

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

5 Meeting Date: Monday, July 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: Terry Treanor (Treanor), Stephen Brown (Brown), 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 7:03 P.M.
16

17 Pledge of Allegiance
18

19 **Review of minutes of previous meetings**
20

- 21 • Board members reviewed the minutes of June 30, 2014. **MOTION:** Selectman Brown
22 moved to accept the minutes of June 30, 2014 as written. Selectman Treanor seconded.
23 Four ayes [Buco, Nicolaisen, Brown and Treanor] and one abstention [Devine]. Motion
24 passed.
25

26 Board members reviewed the non-public minutes of June 30, 2014. **MOTION:**
27 Selectman Brown moved to accept the non-public minutes of June 30, 2014 as written.
28 Selectwoman Buco seconded. Four ayes [Buco, Nicolaisen, Brown and Treanor] and
29 one abstention [Devine]. Motion passed.
30

31 **Public Comment**
32

- 33 • Ms. Blaisdell stated the Old Home Day Committee asked her to announce that the
34 nomination period for Citizen of the Year is now open until July 18, 2014. Nominations
35 can be dropped of at the Town Hall, Library and Bruchetti's.
36

37 **Michelle Short, Town Clerk/Tax Collector**

38 **Discussion regarding Deed and Lien Notices and Dog Civil forfeitures**
39

- 40 • Michelle Short spoke to the Board about the process for dog licensing which was to have
41 been done by April 30, 2014. There were approximately 238 calls made to individuals
42 who had not registered their dogs. The ones they could not reach were sent letters. At
43 this time there are 108 people who have not registered their dogs. Ms. Short stated the
44 next step is giving the list to the Police Department and fines are sent out.
45

46 Ms. Short stated that Monday, July 21, 2014 is the lien and deeding date. The deeding
47 is for the 2011 unpaid taxes. Ms. Short provided the Board with a list of those properties
48 that fall into this category. Ms. Short stated that some of the owners of these properties
49 have contacted the Selectmen's Office to make payment arrangements or to request an
50 extension. Ms. Short amended this list as of today because payments were made. Ms.
51 Short explained the process she has gone through for notifying the property owners.
52 Ms. Short asked the Board how they want her to handle the next step. Board members
53 felt Ms. Short has to do what ever needs to be done before this date. Ms. Blaisdell
54 stated that in the past she has placed one more call to the property owners to see if
55 there are any extenuating circumstances that they may have. Ms. Short stated they do
56 have until next Monday to make a payment. Consensus of the Board is for Ms. Blaisdell
57 to make the call and Ms. Short will provide the Board with a final list at their July 28,
58 2014 meeting.

59
60 Ms. Short stated the liens for 2013 unpaid taxes would go to lien on July 21, 2014. Ms.
61 Short stated that last year what actually went to lien was \$181,000.00 and right now they
62 are at \$182,00.00 unpaid taxes. Ms. Short stated that going to lien will change the
63 interest rate. Ms. Blaisdell reminded the Board they usually do a site walk before
64 making a final decision on deeding any property.

65
66 **Sandown Representatives to the Timberlane Regional School District**
67 **Monthly Update**
68

- 69 • Present for this discussion were: Donna Green, School Board and Arthur Green and
70 Cathy Gorman, School Budget Committee. Donna Green is before the Board speaking
71 on her own behalf though in her capacity as a School Board member but not speaking
72 for the School Board. Arthur Green is here in his capacity as one of Sandown's
73 representatives on the School Budget Committee although not speaking on behalf of the
74 Budget Committee. Cathy Gorman is also a School Budget Committee member and
75 here on her own behalf.

76
77 Ms. Green recapped that Mr. Green alerted the Town about the risk to taxpayers should
78 the school district spend the anticipated surplus noting the bad news is they dipped into
79 the surplus but not by much. The School Board voted to spend \$161,000.00 and to put
80 any surplus over \$1.9 million dollars of the budgeted projected surplus into a surplus
81 retention fund. The School Board also voted against getting bids on the work totaling
82 \$161,000.00 so that the money could be committed by June 30, 2014. Ms. Green voted
83 against spending the surplus and waiving the bidding process because she saw this as a
84 last minute grab at money for a project that should have been planned for.

85
86 Ms. Green stated she has not been permitted to read a lawyer's letter on an issue she
87 raised about receiving more than 1.2 million dollars of insurance premium refunds all the
88 while other Board members have seen this letter. Ms. Green feels this is discrimination
89 against a dissenting Board member. Ms. Green is asking the Board as representatives
90 for Sandown residents to stand up to this outrageous behavior.

91
92 Ms Green made Board members aware of the fact that the School District pays dues to
93 the New England School Development Council (NESDC). The School District received

94 a letter from NESDC regarding tenure enrollment forecast in February 2014. Ms. Green
95 requested this letter in June. This letter was placed on the School Board's private web
96 page. Ms. Green feels this information should be made public because there needs to
97 be more financial transparency.
98

99 A special meeting of the School Board has been called for Wednesday on the issues
100 Ms. Green has been talking about here and on her blog. Ms. Green wishes to go into the
101 meeting on Wednesday with the support of the Board of Selectmen and has asked them
102 to sign a letter, which she drafted. Ms. Green read the letter addressed to Mrs.
103 Steenson and Dr. Metzler. Ms. Green feels if the Board doesn't sign this letter tonight it
104 will be telling Dr. Metzler and Mrs. Steenson that they can isolate, marginalize and
105 ignore Sandown's elected representatives without consequence and it will be telling
106 Sandown residents that the Town's needs will always come in second to the School
107 District's needs.
108

109 Mr. Green stated that at the Wednesday School Board meeting he will speak during
110 Public Comment and call upon the School Board to institute by vote of the Board a
111 spending cap on 2014-15 expenditures directed toward the preservation of the 2 million
112 dollar surplus to be turned into the 2015-16 year. Mr. Green wants the School Board to
113 know the Board of Selectmen is supporting them so that the Board gives their opinions
114 weight.
115

116 Ms. Gorman stated she is looking at this matter as a Town Budget Committee member
117 as well as a School Budget Committee member. Ms. Gorman stated last year the Town
118 departments worked hard at bringing in reasonable budgets and they were voted down.
119 Ms. Gorman feels this happen because of the School Board's budget. Ms. Gorman
120 supports Ms. Green reviewing the letter from the lawyer and she also feels the public
121 should be made aware of the content of the letter. Ms. Gorman stated that RSA 198:20-
122 b clearly states there should have been a public hearing to accept the funds. It is Ms.
123 Gorman's understanding none of this has been done.
124

125 Selectwoman Bucu will attend the Wednesday meeting of the School Board because
126 she wants to understand why this information isn't being provided when requested and
127 she supports asking them to do what is required of them. Selectman Brown finds it hard
128 to believe that eight other members of the School Board were allowed to read a letter
129 that Ms. Green was not allowed to read. Ms. Green stated she only knows at least three
130 members of the School Board have read the letter. Selectman Brown stated he finds it
131 hard to believe the Board of Selectmen are getting ready to sign a letter written by
132 someone other than this Board without having heard both sides of the story. Ms.
133 Gorman understands the hesitation adding she feels the public has to start paying
134 attention to what is going on because information is not being given out. Selectman
135 Devine would like to read the audit report. Ms. Green stated the Audit Report was
136 supposed to be completed in January but has not been released yet. Chairman
137 Nicolaisen asked Ms. Green how she knows other School Board members have read
138 the letter. Ms. Green stated because the School Board Chairman told her Dr. Metzler
139 distributes information to the Chairman and Vice Chairman and another Board member
140 commented about the letter after seeing something on Ms. Green blog about the legal
141 opinion.

142 Selectman Treanor feels the Selectmen should support these people and sign the letter.
143 Chairman Nicolaisen suggests Board members attend the Wednesday meeting and ask
144 questions. Ms. Gorman encourages Board members to attend the Wednesday School
145 Board meeting. There was Board discussion about whether to attend the Wednesday
146 meeting and not sign the letter or sign the letter. Selectwomen Bucu and Devine support
147 signing the letter. Selectman Brown stated he will not sign the letter and wants his name
148 removed. **MOTION:** Selectman Bucu moved to accept this letter to be signed by the
149 Board of Selectmen excluding Selectman Steve Brown's. Selectman Devine seconded.
150 Three ayes [Treanor, Bucu and Devine] and two nays [Brown and Nicolaisen]. Motion
151 passed. Ms. Blaisdell presented the Board with the letter for signature with Selectman
152 Brown's name removed.
153

154
155 **Jared Magoon, Eagle Scout**
156 **Submission of final plan for sign at Town Hall as part of Eagle Scout project**
157

- 158 • Jared Magoon is here to present to the Board the final rendering of the sign he is
159 working on for the Town Hall as an Eagle Scout project. Mr. Magoon stated his fund
160 raising is going well and he will be receiving a donation from the Lion's Club. Mr.
161 Magoon stated the Welcome to Sandown portion of the sign has been ordered and the
162 bottom message board will be double sided with four lines. Mr. Magoon's plans are to
163 finish the project this fall. Ms. Blaisdell asked if the sign would be lit. Mr. Magoon stated
164 it will be but he doesn't have a definitive plan for lighting at this time.
165

166 **Cable TV Advisory Board**
167 **Presentation of proposed final draft of Comcast Agreement**

- 168 • Present for this discussion were: Sue Godin, Chairman of the Cable Advisory Board and
169 Richard Lewis member. Ms. Godin stated they have finalized the Comcast Agreement.
170 Chairman Nicolaisen asked Board members if they had a chance to review the
171 Agreement. There was discussion about the final changes. Selectman Devine asked if
172 the Town received the second station. Ms. Godin stated the Town did if it is needed.
173 Selectwoman Bucu asked if this Agreement was made after legal review. Mr. Lewis
174 stated yes. Ms. Blaisdell stated she has a redline copy of the changes. Everyone
175 thanked Gordon Champion for the outstanding work he put into this Agreement and the
176 cooperation of the Comcast representative, Brian Christianson. Board members will
177 review the changes.
178

179 The Board briefly discussed the telephony service offered by Comcast. Ms. Blaisdell
180 stated that the Board of Selectmen must send a letter to Comcast asking them to petition
181 a request to provide telephony service to Sandown. Selectman Devine recapped the
182 history of telephone service in Sandown. Consensus of the Board is to send the letter to
183 Comcast.
184

185 **Arthur Genualdo, Public Works Director and Keach Nordstrum & Assoc.**
186 **Discussion and possible awarding of bid for Wells Village Road culverts**
187

- 188 • Ms. Blaisdell stated the Town received six (6) bids for the culvers on Wells Village Road
189 all of which were very close. The Town's engineer has not reviewed the bids. Ms.

190 Blaisdell stated the issue at this time is the time frame in which the contractors can get
191 the job done because of the one year grant extension from FEMA. The contractors need
192 to be contacted and asked if they can met the deadline. Ms. Blaisdell stated she will
193 bring this back to the Board at their July 28, 2014 meeting after review by the Town's
194 engineer. Ms. Blaisdell noted that the quotes do not include engineering costs.
195

196 **New Business**

197
198 **Review of proposed contract for Road Map printing**

- 199
- 200 • Ed Mencis provided Ms. Blaisdell with a road map and guide to local businesses that he
201 saw in Chester. Ms. Blaisdell contacted the company representative to obtain
202 information about the map and guide. Ms. Blaisdell explained to the Board how the
203 service works including the fact that there is no cost to the Town. The representative
204 came to Sandown and feels based on the businesses in Town they would be interested
205 in taking on Sandown. Board members reviewed the contract. Consensus of the Board
206 is they are okay with this project. Ms. Blaisdell will put the contract in the signature file
207 for members to sign.
208

209 **Discussion regarding budget schedule for 2015 Operating Budget**

- 210
- 211 • Ms. Blaisdell stated the Budget Committee wants to take on more budgets at their
212 meetings and she explained the potential impact this could have on the Board of
213 Selectmen's agenda. Board members discussed other days they would be available to
214 meet. Ms. Blaisdell will work on possible options that might be available.
215

216 **Discuss employee evaluations**

- 217
- 218 • Chairman Nicolaisen stated he informed the Board he would not be doing the employee
219 evaluation on Ms. Blaisdell because of the family relationship he has with her and her
220 family. The Board discussed how they have handled evaluations in the past.
221 Consensus of the Board was they would come in on off Mondays to do the evaluations.
222 Ms. Blaisdell asked the Board if they want Bob Bogosh to do the evaluation on the other
223 inspectors where last year he was made the department head. Consensus of the Board
224 was he should do the evaluations.
225

226 **Other**

- 227
- 228 • Board members considered the possible acquisition of a Mercedes Benz Army surplus
229 truck. The vehicle would be of no cost to the Town. The truck has 267 miles on it.
230 There was discussion about what it could be used for and how they would get it to
231 Sandown. Ms. Blaisdell pointed out that the Police Department must take possession of
232 the vehicle and maintain ownership for one year. Following discussion it was the
233 consensus of the Board they were not interested in the vehicle.
234

235 **Old Business**

- 236
- 237 • There was no old business.

238 **Correspondence**

239

240 • Agenda from the Southeastern NH Hazardous Materials Mutual Aid District regarding
241 their Annual Meeting, which was held on June 24, 2014.

242

243 • Progress Report from Dragon Mosquito. In response to Selectman Devine's question a
244 couple weeks ago about whether Dragon Mosquito was monitoring and treating a cedar
245 swamp area at the corner of Hampstead Road and Little Mill Road they stated they are
246 taking care of that area.

247

248 • Application from the Regional Economic Development Center for an economic
249 development leader in this region to attend the Economic Development Academy.

250

251 • Ms. Blaisdell received an email from Heather Humby a Town Councilor for Sandown,
252 Isle of Wight (England) requesting information on the Town of Sandown, NH. Ms.
253 Humby is interested in establishing some form of liaison with their fellow Sandonians in
254 the USA. Consensus of the Board is they are in support of establishing a link between
255 the two towns. Selectman Devine stated he believes the fire service has provided them
256 with items as well.

257

258 **Department Liaison Report**

259

260 • Selectman Treanor stated he recommends the second price for the shed. Chairman
261 Nicolaisen stated this would be the decision of the Recreation Commission.

262

263 • Chairman Nicolaisen stated the Summer Recreation Program is going well. They lost
264 two new tents and he suggested maybe it is time to consider putting up a pavilion.

265

266 • Selectman Devine stated the memorial in front of the fire station is near completion and
267 he thanked all the volunteers who helped with the project.

268

269 Selectman Devine went over the history of the mutual aid program.

270

271 • Chairman Nicolaisen noted how well the Depot looks adding it is now open on
272 weekends.

273

274 **Non-Public discussion under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation x 2 and (e) Litigation**

275

276 • **MOTION:** Selectman Brown moved to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91A:3 II (c)
277 Reputation x 3 and no litigation. Selectwoman Bucu seconded. Roll call: Devine – aye,
278 Bucu – aye, Nicolaisen – aye, Brown – aye and Treanor – aye. Motion passed
279 unanimously.

280

281 **MOTION:** Selectman Brown moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman
282 Devine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

283

284 Chairman Nicolaisen announced that while in non-public session the Board voted to seal
285 the non-public minutes and one discussion will be sealed until the matter is resolved.

July 14, 2014

286
287 Chairman Nicolaisen adjourned the meeting at 9:40 P.M.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia J. Robinson
Recording Secretary