

RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

November 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Moderator Simon Winchester with the Pledge of Allegiance and a dedication to the Mahican Indian Tribe, the pathfinders of our community. There were 67 registered voters present.

Results as follows:

Article 1. The Town voted unanimously to accept the reports of the Town Officers.

Article 2. The Town voted unanimously to amend Chapter III, Section 6 of the Sandisfield By-Laws by striking the existing text and replacing it with the text set forth below:

“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, appointed by the Moderator of the Town for a term of three (3) years. The Town Manager or designee shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member provided, however, that this person shall be seated as a voting member whenever the committee lacks a quorum. The Moderator shall fill all vacancies by appointment.

The Moderator may remove Finance Committee members for cause, by submitting in writing to the Select Board recommendations for the removal of a Finance Committee member. At a regular meeting of the Select Board said body will vote to accept or reject the Moderator’s recommendation for removal.

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, Sec. 16).”

Article 3.

The Moderator declared that this article will be cast by Secret Ballot.

The Town voted by majority 59 in favor, 5 opposed to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for the enactment of special legislation entitled “An Act Authorizing the Town of Sandisfield to Continue the Employment of Employees Subject to Mandatory Retirement” as set forth below, provided however, that the General Court

shall be authorized to make ministerial, clerical, and editorial changes of form only to said bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve such amendments, or take any other action relative thereto.

An Act authorizing the Town of Sandisfield to Continue the Employment of Employees subject to Mandatory Retirement

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, Town employees who would be subject to mandatory retirement on the last day of the month in which they turn 65 years old pursuant to Chapter 415 of the Acts of 1987, may serve in such position until the age of 70, or until the date of retirement or non-reappointment, whichever occurs first; provided, however that no deductions from regular compensation shall be made under chapter 32 of the General Laws subsequent to reaching the age of 65 in connection with service to the Town for retirement or pension purposes; and provided that the employee is mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office. The town may, at the employee's own expense, require that the employees be examined by an impartial physician designated by them to determine such capability.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Article 4. The Town voted unanimously to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 138, §33B, providing that the local licensing authority of any city or town which accepts said section may authorize licensees under section twelve of Chapter 138 (sales for on premises consumption) to sell alcoholic beverages between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Sundays, the last Monday in May, and on Christmas day or on the day following when said day occurs on Sunday.

Article 5. The Town voted 26 in favor, 9 opposed, passed by 2/3 vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws, Chapter IX, by adding the following language under Section 7, Sign Regulations, Part B., Sign Restrictions:

5. Municipal signage shall be exempt from the requirements of Paragraph 3 and 4. Signs erected by the Town or on Town property shall require only approval of the Select Board.

Dolores Harasyko, Town Clerk
True Copy Attest