

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: Steve Seddon, Alex Bowman, John Field, Jonathan Sylbert

Called to order at 6:30PM

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

2. Discuss IMA and BOH contracts

Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative can offer a competitive nursing services contract. Additionally, Jayne Smith has offered her services as Sanitarian until September 30, 2022. Jonathan Sylbert recommends that the Berkshire Public Health Alliance be notified Sandisfield is terminating their contract, and have the Select Board sign the IMA and nursing contract with SBPHC. Should the Select Board follow this recommendation, Sandisfield should be able to sign with a new health agent come the fall when Jayne's interim position ends. The BOH and COA agree with this recommendation.

Steve Seddon motions to give notice to Berkshire Public Health Alliance to terminate their IMA, and to sign the IMA and nursing contract with the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative. Alex Bowman seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Discuss hiring Fire Department Grant Writer

Ralph Morrison presents information about a grant writing company that specializes in Fire Department grants. They have offered to partner with the Sandisfield Fire Department for \$1,350 and apply for four major grants annually. Ralph intends to pay the \$1,350 by splitting the cost between maintenance and new equipment. The Select Board supports hiring the grant writer.

4. Police Chief in to discuss the status of the Police Department staffing, training, etc.

Mary Bredenfoerder and Adam Gonska have both completed the Bridge Academy training required by the MTPC to be certified as Police Officers in MA. Adam has completed all requirements; Mary still must complete her required hours before 2025.

Regarding annual appointments, Ralph Morrision should be appointed as Assistant Police Chief, Adam as a Police Officer, and Mary as a Police Officer. Dana Beardsley chose not to complete his certification, and will not be reappointed as a Police Officer. Alex Seid, currently an Assistant Principal in West Hampton and a part-time Tolland Police Officer, submitted his resume to fill the now vacant Officer position. Micheal Morrision recommends the Select Board interview and appoint Alex Seid. The Select Board suggests posting the Police Officer position on the town website and Shopper's Guide.

Additionally, after advertising for the Public Safety Officer position, only one applicant, Mary Bredenfoerder fulfilled the requirements of being both an officer and EMT. Micheal believes she is qualified and recommends she fill the position.

Steve motions to appoint Mary Bredenfoerder as PSO, Adam Gonska as a Police Officer, and Ralph Morrision as Assistant Police Chief. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Discuss and vote on Debt Management Policy

Steve motions to accept the Debt Management Policy, making one adjustment to B 1. "...shall be limited to five percent of general fund revenues, with a target balance of three to five percent." John Field seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

6. Review Reserve Fund Transfer Policy

Jonathan goes over the Reserve Fund Transfer Policy, noting the current policy is more complicated and requires review by more people than necessary. It has also been amended from its original version which removed a significant amount of the state's language. Jonathan recommends reverting back to the original version recommended by the state.

Steve motions to adopt the original version of the Reserve Fund Transfer Policy written by DLS. Larry Dwyer requests the adoption of the policy be tabled until the Finance Committee reviews both the original and amended policies. The Select Board agrees, but it is noted that the Finance Committee was already given a month to review all of the financial policies and make suggestions. The Select Board reiterates they will be adopting a policy every meeting until they complete the list, so the Finance Committee should prepare themselves.

7. Interim Town Manager Updates

Alex Psillas has been hired as the new Transfer Station Attendant, and will begin Wednesday, 7/20/22. He will be paid \$21/hour, not to exceed 19 hours per week. He will report to Brad Curry and be paid out of Solid Waste Salary. Current Attendant, Keith Larson will return as a full-time DPW Laborer. Additionally, Miles Fischer will be interviewed for the Building Maintenance Technician position and possibly the Animal Control Officer in the coming week.

Alex motions to appoint Alex Psillas as Transfer Station Attendant for 19 hours per week at \$21/hour. Steve seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Jonathan reports that Micah Morrision has been updating him on the Sandisfield Road culvert bridge by 90 Sandisfield Road. There are a number of forms he needs before he's able to make an attempt at acquiring a grant for the project. Alex notes this project likely won't be completed before the school year begins. Jonathan reports this cannot be confirmed, but notes that the culvert bridge will not become impassable in the immediate future. Additionally, Smitty Pignatelli informed Steve that Sandisfield will be awarded a \$100,000 engineering grant for the Silverbrook bridge. This has not been announced formally yet.

Jonathan will call Verizon to request they begin cleaning up some unresolved circumstances, which include wires tied to guardrails and trees, coiled wires on the ground, and double poles.

The Select Board signed a three-year contract in 2019 with First Point Power for \$0.10119/kWh; it has now increased to \$0.10319/kWh. However, this rate is not yet locked in and it is warned the rate will likely increase to \$0.20-0.25/kWh in the near future. They will lock the rate in sometime around August or September.

Roger Harbour received a cease and desist from the Conservation Commission asking him to remove his chip piles. It is unclear what the Con Comm is specifically recommending he do. It's noted Roger Harbour was never put on a Con Comm agenda before receiving his cease and desist. Jonathan will recommend Roger attend a Con Comm meeting to discuss the issue further.

8. Select Board Updates

9. Future agenda items

Review Town Insurance Policies

Annual Appointments
Ambulance Fee Structure

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

The Select Board waits to sign the Liquor License Certification until they confirm all applicants want to renew. The Select Board sign a letter revoking a resident's Transfer Station privileges due to an unpaid recycling fee. They also sign the Board of Health contracts for terminating their agreement with the Alliance and partnering with the Collaborative.

A bill from A&M Auto is briefly discussed. John Field will reach out to Ralph Morrison for clarification on work that'd been done to an airpack. The Select Board also requests the Conflict of Interest form allowing Ralph to work on equipment for the Fire/Police/DPW.

11. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:07PM

Steve Seddon

Alex Bowman

John Field