

Town of Sandown, NH Board of Selectmen Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, February 3, 2014

Type of Meeting: Regular meeting

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

Meeting Location: Sandown Town Hall

Present: Selectpersons: Terry Treanor (Treanor), Tom Tombarello (Tombarello), Hans Nicolaisen (Nicolaisen), James Devine (Devine), Lynne Blaisdell, Town Administrator and Cynthia J. Robinson, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Late to arrive:

Departed Meeting:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Review of minutes of previous meetings

- Board members reviewed the minutes of January 20, 2014. **MOTION:** Selectman Nicolaisen moved to accept the minutes of January 20, 2014 as written. Selectman Devine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- Biz Corrow expressed his dismay on the attempted censure of Donna Green, Sandown School Budget Committee member, by the Timberlane School Budget Committee because of comments she allegedly made when she was before the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Corrow stated he viewed the video of the meeting and Ms. Green clearly stated she was representing herself. Mr. Corrow stated he supports Ms. Green and her attempt to keep her constituents informed.
- Selectman Nicolaisen thanked all the Sandown residents who attended the Deliberative Session this past Saturday.

Members of the Timberlane School Board Discussion regarding proposed 2014 school warrant articles

- Present for this discussion from the Timberlane School Board were: Dr. Earl Metzler, Superintendent, George Stokinger, Business Administrator, Joseph Morris and Robert Collins, School Board members. Dr. Metzler explained that the role of the School Board is to decide what to do with the funds the taxpayers give the Board and it is the role of the School Budget Committee to decide how much. Dr. Metzler stated last fall he went to the schools and asked them to budget for whatever they needed and then everyone would work back to a number the majority was comfortable with. This number is represented in Warrant Article 2. Dr. Metzler stated the Sandown representatives on both the School Board and Budget Committee do a good job representing the Town.

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49 At this time the 2014 Timberlane Regional School District Warrant was reviewed Article
50 by Article. Speaking to these Articles was Dr. Metzler or George Stokinger, the
51 Business Administrator. Mr. Stokinger handed out a breakdown of the proposed budget.
52 Selectman Nicolaisen asked about the actual increase in the budget if the SAU Warrant
53 Article were added in. Mr. Stokinger stated it would be a 3.95% increase. Selectman
54 Nicolaisen asked why if enrollment is down do costs keep going up. Mr. Stokinger
55 briefly explained some of the reasons (ie. cost of living, more courses, accountability,).
56 Chairman Tombarello noted the talk about Town is why if there is a decrease in
57 enrollment is there an increase in staff. Selectman Devine commented on the decrease
58 in student enrollment and the increase in the cost to operate. There was discussion
59 about the discrepancy in the cost to send a student to Timberlane Schools. Dr. Metzler
60 explained that the Department of Education does not take some items in the budget into
61 consideration when figuring out the cost per student. Robert Collins stated the
62 Department of Education controls those numbers. Mr. Stokinger noted that the Capital
63 Reserve was increased to \$350,000.00 this year up from \$200,000.00 last year. Dr.
64 Metzler noted there was a newly formed Support Staff Union.
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66 Chairman Tombarello asked the public for comments. Mr. Stokinger handed out a draft
67 school tax rate recap and explained why the tax increase. Brenda Copp congratulated
68 Dr. Metzler on his accomplishments this past year without using much money. Ms.
69 Copp noted the letter from Robert Collins and stated her objection to his not using the
70 name of the elected official he was referring to and in the future she hopes he would.
71 Ms. Copp questioned the \$2 million dollar surplus last year and the proposed \$2.2
72 million dollar increase this year and the comment about possibly closing Sandown
73 Central and other ways to decrease the budget. Ms. Copp noted there was no mention
74 of cutting staff or administration. Dr. Metzler responded saying he is not expecting a
75 surplus this year and everything is on the table. Mr. Collins stated it is the responsibility
76 of the School Board to protect the academics of the institution. Dr. Metzler stated it is
77 his responsibility to protect the integrity of the school district. Ms. Copp stated it is her
78 opinion if the School Board accomplished what they did last year with the funding they
79 had they can do it this year without hurting the children.
80

81 Donna Green stated she had nothing to do with the comment that there was a 10%
82 staffing increase. Ms. Green asked what the increase would be if all the warrant articles
83 were to pass. Mr. Stokinger stated just over 4%. Ms. Green noted that taking out of the
84 surplus has a tax impact next year. Ms. Green stated on the revenue side of the budget
85 there is a possible tax surplus for next year of \$1.9 million. Mr. Stokinger stated he
86 made no reference to the surplus being decreased. Ms. Green spoke about the surplus
87 in the SAU budget. Mr. Stokinger spoke about changes in employee insurance and the
88 impact it could have. Ms. Green asked where the insurance refund money from Local
89 Government Center went. Mr. Stokinger stated it is unanticipated revenue for this year,
90 which will be part of the surplus.
91

92 Heather David asked if \$2.5 million is cut from the budget on Thursday night what will it
93 save the average taxpayer. On the average \$200,000.00 house in Sandown it would be
94 about a \$300.00 savings.
95

96 Cathy Gorman noted that part-time positions were increased to full-time positions for the
97 kindergarten. Ms. Gorman asked if there weren't a full-time kindergarten would these
98 positions have been eliminated or used to fill other positions. While Dr. Metzler didn't
99 answer the question directly, he stated they still have to figure out whom they will be
100 serving. Ms. Gorman sees this change as a \$50,000.00 cost to the Town. Dr. Metzler
101 stated they are figuring there will be \$110,000.00 in revenue. Dr. Metzler welcomed
102 discussions with anyone who wishes to meet with him.

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104 Chairman Tombarello called for a five minutes recess.

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106 **Members of the Historical Society**
107 **Discuss status of agreement for Train Depot Museum**
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- 109 • Present for this discussion were: Bruce Robinson, Laurie Brooks, Robert Brouder,
110 Sheryl Brouder and Jennifer Green for the Historical Society and Paula Gulla,
111 Selectmen's Assistant. Chairman Tombarello noted the agreement submitted by the
112 Historical Society. Robert Brouder stated this agreement is based on the 1982 warrant
113 article and the Historical Society has worked out some of the ambiguities that were in the
114 article. Mr. Brouder stated the Society would like to work with the Board of Selectmen's
115 Office on grants and try this agreement until the fall of 2014 where the Society would pay
116 for lights and heat. Chairman Tombarello read the list of joint responsibilities.
117 Selectman Treanor asked why the Society stopped paying for these items. Mr. Brouder
118 stated he does not know how these items reverted back to the Town. Selectman
119 Nicolaisen stated the Depot is Town property and the Society cannot do any work on the
120 Depot without the permission of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Brouder stated any
121 improvements to the Depot would be brought to the Board's attention.

122
123 Selectman Nicolaisen stated he doesn't see much of a difference between what the
124 Board of Selectmen is proposing for an agreement and what the Society is proposing,
125 the important issues are the building be maintained and remain on the Historical
126 Registry. Ms. Blaisdell noted that the Society's agreement does not reference the RSA
127 that grants responsibility of the building to the Board of Selectmen and for this reason
128 Ms. Blaisdell supports the Selectmen's agreement. Ms. Blaisdell asked the Society
129 members what their issue is with the Selectmen's agreement. No one responded.
130 Paula Gulla feels the Selectmen's agreement needs work because it is written more as
131 correspondence than an agreement between parties. Selectmen Nicolaisen asked the
132 Society members to provide Ms. Blaisdell with their email addresses so when the
133 amendments to the agreement have been made the office staff can email them to all the
134 members for review prior to next week's meeting. Mr. Robinson asked that all emails go
135 through him. Selectman Nicolaisen reiterated his request.

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137 **New Business**
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- 139 • Ms. Blaisdell presented the Board with the Holiday calendar for 2014. There was
140 discussion about how the July 4th holiday will be used by employees. After a brief
141 discussion it was the consensus of the Board to make it a floater holiday because of the
142 Town Hall being closed on Fridays.

144 **Old Business**

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- There was no old business before the Board.

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148 **Correspondence**

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- Letter from legal counsel regarding the Court Order for the Town of Sandown – J. Scott Currier v. Cahill, et al legal case.

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153 **Department Liaison Report**

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- Chairman Tombarello reminded Sandown residents of the Timberlane Regional School District Deliberative Session on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. at the Timberlane Performing Arts Center in Plaistow, NH.

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159 **MOTION:** Selectman Nicolaisen moved to go into non-public session per RSA 91A:3 II (c)
160 Reputation and (e) Litigation. Selectman Devine seconded. Roll call: Devine – aye, Nicolaisen
161 – aye, Tombarello – aye and Treanor – aye. Motion passed unanimously.

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163 **MOTION:** Selectman Nicolaisen moved to come out of non-public session. Selectman Devine
164 seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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166 Chairman Tombarello announced while in non-public session the Board voted to seal the non-
167 public minutes.

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169 Chairman Tombarello adjourned the meeting at 9:25 P.M.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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Cynthia J. Robinson
Recording Secretary

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