the same vehicle, and Brad is waiting to hear back with a price. He believes this vehicle could be a good short term replacement.

He goes on to note that all the trucks are in the process of their annual inspections, services and maintenance and it's estimated to cost between \$5,000-8,000 per truck. They discuss warranties and it's suggested to look into extended warranties for any new vehicles.

The GPS unit arrived for a trial run. Brad has scheduled a meeting with the company representative to set the device up. The grader should be delivered in the next two weeks. Delivery for the roller should be scheduled sometime next week.

Paving on the dump hill on Route 57 will be on hold for three weeks. The base and shoulder work has been completed, but to prevent the top coat from damage due to high traffic, they will wait until road maintenance on Route 183 is complete. Cold patch has been laid down to aid the dropoff, Jonathan suggests adding more or installing a large sign warning drivers to slow down.

Engineers are looking into repair options for the water that is running into Joanne Olson's lawn. Line painting will be scheduled soon. The DPW will patch some potholes before this process begins. The Town Hall sign has been installed.

The contract with the textile company has netted the town \$116.90. The recycling cans/bottles netted \$121.56, and tires netted enough to cover the fuel surcharge with a small amount leftover.

Brad has met with an applicant for the Transfer Station Attendant and would like to schedule time for the Select Board and/or Jonathan to meet with him as well. Once the position is filled, Keith Larson, the current Attendant, will return to the Highway Department full-time.

Brad has a candidate for the DPW Admin Assistant. He is scheduling a time to meet with her soon and will then schedule an interview with the Select Board/Town Manager should he see fit.

4. Annual Appointments

Steve reports he reviewed the list, but notes that the Cultural Commission and COA are excluded from the current list. The item is tabled for more research to be done.

5. Appoint Cannabis Sub-Committee Members

Six people have requested appointment to the Cannabis Sub-Committee. The cannabis bylaw allows for three to five members and does not specify the amount of full-time versus part-time residents. Jonathan suggests appointing all six applicants, and making it the responsibility of the committee to configure themselves. Jonathan will moderate the first meeting where a Chair and Alternate member are determined.

Steve motions to appoint Jeff Bye, Leslie Garwood, Laura Rogers-Castro, Edward Brozman, Jay Greenwell, and Carl Nett as a committee of five with one Alternate to the Cannabis Sub-Committee. John seconds. Motion passes.

6. Discuss Cannabis Bill Conference Committee

Steve reports the town received notification from the MMA that the CCC may be trying to change the legislation in regards to how Host Community Agreements and Community Impact Fees are done. This could give the CCC majority rule over what individual towns have already agreed upon with their land developers and could potentially undo agreements that have already been made.

It's noted that the town must continue to monitor the situation and reach out to the state representatives for assistance should it become necessary.

7. Sign NEFR Letter of Support

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has requested the support of Sandisfield in applying for a grant from the New England Forests and Rivers Fund for culvert replacement projects in the Berkshires. The culverts would prevent washouts, while also providing throughways for native fish. The Select Board is in support of this project.

8. Financial Policies

Jonathan updates that they are going to begin adopting one financial policy per meeting, beginning with the Debt Management policy. This policy would help the Town to responsibly address capital needs, provide flexibility in current and future operating budgets, control borrowing, and maintain capital investment capacity.

After reviewing the entire policy, only one change was made to the debt limits, which allowed the total debt service, including debt exclusions and any self-supporting debt, to

be limited to five percent of general fund revenues, with a target balance of three to five percent.

The entire Debt Management policy can be found [here](#).

9. Interim Town Manager Updates

Despite emailing every week, Jonathan has still not been able to get in contact with anyone to schedule installation of Spectrum at any of the town buildings.

The DEP has a \$631,809.99 lien on all of the Minery properties, not only the dump property. MassHealth has another lien of over \$150,000 on all the properties. If the \$160,000 in back-taxes are included, the total liens on the property is about \$900,000. If Mass Audubon agrees to pay \$300,000 instead of \$200,000 and Sandisfield agrees to only take \$20,000 from Mass Audubon to pay for the tax titles, the DEP will drop the lien and MassHealth will lower their lien to \$5,000. DOR disapproved of this plan, but Jonathan suspects they were unaware their own agencies had almost \$900,000 of liens on the properties.

DOR's ruling was on the grounds that Sandisfield had not exhausted all of their options in selling the Minery properties. However, the only alternative would be to bring all the properties to Land Court, wait two years, sell the pieces of property to make up the \$160,000 lien, which would ultimately leave Sandisfield with a \$800,000 lien and a \$300,000 cleanup. Jonathan spoke with Smitty Pignatelli, who will meet with DOR on Sandisfield's behalf once Jonathan has all the information and amounts laid out on paper.

Jayne Smith, the temporary Sanitarian, has begun developing a fee schedule for the Board of Health and publishing permit applications directly on the website for resident convenience. Jonathan reads her proposed rate for consulting services.

Steve motions to accept Jayne Smith's proposal of not to exceed \$4,500 for services to the Board of Health, including cleaning up the backlog of records, at \$55/hour, plus mileage. John seconds. Motion passes.

Jonathan updates there have been issues with flooding due to beaver activity on South Sandisfield Road. One of the affected residents applied for a grant to install a pond leveler, which was accepted, but has yet to be installed. Jonathan has scheduled for this device to be installed Friday. However, this will not aid another resident's flooding problem farther up the road. To correct the flooding, the beavers can be exterminated in November when the season opens, but this may not be a permanent solution because another beaver colony could return. In the meantime, Beaver Solutions will be in touch with the town to weigh their options.

10. Select Board Updates

11. Future agenda items

12. Discuss Alarms of Berkshire County Security System Proposal

Jonathan reports that he received an estimate for an updated security system from Alarms of Berkshire County. The new system would allow remote access, which could be effectively utilized by the Fire/Police Department. This would also include a camera and buzzer for the COA room downstairs. The estimate is a little over \$12,000. Two other bids will need to be compiled before a decision is made.

13. Discuss and sign Encumbrances

14. Discuss and sign Year-End Transfers

Steve motions to approve all Year-End Transfers and encumbrances. John seconds. Motion passes.

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

16. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:43PM.

Steve Seddon

John Field