

**THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE HELD AT
FIRE STATION #2, 207 SANDISFIELD ROAD**

**THE ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION WILL BE HELD AT THE OLD TOWN HALL,
LOCATED AT 3 SILVERBROOK ROAD**

**WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 18, 2024**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Berkshire, ss.
To the Constable of the Town of Sandisfield

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at the Fire House #2, located at 207 Sandisfield Road, Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 10:00 am, for the transaction of town business, and on Monday, May 20, 2023 at The Old Town Hall, 3 Silverbrook Road, from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm for the Annual Town Election.

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Officers.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as amended for Fiscal Year 2025 as follows, or take any other action thereon:

Moderator.....	\$ 150.00 per year
Town Clerk	26,520.00 per year
Select Board Member	1.00 per year
Select Board Chair	1.00 per year
Planning Board Member	250.00 per year
Planning Board Chair.....	350.00 per year
Board of Health Member	250.00 per year
Board of Health Chair.....	350.00 per year
Board of Assessors.....	2,294.00 per year
School Committee Chair.....	500.00 per year
School Committee Member	400.00 per year
Library Trustee.....	100.00 per year
Constables	18.00 per hour

Select Board Vote: Unanimously Supports
Finance Committee Vote: 2 in Favor, 1 Opposed

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise transfer from available funds for General Government Operating purposes the following sums, or any other sum(s) for the following Fiscal Year 2025 expenses/accounts, or take any other action thereon.

#	Description	FY24 Approved	FY25 Requested	Increase/ Decrease
	General Government			
1	Moderator Expenses	100.00	100.00	0.00
2	Moderator Stipend	150.00	150.00	0.00
3	Select Board Expenses	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
4	Select Board Stipends	13,000.00	3.00	(12,997.00)
5	Admin Asst to TM & SB	41,600.00	45,760.00	4,160.00
6	Town Manager Salary	85,000.00	80,000.00	(5,000.00)
7	Town Manager Expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00

8	Legal Services	16,000.00	19,000.00	3,000.00
9	Employee Incentive	9,000.00	5,000.00	(4,000.00)
10	Finance Committee Expenses	475.00	475.00	0.00
11	Finance Committee Clerk	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
12	Finance Committee Stipends	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00
13	Reserve Fund	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00
14	Principal Assessor Salary	31,200.00	0.00	(31,200.00)
15	Assessor Clerk Salary	15,264.60	16,044.60	780.00
NEW	Assessor Office Assistant		12,128.25	12,128.25
16	Board of Assessors Stipends	6,882.00	6,882.00	0.00
17	Assessors Expense	15,719.00	57,878.00	42,159.00
18	Assessors Tri Recert	15,000.00	0.00	(15,000.00)
19	Treas/Tax Coll Salary	53,560.00	55,166.80	1,606.80
20	Asst. Treas/Tax Coll Salary	9,214.40	11,440.00	2,225.60
21	Treas/Tax Coll Expenses	16,626.00	18,000.00	1,374.00
22	Treasurer Tax Lien	24,000.00	18,000.00	(6,000.00)
23	Treasurer Payroll Service	9,000.00	11,000.00	2,000.00
24	Town Accountant Salary	27,010.51	27,820.83	810.32
25	Town Accountant Expenses	8,261.95	8,260.00	(1.95)
26	Technology Expense	7,666.00	10,254.00	2,588.00
27	Building Dept. Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Town Clerk Salary	26,520.00	26,520.00	0.00
29	Town Clerk Expenses	5,600.00	4,000.00	(1,600.00)
30	Asst. Town Clerk	8,320.00	12,520.00	4,200.00
31	Election Workers	2,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
32	Conservation Commission Expense	1,041.00	500.00	(541.00)
33	Conservation Commission Clerk	1,885.93	2,405.00	519.07
34	Conservation Commission Stipends	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00
35	Planning Board Expenses	1,150.00	1,150.00	0.00
36	Planning Board Clerk	1,596.00	1,596.00	0.00
37	Planning Board Stipends	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00
NEW	Planning Board Legal		2,000.00	2,000.00
38	Zoning Board Clerk	1.00	1.00	0.00
39	Zoning Board Expenses	500.00	500.00	0.00
	Subtotal	499,893.39	504,104.48	4,211.09
	<i>Percent change</i>			<i>0.84%</i>
	DPW & Facilities			
40	Highway Maintenance	28,392.00	28,392.00	0.00
41	Highway Materials	65,000.00	65,000.00	0.00
42	Highway Snow/Ice Removal	141,000.00	161,000.00	20,000.00
43	Highway Machinery Maintenance	75,000.00	75,000.00	0.00
44	Tree Warden Stipend	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
45	Tree Warden Expenses	41,500.00	41,500.00	0.00
46	Highway Salaries	287,918.14	358,505.70	70,587.56
47	Highway Snow/Ice Overtime	35,373.00	35,373.00	0.00
48	Highway Con Consultant	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
49	Highway Admin. Assist. Salary	16,640.00	32,778.72	16,138.72
50	Cust Town Buildings Salary	11,227.00	11,563.81	336.81
51	HW mowing/cem maint.	17,250.00	17,250.00	0.00
52	Street Lighting	4,800.00	4,200.00	(600.00)
53	Solid Waste Disposal	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00
54	Solid Waste Disposal Salary	15,703.38	21,932.82	6,229.44
55	Op Maint & Repair Town Buildings	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00
56	Utilities	47,000.00	47,000.00	0.00

57	Op Maintenance Salary	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00
58	Vehicle Fuel Account	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00
59	Cemetery Comm Expenses	1,650.00	1,650.00	0.00
60	Cemetery Comm Salary	650.00	850.00	200.00
	Subtotal	916,103.52	1,028,996.05	112,892.53
	<i>Percent change</i>			12.32 %
	Protection, Persons & Property			
61	Police Dept. Expenses	16,503.05	16,503.05	0.00
62	Police Dept. Salary	52,804.00	52,260.00	(544.00)
63	Police Chief Stipend	5,304.50	5,463.64	159.14
64	BC Sherriff Control	11,393.07	11,393.07	0.00
65	Fire Dept. Expense	36,878.10	36,878.10	0.00
66	Fire Chief Stipend	11,037.60	15,000.00	3,962.40
67	EMS Admin	2,700.00	0.00	(2,700.00)
NEW	FD/EMT/Admin		24,700.00	24,700.00
68	Ambulance Expense	23,076.00	20,000.00	(3,076.00)
69	Fire Ambulance Training	7,054.00	5,054.00	(2,000.00)
70	Fire House Rental - Legion	3,864.28	3,941.57	77.29
71	Fire House Rental - Rt. 57	6,494.60	6,624.49	129.89
72	ALSS Intercept Service	16,320.00	16,320.00	0.00
73	Fire/EMS Compensation	60,000.00	45,000.00	(15,000.00)
74	Public Safety Officer	67,081.20	60,000.00	(7,081.20)
75	ER Mgt. Revolving	2,800.00	1.00	(2,799.00)
76	Inspector of Animals Salary	600.00	600.00	0.00
77	Animal Control/Dog Exp	600.00	750.00	150.00
78	Animal Control/Dog Sal	855.00	1.00	(854.00)
79	S. Berk Reg. ER Plan Com	500.00	500.00	0.00
	Subtotal	325,865.40	320,989.92	(4,875.48)
	<i>Percent change</i>			-1.50%
	Education			
80	School Operations	1,547,355.00	1,580,296.26	32,941.26
81	Voc-Tech Student	29,320.00	80,000.00	50,680.00
82	School Committee stipend	1,300.00	1,300.00	0.00
	Subtotal	1,577,975.00	1,661,596.26	83,621.26
	<i>Percent change</i>			5.30%
	Human Services			
83	Veterans Benefits	44,290.00	46,290.00	2,000.00
84	Veterans Service District	5,220.64	5,220.64	0.00
85	Board of Health Expenses	600.00	600.00	0.00
86	Board of Health Clerk	1,560.00	1,560.00	0.00
87	Board of Health Inspector	6,440.00	6,440.00	0.00
88	Board of Health Stipends	850.00	850.00	0.00
89	Public Health Nurse	2,100.00	2,100.00	0.00
90	Council on Aging Expenses	3,150.00	3,150.00	0.00
91	Council on Aging Stipends	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00
92	Berk Reg. Planning Com	841.97	863.02	21.05
	Subtotal	66,402.61	68,423.66	2,021.05
	<i>Percent change</i>			3.04%
	Culture & Recreation			
93	Yanner Park	11,413.85	11,413.85	0.00
94	Library Expenses	8,095.00	8,297.38	202.38
95	Librarian Salary	16,640.00	18,092.25	1,452.25
96	Library Trustees Stipends	300.00	300.00	0.00
97	Memorial Day Parade	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00

98	Cultural Council Expenses	500.00	500.00	0.00
99	Historical Commission Expenses	250.00	250.00	0.00
100	Recreation Committee Expenses	7,600.00	7,600.00	0.00
101	Recreation Committee Stipends	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00
	Subtotal	49,148.85	50,803.48	1,654.63
	<i>Percent change</i>			3.37%
	Fixed Costs			
102	Unemployment Insurance	7,700.00	7,700.00	0.00
103	Berkshire Cty. Retirement	105,647.00	117,334.00	11,687.00
104	Employee Benefits	161,450.64	176,524.92	15,074.28
105	Medicare	12,200.00	14,400.00	2,200.00
106	Insurance and Bonds	70,000.00	72,000.00	2,000.00
	Subtotal	356,997.64	387,958.92	30,961.28
	<i>Percent change</i>			8.67%
	Total Operating	3,792,386.41	4,022,872.77	230,486.36
	<i>Percent change</i>			6.08%
	Town Operating minus FRRSD	2,214,411.41	2,361,276.51	146,865.10
	<i>Percent change</i>			6.63%

Select Board Vote: Unanimously Supports
Finance Committee Vote: 1 in Favor, 2 Opposed

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of Section 53E½ of Chapter 44 of the General Laws to amend the annual spending limits for the revolving funds appearing in Chapter IV, Financial Affairs, Section 6(F) of the General Bylaws of the Town, with such expenditure limits to be applicable from fiscal year to fiscal year, unless Town Meeting votes to change the same prior to the start of such fiscal year, or take any other action thereon:

- a) Board of Health – Town Sanitary Inspector \$10,000.00
- b) Building Dept. – Town Plumbing Inspector \$10,000.00
- c) Building Dept. – Town Building Inspector \$20,000.00
- d) Building Dept. – Town Wiring Inspector \$10,000.00
- e) Building Dept. – Town Gas Inspector \$10,000.00
- f) Transfer Station Sticker – Board of Selectmen 77,000.00

Select Board Vote: Unanimously Supports
Finance Committee Vote: N/A

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00, or any other sum, from Free Cash, to fund the purchase of three (3) historical markers for entry points of the New Boston Historic District on Route 8 and 57, including all costs incidental and related thereto, or to take any other action thereon.

Select Board Vote: Unanimously Supports
Finance Committee Vote: Unanimously Supports

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,250.00, or any other sum, from Free Cash to pay the town’s portion of twenty-five (25) percent of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Renewal Grant, or to take any other action thereon.

Select Board Vote: Unanimously Supports
Finance Committee Vote: Unanimously Supports

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,000.00, or any other sum, from Free Cash, to fund improvements to the town’s cemeteries, or to take any other action thereon.

Select Board Vote: 2 in Favor, 1 Abstention
Finance Committee Vote: 3 Abstentions

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,744.57, or any other sum, from Free Cash, to pay for FY24 deficit spending for snow and ice removal, or to take any other action thereon.

Select Board Vote: Unanimously Supports
Finance Committee Vote: Unanimously Supports

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$300,000.00, or any other sum, from Free Cash, to fund the purchase and equipping of a new, used, or demo six (6) wheel dump truck, including all costs incidental and related thereto, for the Department of Public Works, or to take any other action thereon.

Select Board Vote: Unanimously Supports
Finance Committee Vote: Unanimously Opposed

Article 10:

Option 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$100,000.00, or any other sum, from Free Cash to the Capital Improvement Plan Stabilization Account, and appropriate the sum of \$209,140.00, or any other sum, from Free Cash, to reduce the tax levy for the Fiscal Year 2025, beginning on July 1, 2024, or take any other action thereon.

Option 2: To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$309,140.00, or any other sum, from Free Cash, to reduce the tax levy for the Fiscal Year 2025, beginning on July 1, 2024, or take any other action thereon.

Select Board Vote: Unanimously Supports
Finance Committee Vote: Unanimously Supports

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$300,000.00, or any other sum, to fund the purchase and equipping of a new, used or demo ambulance, including all costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation, transfer \$75,175.41, or any other sum, from Free Cash and appropriate \$224,824.59, or any other sum, from the Ambulance Stabilization account, or to take any other action thereon.

Select Board Vote: Unanimously Supports
Finance Committee Vote: 1 Opposed, 2 Abstentions

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c. 41, § 108P for the purpose of compensating the Treasurer or Collector the sum of \$1,000.00 per year, or any other sum, from Free Cash, as a certified Massachusetts Treasurer or Collector, or to take any other action thereon.

Select Board Vote: Unanimously Supports
Finance Committee Vote: Unanimously Supports

Article 13: To see if the Town will amend Chapter III, Section 6 of the Town Bylaws by deleting the current text of Section 6 in its entirety and inserting in its place the text below captioned "Amended to read," or take any other action thereon.

Requires majority vote

Section 6 - ~~There shall be a five (5) member Finance Committee consisting of registered voters or taxpayers of the Town of Sandisfield, no more than one of which may not be a registered voter.~~ **There shall be a five (5) member finance committee consisting of at least four (4) registered voters. One member may be an unregistered voter who is a full or part-time town resident.** Finance Committee members shall be appointed to three (3) year terms by a three (3) member Appointment Committee consisting of: ~~the Moderator, a full-time resident and~~

~~if a full-time resident is not available a tax payer would be eligible, and a Finance Committee member.~~ **the moderator, a Finance Committee member selected annually by the Finance Committee, and a registered voter appointed by the Planning Board annually.**

Upon the expiration of any Finance Committee member's three-year term, the Appointment Committee shall appoint one (1) or two (2) members, as needed of the Finance Committee to a new term. The appointment Committee shall fill all vacancies by appointing a registered voter or taxpayer to serve the un-expired term. ~~The Moderator shall~~ **Appointment Committee may** remove Finance Committee members for cause. ~~The Appointment Committee will submit in writing to the full Board of Selectmen, recommendations for the removal of Finance Committee members. At a regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen, said body will vote to accept/reject the Appointment Committees recommendation for removal of a Finance Committee member.~~

It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to review the budget presented by the Selectmen and make recommendations to the town meeting relative to all appropriations. These recommendations should be developed, reviewed, approved, and presented in accordance with the Town budget timeline as follows:

The Finance Committee shall provide the Select Board with its comments and recommendations on the Town's budget in accordance with the Town's annual budget timeline. The Select Board shall vote on all appropriation requests with any modifications it deems necessary, and shall present a final budget to the finance committee, which shall vote on all appropriation requests and present its votes to the Town Meeting. Appropriation-related articles in the Town Meeting warrant shall include a statement describing the votes of the Select Board and the Finance Committee on each such article (e.g., Select Board voted approval 2-1; Finance Committee voted disapproval 4-1) The Finance Committee shall otherwise have the duties prescribed by statute (M.G.L 39 § 16)

Select Board Vote: Unanimously Supports

Finance Committee Vote: Unanimously Supports

Article 14: To see if the town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws by 1) adding a new 'Commercial Tent Camping Bylaw' to Section 8; and 2) adding 'Commercial Tent Camping' as a principal use to the Table of Permitted Uses requiring a Special Permit in Section 3 b), or take any other actions thereon

Requires a 2/3's majority vote

1. PURPOSE

Sandisfield is fortunate to have abundant open space and natural beauty which attracts outdoor enthusiasts from all over. This bylaw will provide important regulations and guidelines for landowners who wish to develop portions of their property and allow access to the public while preserving the character of our town that our residents value.

2. DEFINITIONS

A. Tent - A collapsible structure which has a soft, readily foldable fabric (such as nylon or canvas) or fabric-like material as its basic component stretched and sustained by poles, and is designed to be used as a temporary outdoor dwelling by persons travelling from place to place while on vacation or while on a recreational outing.

B. Tent Camping - A form of outdoor recreation or outdoor education involving overnight stays with a tent serving as a temporary shelter.

C. Glamping - A more luxurious form of traditional tent camping involving camp site accommodations and amenities provided by the property owner (e.g, platform, tents, sleeping bags, mattresses, blankets, and other camping supplies). Recreational vehicles, yurts, cabins and similar structures are excluded.

3. TENT CAMPING REQUIREMENTS

A. Total camping area: The maximum size of a designated area for tent camping on a property shall not exceed forty-five percent (45%) of the parcel size for parcels of 20 acres or less, and a percentage to be determined by the Special Permit Granting Authority for larger parcels.

B. Camping site size: Each individual camp site shall be a minimum of 1400 square feet, including parking.

C. Site Setbacks: Camp sites shall be setback fifty (50) feet from all property lines.

4. SANITATION

A. Water supply and sewage disposal facilities are in accordance with 310 CMR 15.00 Subsurface Disposal of Sanitary Waste (Title V) and 310 CAR 22.00: Drinking Water Regulations.

B. Non-potable water must be available to all camp sites for cleaning purposes.

C. Property owner shall provide bear proof food storage containers and adequate trash disposal at all times.

5. FIRE PITS

A. Fire pits are optional and shall be restricted to certain areas designated by the Sandisfield Fire Chief.

B. Property owner shall provide a means, approved by the Sandisfield Fire Chief, to extinguish fires at the fire pit areas at all times.

C. Fire danger postings shall be provided by the property owner and updated daily. No fires shall be allowed outside of fire pit areas at any time.

6. DRIVEWAYS

A. Driveways to gain access to camp sites on a property shall comply with Section 8 (Driveway Bylaw) of the Sandisfield Zoning Bylaws.

B. Property Owner shall provide adequate parking on the property for all camp sites. No roadside parking is permitted at any time.

7. SAFETY

A. A lighting plan shall be approved by special permit.

B. First aid shall be made available by the property owner. A map of the property shall be made available.

C. Quiet hours for the tent camping area are to be observed between 10 PM & 7 AM.

D. Owner shall follow all state regulations concerning firearms and alcohol

E. Any Event with amplified music may be subject to a town license.

F. Pets may be allowed at owner's discretion provided they are licensed and vaccinated, leashed and under the control of the owner(s) at all times.

8. RENTAL PERIOD

Camp site rental period shall not exceed two (2) weeks per party.

9. PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

Property owner shall apply for and be granted a Special Permit for commercial tent camping on a property in compliance with Section 10 of the Sandisfield Zoning Bylaws. Per Section 10 of the Zoning Bylaws, applications for commercial tent camping on a property require review by the Sandisfield Board of Health, the Sandisfield Conservation Commission, and the Sandisfield Fire Department.

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

A. Property owners shall provide their contact information, as well as contact information for emergency services, to all campers on a property in the event of an emergency.

B. The property owner shall ensure that adequate staffing is present on the property at all times when campers are present. Contact information made available to campers shall include:

- Property owner(s) name(s)
- Property owner(s) phone number(s)
- Sandisfield Police Department phone number(s)
- Sandisfield Fire Department phone number(s)

C. Property owners shall collect the following information from all campers:

- Camper(s) name
- Camper(s) phone number
- License plate numbers for all vehicles on the property.
- License numbers for firearms if any

11. BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

Noncompliance with this bylaw shall result in fines as determined by Section 11. Administration and Enforcement of Zoning Bylaws.

And further to bring in their votes on May 20, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall located at 3 Silverbrook Road for Town Officers and terms thereof as follows:

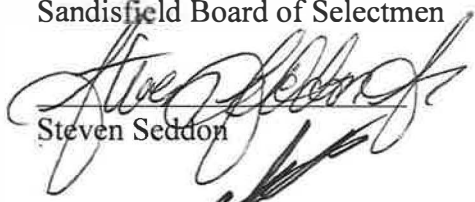
- One Moderator for one year
- One Assessor for three years
- One Assessor for one year
- One Selectman for three years
- One Board of Health Member for three years
- One School Committee Member for three years
- One Planning Board Member for five years

You are directed to serve this warrant by posting true and attested copies thereof at three public places within the Town of Sandisfield seven days at least before the time of said Town Meeting.

Hereto fail not and make due return of the warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at or before the time of holding said Town Meeting.

Given under our hands this 10 day of May, 2024

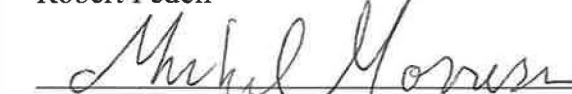
Sandisfield Board of Selectmen

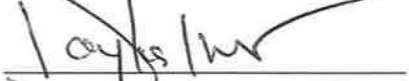

Steven Seddon

John Field


Robert Fedell

Robert Fedell

 5/7/24
Constable Method of Service Date


True Copy Attest: Town Clerk