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Town of Sandown, NH Board of Selectmen Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, January 23, 2012

Type of Meeting: Regular meeting

Method of Notification: Public Posting – Two locations at Town Hall

Meeting Location: Sandown Town Hall

Present: Selectpersons: Stephen Brown (Brown), Hans Nicolaisen (Nicolaisen), Tom Tombarello (Tombarello), James Devine (Devine),

Lynne Blaisdell, Office Manager and Cynthia J. Robinson, Recording Secretary

Absent: Brenda Copp (Copp)

Late to arrive:

Call to Order: Chairman Nicolaisen called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Review Minutes of previous meeting

- Board members reviewed the Minutes of January 9, 2012. **MOTION:** Selectman Tombarello moved to accept the Minutes of January 9, 2012 as written. Selectman Devine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board members reviewed the Non-Public Minutes of January 9, 2012. **MOTION:** Selectman Brown moved to accept the Non-Public Minutes of January 9, 2012 as written. Selectman Tombarello seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Appointments

Timberlane Regional School Board Members

Discussion regarding proposed 2012 school budget and warrant articles

- Present for this discussion from Timberlane Regional School were: Lori Aubrey, Richard LaSalle and Louis Porcelli. Mr. LaSalle started by announcing there were two open positions one on the school board and the other on the budget committee. Mr. LaSalle stated that the budget this year is a -.18% down \$115,238.00 from the previous year. Mr. LaSalle went over the list of factors for the changes in the budget that relate to personnel and expenses. Selectman

44 Brown asked if the performing arts bond is the only outstanding bond. Mr.
45 LaSalle stated that is the only bond outstanding noting a bond has not been
46 issued at Timberlane in thirteen years. Selectman Brown asked about the
47 professional service that is used instead of a truant officer and whether there has
48 been a measurable difference in truancy. Ms. LaSalle stated when he came to
49 Timberlane truancy varied between 4% and 2.5% and it is currently at .2% with
50 only six students dropping out over the last year. Mr. LaSalle went over the
51 default budget noting the default budget is \$252,965.00 below the proposed
52 budget.

53
54 Mr. LaSalle stated Article 4 – Capital Reserve Fund has been increased this year
55 to \$200,000.00 from previous years of \$100,000.00. These funds are used for
56 projects that are considered “essential”. Mr. LaSalle stated in Article 5 –
57 Collective Bargaining Agreement there is no increase in salaries this year for
58 teachers. Ms. Blaisdell stated that Selectwoman Copp could not be here tonight,
59 she would like to know if the administrative employees including Mr. LaSalle’s
60 position receive proposed raises. Mr. LaSalle stated he is not a Timberlane
61 employee he is a SAU employee. Mr. LaSalle stated there is money available for
62 a 2% raise for non-affiliated staff, which the school board would take action on.
63 Chairman Nicolaisen asked why testing software is needed to test the students
64 why can’t the teachers. Mr. LaSalle explained the process the school has to go
65 through in order to chart the schools progress in meeting federal standards.

66
67 Mr. LaSalle went over the capital improvement plan noting many small
68 improvements have been done to core facilities [kitchens], boilers, roofs,
69 windows and at the high school the roofs, bathrooms, water system, septic
70 system, lighting and lockers. Mr. LaSalle noted the building is well kept but it
71 lacks features that modern schools have. Mr. LaSalle stated the area that is
72 lacking is the athletic area and this is not a small project, it is a medium size
73 project, which needs a bond in order to make all the repairs. This project does
74 not qualify for state aid because it is a medium size project. Mr. LaSalle feels
75 even though there is an existing bond adding a new short-term bond would keep
76 the indebtedness relatively level where there wouldn’t be spikes.

77
78 Mr. LaSalle noted the area being talked about is the physical education/athletic
79 locker rooms min-gym renovation and reconstruction not the large gym. Areas to
80 be improved are worn-out, tired, don’t meet many codes including Title 9 and
81 ADA. Mr. LaSalle explained this project cannot be done in small pieces because
82 once they start a renovation everything has to be brought up to code, the school
83 would no longer be “grandfathered”. Mr. LaSalle went over all the benefits to the
84 renovations relative to instruction, athletics, physical education and community
85 activities. Mr. LaSalle pointed out the safety concerns and ongoing maintenance
86 problems with the existing areas and how the renovations will address these
87 concerns. Mr. LaSalle stated the costing for this project is on the Timberlane

88 School Board website. Mr. LaSalle noted that a \$300,000.00 home in Sandown
89 would have a tax impact [2014-2018] based on the 2011 tax rate of \$105.00. Mr.
90 LaSalle pointed out that while times are tight right now, it is a good time for lower
91 interest rates and competitive pricing. Chief Joseph Gordon asked where the
92 exploratory money comes from. Mr. LaSalle stated they have a retainer with
93 their architect that is in their budget under consultation. The Deliberative Session
94 will be held on February 9, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. at the Performing Arts Center.
95

96 **Tad Dziemian, White Columns Office Solutions, LLC (WCOS) and Mr. Roger**
97 **Barczak, Local Energy Commission member**
98 **Presentation of potential money saving opportunities to lower energy**
99 **and telecom costs**
100

- 101 • Tad Dziemian and Roger Barczak were present for this discussion. Mr. Barczak
102 explained that he is here on his own although he is a member of the Local
103 Energy Committee who has not met in months and this money saving opportunity
104 is time sensitive. Mr. Dziemian stated he has been working with energy for the
105 past three years trying to get the supply of natural gas and electricity to medium
106 sized businesses as well as towns and schools. Deregulation has separated
107 supply with the distribution so the infrastructure is maintained by the utility but
108 they opened up the supply so that people can have a choice of selecting a supply
109 from various sources.
110

111 Mr. Dziemian went through his PowerPoint presentation beginning with Value
112 Proposition whose goal is lowering energy and telecom costs without spending
113 capital. Competitive energy supply can reduce the costs by at least 10%.
114 Competitive suppliers are either utilities from other regions or energy generators
115 that have a deregulated arm. There is no change in the quality of service
116 because the utility is responsible for the distribution that is regulated. Other
117 service offered by WCOS includes monthly report on usage by account, rate
118 comparison with utility and recommendation on contract renewal for best
119 savings. Invoicing is through Public Service. Mr. Dziemian recommends a 12
120 month contract initially. There is no impact on the cost of delivery from Public
121 Service or NH Electric Coop. The Town has a potential savings of \$3,000+/year.
122

123 Mr. Dziemian recommends a fixed rate that would take effect at the next meter
124 reading following a credit check and the execution of a service agreement.
125 Board members would like a list of companies WCOS has worked with for more
126 than a year and a copy of a generic agreement. Mr. Dziemian will send contact
127 information and agreement to Ms. Blaisdell. Mr. Dziemian recommended the
128 Board not wait too long as the rates can change.
129

130 Mr. Barczak brought up the connection Mr. Dziemian has with telecom and he
131 asked the Board if they would want him to look at the Town from this standpoint.

132 Consensus of the Board was Mr. Dziemian could look at Town records to see if
133 there is a potential for savings.
134

135 **New Business**

136
137 **Review of request to appoint ZBA Administrative Assistant**
138

- 139 • The Zoning Board of Adjustment would like to appoint Andrea Cairns as their
140 Administrative Assistant. Ms. Blaisdell stated she is not sure what her rate of pay
141 would be. No action was taken on this request. This subject will be placed on
142 next week's agenda.
143

144 **Discuss website maintenance**
145

- 146 • Ms. Blaisdell stated that Bette Patterson is willing to handle the maintenance of
147 the Town's website at the 2 hours/week currently allowed. Ms. Blaisdell stated
148 Paula Gulla handles most of the postings of information for all Town
149 departments. Consensus of the Board is they are agreeable to this on a trial
150 basis.
151

152 **Review of highway safety grant application for police department**
153

- 154 • Ms. Blaisdell explained to the Board that Police Chief Gordon just found out the
155 grant money for the two grants the Police Department is applying for through the
156 Highway Safety Agency is not the amount that was placed in Warrant Articles 15
157 and 16 [\$11,520.00 for each grant]. The Police Department has been notified
158 that the corrected amount is going to be \$6,658.50 for each grant. Ms. Blaisdell
159 told the Board they need to state within the minutes their approval of this change
160 because the minutes are part of the applications. Ms. Blaisdell stated it is too
161 late to change the warrant article so it will have to be changed at Deliberative
162 Session. Ms. Blaisdell noted the Police Chief works within the amount awarded
163 so additional funds do not have to be raised. Ms. Blaisdell stated the Board has
164 to authorize Chairman Nicolaisen to sign the applications that have to go out
165 tomorrow. Chairman Nicolaisen asked Board members if they were okay with
166 the monetary change to Warrant Article 15 and Warrant Article 16 as described
167 by Ms. Blaisdell tonight and do they authorize him to sign the applications. After
168 a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Board they approve the change to
169 Warrant Articles 15 and 16 and authorize Chairman Nicolaisen to sign the
170 applications.
171

172 **Property lien**
173

- 174 • Ms. Blaisdell explained there was a town assistance lien placed on a property in
175 Town and it is still on the property. The current owner is trying to close on the

176 property and is trying to clear the title. It is the property owner's understanding
177 that at foreclosure a town assistance lien is "wiped out". Ms. Blaisdell stated in
178 theory that is true to a point. The Town could maintain the assistance lien if the
179 lien was put on prior to the mortgage being recorded. Ms. Blaisdell is asking the
180 Board if they want her to contact legal counsel regarding this where the lien is for
181 \$206.00. Ms. Blaisdell explained the history behind this lien. Ms. Blaisdell stated
182 the property owner is asking the Town to release the lien, but according to the
183 legal department at Local Government Center the Town does not have to release
184 the lien the property owner has the right by RSA to wipe out the lien. Ms.
185 Blaisdell questioned how the Town could release the lien if it has not been paid.
186 Selectman Tombarello abstained from participating in this discussion. The
187 consensus of the Board is for Ms. Blaisdell to write a letter to the property owner
188 explaining her research and requesting payment.
189

190 **Old Business**

191 192 **Final review and signing of 2012 Warrant and Default Budget** 193 **and discussion Regarding Deliberative Session** 194

- 195 • Ms. Blaisdell reminded Board members they still have to make recommendations
196 on three warrant articles. Ms. Blaisdell reminded Board members [for
197 Selectwoman Copp] on Warrant Article 2 the Board is making a recommendation
198 on the proposed operating budget, which is the Budget Committee's budget.
199

200 Warrant Article 2 – Based on his discussion with other Board members Chairman
201 Nicolaisen recommends the Board not recommend Warrant Article 2. (Not
202 Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-1).
203

204 Warrant Article 3 – (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 4-0-0).
205

206 Warrant Article 4 – (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 4-0-0).
207

208 Ms. Blaisdell asked the Board if they would sign the Warrant tonight knowing the
209 first page will be changed to not recommend Warrant Article 2. Consensus of the
210 Board is they will sign the Warrant tonight.
211

212 Ms. Blaisdell reminded the Board they wanted to go over the warrant articles and
213 decide who would speak to each article. Selectman Brown suggested the Board
214 take the warrant home and look at each article and decide who wants to speak to
215 each article then discuss next week.
216

217 **Correspondence**

- 218 • Letter from legal counsel regarding pending litigation.
219

- 220 • Annual Report of the Southeastern New Hampshire Hazardous Materials District.
- 221 • School Board Notes [newsletter].
- 222 • Letter from Northeast Resource Recovery Association summarizing the
- 223 recyclables that went to market.
- 224 • Ms. Blaisdell passed around a letter from NH Department of Revenue
- 225 Administration regarding the term “off set by”.
- 226

227 **Department Liaison Report**

- 228
- 229 • Chairman Nicolaisen noted the Recreation Commission met last week and the
- 230 Recreation Director informed them of the increase in activity at the Recreation
- 231 Building.
- 232
- 233 • Selectman Devine noted that the library is placing barcodes on books. Ms.
- 234 Blaisdell noted that the library is doing a “cooperative” with Plaistow and Atkinson
- 235 where books are being shared. Sandown library cards can be used at both
- 236 Plaistow and Atkinson libraries and books can be couriered between libraries.
- 237

238 **Non-Public discussion under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Employee Matters**

- 239
- 240 • **MOTION:** Selectman Brown moved to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-
- 241 A:3 II (a) Employee Matters. Selectman Tombarello seconded. Roll call: Brown –
- 242 ayes, Nicolaisen –aye, Tombarello – aye and Devine – aye. Motion passed
- 243 unanimously.
- 244

245 **MOTION:** Selectman Brown moved to come out of Non-Public Session.

246 Selectman Tombarello seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

247

248 Chairman Nicolaisen announced while in Non-Public Session the Board agreed

249 to seal the Non-Public Session Minutes.

250

251 Chairman Nicolaisen adjourned the meeting at 10:00 P.M.

252

253 Respectfully Submitted,

254

255

256

257 Cynthia J. Robinson

258 Recording Secretary