

1 **Town of Sandown, NH**  
2 **Board of Selectmen**  
3 **Minutes**  
4

5 Meeting Date: Monday, April 14, 2014

6 Type of Meeting: Regular meeting

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

8 Meeting Location: Sandown Town Hall

9 Present: Selectpersons: Stephen Brown (Brown), Terry Treanor (Treanor), Hans  
10 Nicolaisen (Nicolaisen), Cindy Buco (Buco), James Devine (Devine), Lynne Blaisdell,  
11 Town Administrator and Cynthia J. Robinson, Recording Secretary

12 Absent:

13 Late to arrive:

14 Departed Meeting:

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

16 Pledge of Allegiance  
17

18 **Review of minutes of previous meetings**  
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- 20 • Board members reviewed the minutes of March 31, 2014. **MOTION:** Selectman  
21 Brown moved to accept the minutes of March 31, 2014 as written. Selectman  
22 Devine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.  
23

24 **Public Comment**  
25

- 26 • Chairman Nicolaisen announced that Girl Scout Troop 10765 will be holding a  
27 Town Wide Clean Up on April 26, 2014 and April 27, 2014. Volunteers can sign  
28 up and pick up trash bags at Town Hall or the Library after April 1, 2014.  
29

30 **Cathy Gorman**

31 **Discussion regarding school budget committee requests for information**  
32

- 33 • Cathy Gorman, member of the Town and School District Budget Committees.  
34 Ms. Gorman informed the Board that there have been a number of right to know  
35 requests submitted to the School District in order to get information on what goes  
36 into the budget and how the budget numbers are derived. Ms. Gorman does not  
37 feel she is receiving the information she needs to do her job representing the  
38 Town of Sandown. Ms. Gorman stated the School District has begun charging  
39 .50/sheet for the requested information. Ms. Gorman is asking the Board to  
40 consider adding a budget line item to cover the cost for copies. Ms. Gorman also  
41 would like to file with the Board of Selectman a copy of the right to know requests  
42 so the Board is aware of what she is requesting. Chairman Nicolaisen stated he  
43 supports what Ms. Gorman is suggesting and he does not feel she should be  
44 paying for copies out of her own pocket. Ms. Gorman showed Board members a

45 spreadsheet she created with the information she received piecemeal from the  
46 school but she feels it doesn't add up to the School Districts numbers. Selectman  
47 Brown asked how many right to know requests have been submitted. Ms.  
48 Gorman stated three for information on the kindergarten program. Ms. Gorman  
49 stated the information she is receiving is not presented in a cohesive fashion she  
50 is looking for a budget format. As an aside, Ms. Gorman noted there is a plan to  
51 make kindergarten full time so she was requesting information to see how a part  
52 time budget was going to cover the full time kindergarten. Selectman Brown  
53 asked Ms. Blaisdell if the Town charges for copies. Ms. Blaisdell answered yes.  
54 Selectman Brown stated he does not support asking the taxpayers to fund the  
55 cost of right to know requests. Selectman Brown asked Ms. Gorman what the  
56 Budget Committee feels about these requests. Ms. Gorman stated they don't  
57 seem to share the same concern as her.

58  
59 Selectman Brown stated he feels he is hearing only one side of the story and  
60 would like to have Dr. Earl Metzler, Superintendent of Schools, give the other  
61 side. Dr. Metzler joined the discussion at this time. Chairman Nicolaisen stated  
62 he does not want to put Dr. Metzler on the spot and feels some of these  
63 questions should be taken to a School Board or Budget Committee meeting. Dr.  
64 Metzler pointed out that the Budget Committee deemed some of the requested  
65 information not necessary. Dr. Metzler stated that the initial request on the  
66 kindergarten budget was asked for under the proposed budget, now they are  
67 working with a default budget, which is a bottom line budget, something  
68 completely different. Dr. Metzler noted that the information Ms. Gorman received  
69 is going to change because of the default budget as the School Board is currently  
70 repurposing the budget. Dr. Metzler pointed out that the format being requested  
71 might not be a format the school uses. Dr. Metzler stated next year he would  
72 approach the budget in a different fashion. Selectman Brown asked Dr. Metzler  
73 if Ms. Gorman is being provided under the right to know the information she has  
74 requested or is it information that can't be assimilated because there is no  
75 answer yet to the request. Dr. Metzler stated as best he can he creates  
76 documents containing the information that has been requested.

77  
78 Ms. Gorman stated being a new member of the Budget Committee she was  
79 expecting the school to submit information in a fashion similar to how the Town  
80 submits theirs, a proposed budget request with supporting documentation. What  
81 Ms. Gorman found was the School District budget meetings were not conducted  
82 in the same fashion and the way information was presented was extremely  
83 difficult to understand. Ms. Blaisdell pointed out that the right to know law does  
84 not require town officials to create a document that does not already exist. Ms.  
85 Gorman stated that at a minimum the Budget Committee and School Board have  
86 modified a number of operational procedures to help the meetings go smoother.  
87 Ms. Gorman stated she will see how this year goes and if this Board would

88 review the right to know requests and feel she is going overboard she will pay for  
89 the information herself.

90  
91 **Dr. Metzler, Superintendent of Schools**  
92 **Open forum for questions and concerns about Timberlane**  
93 **Regional School District**  
94

- 95 • Dr. Earl Metzler, Superintendent of Schools, was present for this discussion.  
96 Selectman Brown asked Dr. Metzler if the SAT's are changing relative to what is  
97 being presented to students. Dr. Metzler pointed out the three models that are  
98 available for schools to use and how they might be used. Selectman Brown  
99 asked what would be used for college bound students. Dr. Metzler stated college  
100 bound students will take the usual SAT exam. Selectman Devine again pointed  
101 out the student population continues to go down but the cost to operate the  
102 school continues to go up. Dr. Metzler stated that given this using Selectman  
103 Devine's formula Sandown is still paying less than the state average per student.

104  
105 Chairman Nicolaisen asked Dr. Metzler how much influence he has over the  
106 School Budget Committee or School Board and vice versa. Dr. Metzler stated he  
107 gives a lot input and the School Board gives him a lot of directives about their  
108 priorities. Dr. Metzler noted that this is where there is a delicate balance for him  
109 between the Budget Committee and the School Board. A person who did not  
110 identify herself asked how are programs chosen, specifically Spanish being  
111 taught in kindergarten and then it stops? Dr. Metzler stated the School Board  
112 has plans to add Spanish to a grade every year. Dr. Metzler noted that Spanish  
113 is the second most spoken language, Mandarin the first. For the skill set and  
114 media for this region Spanish was the chosen language. [Name inaudible]  
115 wanted clarification about a committee member wanting to see a particular  
116 textbook and was told it would be "up front" and then it was removed. Dr. Metzler  
117 stated there was a request for a textbook by a committee member; they were told  
118 it was at the SAU so yes it was removed from the school.

119  
120 **Cable TV Advisory Board**  
121 **Discussion regarding proposed Comcast Agreement**  
122

- 123 • Susan Godin, Chairman of the Cable Advisory Board introduced Gordon  
124 Champion who has been working with the Cable TV Advisory Board on the  
125 renewal of the proposed Comcast Franchise Agreement. Board members had in  
126 their possession a cover letter dated April 14, 2014 from Mr. Champion and the  
127 draft renewal of the Cable Television Franchise Between The Town of Sandown  
128 New Hampshire and Comcast of Maine/New Hampshire, Inc. Mr. Champion  
129 stated that the franchise agreement he will be going over tonight with the Board  
130 is a total redo of the existing license. Mr. Champion read his letter. Mr.  
131 Champion stated he will go through the franchise agreement and would like

132 Board members to note any questions or changes they may have in the body of  
133 the franchise agreement, come to a consensus of the Board and then send them  
134 to him and Sue Godin. Mr. Champion went through the list of Comcast Renewal  
135 Proposed Changes to Current Sandown License dated April 14, 2014 BOS  
136 Meeting.  
137

138 Selectman Brown thanked Mr. Champion for all the work he has put into the  
139 franchise agreement. Selectman Brown asked if the Town wanted to shorten the  
140 length of the franchise agreement would it result in increased cable fees for the  
141 subscribers? Mr. Champion answered no. Selectman Brown asked why the  
142 Selectmen wouldn't want to shorten the length of the franchise agreement. Mr.  
143 Champion explained because the ascertainment process would start all over  
144 again in 24 months. Mr. Champion feels nothing in the franchise agreement will  
145 change over the next ten years.  
146

147 Chairman Nicolaisen confirmed the Cable TV Advisory Board would be back next  
148 week in order to give the Board time to digest the franchise agreement.  
149

150 **Kristy O'Brien**  
151 **Complaint about 31 Elizabeth Road property**  
152

- 153 • Kristy O'Brien came before the Board to find out what the Town is going to do  
154 about the condition of 31 Elizabeth Road, which she believes has been  
155 condemned. Ms. O'Brien stated she has been talking to Town officials about the  
156 property for over a year and the property continues to deteriorate. Ms. O'Brien  
157 feels the property is a huge safety and environmental concern. Ms. O'Brien lives  
158 at 32 Elizabeth Road, which is across the street. Ms. O'Brien presented the  
159 Board with pictures of the 31 Elizabeth Road property.  
160

161 Chairman Nicolaisen stated the Town has been doing everything they can  
162 regarding this property. The Town has contacted legal counsel and all required  
163 notices and postings have been done. Chief Tapley stated he has recently  
164 reposted the property. Chief Tapley told Ms. O'Brien she should contact the  
165 Police Department if she sees anyone on the property. Several Town  
166 departments have been monitoring the site [Health Officer, Building Inspector  
167 and Fire Chief]. Selectman Brown asked if there is a definition for condemned.  
168 Ms. Blaisdell stated the Town has not condemned the property but an Order to  
169 Vacate has been issued. Ms. Blaisdell stated the Town is working on finding a  
170 way to help this individual even though it is not the responsibility of the Town to  
171 fix the property.  
172

173 Selectman Brown asked if the taxes are being paid. Ms. Blaisdell stated she is  
174 current on her taxes. Selectman Brown stated then there is really nothing the  
175 Town can do. An employee of the Police Department who did not identified

176 himself but was acknowledged by the Chairman stated he did a drive by as  
177 instructed and decided to walk the site and spoke to neighbors who said no one  
178 has been there for quite awhile. Chief Tapley stated he has also instructed his  
179 department members to do a drive by as well. Ms. Blaisdell reminded everyone  
180 that this property still belongs to the owner and anyone she authorized to go on  
181 the property legally can be there. Chairman Nicolaisen told Ms. O'Brien that the  
182 Town is doing everything it can to rectify this situation. Ms. Blaisdell tried to  
183 reassure Ms. O'Brien that the Town is doing everything they can to help the  
184 property owner.

185  
186 **New Business**

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188 **Review appointment to Joint Loss Management**  
189 **Committee (JLMC)**

- 190  
191 • Ms. Blaisdell explained to Board members that the JLMC needs a representative  
192 from management on the Committee. Board members reviewed the memo and  
193 minutes from the JLMC who is requesting the appointment of Kirsten Rundquist  
194 Corbett, Library Director whose term will expire in March of 2015. **MOTION:**  
195 Selectmen Brown moved to appoint Kirsten Rundquist Corbett, Library Director  
196 to the JLMC for a term to expire in March of 2015. Selectman Devine seconded.  
197 Motion passed unanimously.

198  
199 **Update and status on closing for 460 Main Street property**

- 200  
201 • Ms. Blaisdell informed the Board there would be no closing tomorrow on the  
202 property at 460 Main Street because the tenant is still in the apartment. Ms.  
203 Blaisdell stated she would like to go into non-public session at the end of the  
204 meeting to discuss this further. Ms. Blaisdell stated the Settlement Statement in  
205 tonight's packet in all probability is where things need to be requiring a check in  
206 the amount of \$417,422.25. Selectman Devine noted that the two lien holders  
207 would be paid first. Ms. Blaisdell stated this would be taken care of at the time of  
208 closing.

209  
210 **Discuss regarding request by Conservation Commission to hold fishing derby**

- 211  
212 • Ms. Blaisdell noted the email from Brianna Butler who is the organizer of the  
213 Fishing Derby this year informing the Board that the Derby will take place at Sal  
214 Genualdo's residence and will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2014 with registration  
215 at 7:00 A.M. and fishing going from 7:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. Consensus of the  
216 Board is they are okay with date.

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**Other**

- Selectman Brown met with the Finance Director before the meeting and she told him there is a new program similar to the direct deposit program for paychecks but for vendors. If the Board is interested she will come to a future meeting. This program would save the cost of checks and mailing. Consensus of the Board is to have the Finance Director come to a future meeting to discuss the details.
- Ms. Blaisdell stated she received a request from the Lion’s Club asking if they could display in the lower hall two plaques presented to them from the Cub Scouts. Consensus of the Board is they are okay with this request.

**Old Business**

- Selectman Brown stated the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement brought to his attention Yoga Matters has purchased a vehicle and it is now lettered for their business and parked as advertising for their business on their front lawn. The Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer would like to know if this is considered a sign. Ms. Blaisdell stated that the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer can call NH Municipal Association and ask about this as a legal question.

**Correspondence**

- Letter from Pennichuck Corporation informing the Town of their Annual Meeting of Sole Shareholder on Saturday, May 10, 2014 at 10:00 A.M. at the Courtyard Marriott in Nashua, NH. Anyone interested in attending can go to the Pennichuck web site.
- Letter from the HealthTrust [aka Local Government Center] letting the Town know they will be sending towns the money owed from the former Property-Liability Trust after June 30, 2014 pending the approval of our regulator, the Bureau of Securities Regulation.
- Letter from legal counsel on a pending court case. No action is needed at this time.

**Department Liaison Report**

- Selectman Devine met with fire officials.
- Selectman Brown has a Planning Board meeting tomorrow night.
- Selectwoman Bucu gave an update on the Highway Departments activities.



- 264 • Chairman Nicolaisen stated the Recreation Commission would be meeting on  
265 Wednesday night.

266  
267 **MOTION:** Selectman Brown moved to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91A:3 II (d)  
268 Property. Selectman Treanor seconded. Roll call – Devine – aye, Bucu – aye,  
269 Nicolaisen – aye, Brown – aye and Treanor – aye. Motion passed unanimously.

270  
271 **MOTION:** Selectman Brown moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Chairman  
272 Nicolaisen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

273  
274 Chairman Nicolaisen announced that while in Non-Public Session the Board voted to  
275 seal the minutes until the closing and the Board agreed to extend the closing on the  
276 Main Street property.

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278 Chairman Nicolaisen adjourned the meeting at 10:15 P.M.

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280  
281 Respectfully Submitted,

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283  
284 Cynthia J. Robinson  
285 Recording Secretary