

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

5 Meeting Date: Monday, August 11, 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), Hans Nicolaisen (Nicolaisen), Cindy
10 Buco (Buco), James Devine (Devine), Lynne Blaisdell, Town Administrator and Cynthia
11 J. Robinson, Recording Secretary

12 Absent:

13 Late to arrive: Terry Treanor (Treanor) – 7:10 P.M.

14 Departed Meeting:

15 Call to Order: Chairman Nicolaisen called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
16

17 Pledge of Allegiance
18

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

- 21 • Board members reviewed the minutes of July 28, 2014. **MOTION:** Selectman Brown
22 moved to accept the minutes of July 28, 2014 as written. Selectman Devine seconded.
23 Motion passed unanimously.
24

25 Board members reviewed the non-public minutes of July 28, 2014. Selectman Brown
26 noted in line 46 the word “will” should be “willing”. **MOTION:** Selectman Brown moved
27 to accept the non-public minutes of July 28, 2014 as amended. Selectwoman Buco
28 seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
29

30 **Public Comment**
31

- 32 • Ms. Blaisdell announced the passing of Joanne Vey a former Supervisor of the Checklist
33 in Sandown. Chairman Nicolaisen asked for a moment of silence. Ms. Blaisdell also
34 announced the passing of Rita Fardella who was also a Sandown resident.
35
- 36 • Arthur Green stated it has come to his attention that there is a rumor going around that
37 Donna Green wanted the legal letter she requested in electronic format. Mr. Green
38 provided the Board with the email between Ms. Green and the Chairman of the School
39 Board, which demonstrates that was clearly not the case. Mr. Green stated the email is
40 posted on Ms. Green’s blog.
41
- 42 • Chairman Nicolaisen thanked everyone who helped make this past weekend’s Old
43 Home Day Celebration a big success.
44
- 45 • Ms. Blaisdell stated that an expensive key was found during the Old Home Day
46 Celebration. It is in the Selectmen’s Office if anyone has lost it. Also a purple cell phone

47 was lost at the site of the fireworks. If found please bring it to the Selectmen's Office
48 and they will return it to the owner.

- 49
- 50 • Toni Piemonte started talking about the lost key and Ms. Blaisdell informed him she had
51 just announced it.

52
53 Selectman Treanor joined the meeting at this time.

54
55 **Joe Lessard and Scott Marsh, Municipal Resources, Inc.**
56 **Discussion regarding abatement for Mill Pine Village**
57

- 58 • Present for this discussion was Scott Marsh. Mr. Marsh sent the Board of Selectmen a
59 memo regarding the Mill Pine Village abatement applications. Mr. Scott recapped the
60 information in his memo regarding the limited market data available at the time of the
61 revaluation and his more recent review. Mr. Scott stated it is up to the Board to decide if
62 there should be an abatement for last year but it is his opinion that an adjustment is
63 appropriate to bring the assessment to be more equitable with other properties in Town.

64
65 Selectman Devine questioned the process used to determine the assessed value. Mr.
66 Scott explained the revaluation process done a few years ago. Mr. Scott stated that
67 more recently there has been more sales and he has spoken to other brokers and
68 agents who felt a reduction would be appropriate. Mr. Scott does have an analysis
69 regarding the total number of sales but he does not have it with him tonight. Mr. Scott
70 explained the adjustment factor when assessing.

71
72 Chairman Nicolaisen asked Mr. Scott why it wasn't possible to talk to agents and brokers
73 when this first came up. Mr. Scott stated they would have if these individuals had taken
74 part in the hearing process but they came in after the fact so they had to file for an
75 abatement. There was discussion about how the tax rate is set.

76
77 Chairman Nicolaisen began the discussion about where the money would come from if
78 the abatements were granted. Mr. Marsh reiterated his opinion about changing the
79 assessment on all the properties at Mill Pine Village for this year. Board members
80 discussed the pros and cons of granting or not granting the abatements. Ms. Blaisdell
81 stated that if the Board doesn't grant the abatements these individuals have the right to
82 appeal the decision to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals or Superior Court. Chairman
83 Nicolaisen asked Mr. Scott how he feels the Town would fair on an appeal for the 2013
84 numbers. Mr. Scott stated not very well. Selectman Brown asked if the abatements are
85 granted does the money come out of this year's budget. Ms. Blaisdell stated it comes
86 out of the overlay. The Board talked about the costs associated with going to court.
87 Selectman Brown supports granting the abatements. Selectwoman Buco asked if this
88 would set a precedent. Mr. Scott stated no. Ms. Blaisdell stated the refund would
89 include interest. It was the consensus of the Board to grant the abatements for 2013
90 and change the assessed value for 2014 for Mill Pine Village. Board members will sign
91 the forms that are in the office. Mr. Scott will have decision letters sent out on Thursday
92 informing residents of the appeal time.

93
94

95 **New Business**

96
97 **Acceptance of Donation for SSATP**
98

- 99 • Chairman Nicolaisen stated there is a \$100.00 donation from a Sandown resident for the
100 Sandown Senior Affairs Transportation Committee. **MOTION:** Selectman Brown moved
101 to accept the \$100.00 donation to be deposited in the Sandown Senior Affairs
102 Transportation Fund Account. Selectwoman Bucu seconded. Motion passed
103 unanimously.

104
105 **Acceptance of Donations for Old Home Day**
106

- 107 • Chairman Nicolaisen stated there is a list of donations for the Old Home Day
108 Celebration. **MOTION:** Selectman Brown moved to accept the list of donations as
109 documented and attached to these minutes. Selectwoman Bucu seconded. Motion
110 passed unanimously. Chairman Nicolaisen and Selectman Brown read the list of
111 donations.

112
113 **Old Business**
114

115 **Follow up discussion regarding monthly updates from School Board**
116

- 117 • Chairman Nicolaisen recapped the last meeting where he was going to get information
118 together to send to Local Government Center regarding the School Board members
119 monthly meeting with the Board. Ms. Blaisdell had stated she did not feel LGC was the
120 place to send the questions they should be sent to the Town's legal counsel since they
121 would be the one defending the Town should there be litigation. Chairman Nicolaisen is
122 bringing this back to the Board to see if they want legal counsel to review the questions.
123 Ms. Blaisdell asked the Board what specifically do they want to ask legal counsel or
124 perhaps she could attend a meeting with the Board. Selectman Brown asked if the
125 meeting with legal counsel would be public. Ms. Blaisdell stated a meeting with legal
126 counsel is considered a non-meeting.

127
128 Selectman Brown stated he would like to know from legal counsel if this Board is
129 required legally to have a continual agenda item that has the School Board and Budget
130 Committee members come and report what they are not happy with at the School Board
131 and Budget Committee meetings. Chairman Nicolaisen concurred. Selectwoman Bucu
132 stated she feels it isn't so much a legal question as it is the fact the Board voted to allow
133 them to speak. Chairman Nicolaisen stated these members are only speaking about
134 how badly they are treated not about what is going on at the school. Chairman
135 Nicolaisen stated he is bringing it up now because he wants to undo the vote.

136
137 Selectman Brown stated when these individuals first came before the Board they wanted
138 to report on the activities on the School Board and Budget Committee and that is not
139 what it turned out to be. Consensus of the Board is to ask legal counsel the question.
140
141
142

Other

- Selectwoman Bucu stated she wanted to make it clear that she went to Mr. DuLong's manager she did not by pass the process.

Correspondence

- Granite State Telephone is hosting their annual Open House in Chester on Saturday, September 13, 2014 and is looking for nominations for their 2014 Hometown Hero Award. If anyone has a suggestion please let Ms. Blaisdell know.
- Letter from NH Department of Transportation regarding the Highway Block Grant Aid for Fiscal Year 2015 in the amount of \$140,162.52. This is an estimate.
- Letter from Teamsters Union regarding the expiration of the Agreement between the Sandown Police Department and Teamsters Union on March 31, 2015. Collective bargaining has started.

Department Liaison Report

- Selectman Devine stated the memorial in front of the fire station is complete and the Conservation Commission did not meet.
- Selectman Brown noted that the chicken dinner was a sell out.
- Chairman Nicolaisen noted the beach was closed due to bacteria growth but is open now.

The skateboard park has been vandalized again and the Board voted to dismantle it and it is now closed.

Chairman Nicolaisen stated this meeting will be adjourning and the Board will be going into a non-meeting to discuss union negotiations.

Ms. Blaisdell stated the Board might have to meet next Monday due to the Budget schedule.

Chairman Nicolaisen adjourned the meeting at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia J. Robinson
Recording Secretary