

1 DRAFT

2 BOARD OF SELECTMEN

3 TOWN OF SANDOWN, NH

4 SANDOWN, NH 03873

5
6 **Meeting Date: September 21, 2015**

7 **Type of Meeting: Regular Meeting**

8 **Method of Notification: Public Posting at Town Hall**

9 **Meeting Location: Town Hall**

10
11 Selectman Devine called the meeting to order at 7pm.

12
13 **Members Present:** Selectman Devine, Selectman Treanor, Selectman
14 Goldman, Selectwoman Bucu and Selectman Tombarello.

15 Town Administrator: Lynne Blaidsell

16 **Recording Secretary:** Sue Reynolds

17
18 Pledge of Allegiance was done.

19
20 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

21 Arthur Greene, resident of Sandown spoke and said he is here as a citizen who
22 has been volunteering for the now disbanded Withdrawal Committee from
23 TRSD. He said that he is not a member of the Committee and never was, but
24 he is actively volunteering as a citizen of the Town to help the Committee with
25 its work. He said that he disagrees with the BOS disbanding the Minority
26 Committee as 700 voters voted in favor of the warrant article in the March
27 election just because of a petition with 200 signatures and 40 residents
28 coming to a meeting. He feels the BOS tried to appease a threat from the
29 School District with moving forward to the BOE with a hostile, harmful
30 withdrawal plan. He said the following evening the Majority Committee met
31 and went ahead with preparing a withdrawal plan and also acknowledging

32 that the withdrawal would not be feasible nor suitable, but decided to go
33 ahead to prepare a withdrawal plan to be harmful to the town in question.
34 Arthur continued to say that at the School Board meeting that Thursday
35 evening there was an unannounced motion passed by the School Board that
36 stated that if the withdrawal plan was accepted then TRSD would entertain
37 the idea of Sandown tuitioning their students back into the School District but
38 only with the Middle School and High School together. He feels this is an
39 unacceptable plan which is why he feels the BOS made the mistake of
40 disbanding the Minority Committee. He stated that Selectwoman Bucu took a
41 beating at the Majority Committee meeting for not having material ready that
42 she was expected to provide. Arthur said that he has put in a numerous
43 amount of hours helping the Minority Committee determine a better place for
44 Sandown and does not want his hard work to be placed in the service of a
45 hostile malicious adverse withdrawal plan that is intended to harm our Town.
46

47 Bruce Cleveland, a resident of the Town read the BOS a letter stating that he is
48 disappointed in the way a non-agenda item was handled. Bruce feels that the
49 BOS may have overlooked the spirit of our Democratic process in being an
50 equal voice for everyone. He feels that just because a non-agenda item is
51 brought up during public comment it should not have been voted on at the
52 same meeting. He feels like it should have been discussed but then postponed
53 to the next meeting giving those at home a chance to come to the next meeting
54 to voice their opinion. He said this will give all members of the public a
55 change to come and voice their opinion, it will allow the BOS members time to
56 do any necessary research or get public input prior to a vote and it encourages
57 the agenda system and allows the BOS to have more informed discussion by
58 having some idea of what topics are coming their way.
59

60 Selectman Tombarello said that he has already spoken to a few members of
61 the BOS this week and feels that they shouldn't have acted the way they did
62 last week. He said he had no idea what was going on until he arrived at the
63 meeting. He said that he agrees with Bruce and feels that everyone should
64 have an equal vote and hopes that this Board and future Boards don't do the
65 same thing that was done at last week's meeting. He said he felt badly that
66 department heads had to wait a long time as well.
67

68 Jon Goldman said that on the May 18th meeting when the BOS established the
69 Minority Committee, the only thing on the agenda that evening was pertaining

70 to the Majority Committee update. He stated that does agree with Tom but
71 feels like this was something that needed to be taken care of quickly and
72 moving forward he is ok with items being placed on the agenda for discussion
73 at a future meeting.

74
75 Selectwoman Buco said the topic of establishing the Minority Committee came
76 up under old business because the BOS had asked her several times about this
77 and it was finally voted on during the May 18th meeting because additional
78 information was required. She also said she isn't sure what was put to bed
79 because at the Majority Committee meeting no one requested them to deem
80 the withdrawal not feasible or not suitable. She said they are planning on
81 writing a withdrawal plan for Sandown. Selectman Goldman said the BOS
82 established a Minority Committee that was legally only to write a withdrawal
83 report and minority report should only come from the minority of the
84 Majority Committee and his goal by making the motion to disband the
85 Minority Committee was to undo a motion that they shouldn't have voted on
86 in the first place. Selectwoman Buco said she was the minority of that
87 Committee and it was not expected that only 1 member would take on such a
88 daunting task to write the entire report themselves. She said that having the
89 Committee was to have the support needed to provide all of the information
90 needed to find out if it is feasible or suitable.

91
92 Cathy Gorman, resident of the Town said she was very upset about the vote
93 that was taken last week and said that during the Majority Committee meeting
94 John Sherman, a Plaistow BOS member said the Committee needed to petition
95 the BOS in Sandown to commit to not submitting a Minority Report at all and
96 they didn't go far enough. She also stated the BOS and any governing body has
97 the right to form any committee they want. She said there doesn't need to be
98 an RSA giving that permission so to say that you didn't have the authority to
99 form a committee to look at the withdrawal in case a minority report needed
100 to be submit is absolutely ludicrous.

101
102 **Conservation Commission budget 4619**

103 Paul Carey is presenting this budget. Paul said this is a reduction of about 5%.
104 Selectman Devine asked about the Dues line being increased and Paul said
105 they belong to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and this
106 continues to go up each year. He said they attend the events that are held and
107 it is important to be a part of it.

108 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to recommend the Conservation
109 Commission budget to the Budget Committee with Gross Expenses of
110 \$9,370.00, Revenue of \$240.00 and Net Expenses of \$9,130.00.
111 **Seconded by** Selectwoman Buco.
112 **In Favor,** Selectman Devine, Selectman Tombarello, Selectman Goldman,
113 Selectman Treanor and Selectwoman Buco.
114 **Motion passes unanimously.**

115
116 **Tax Collector budget 4150-07**

117 This budget is being presented by Michelle Short
118 Michelle said there is an increase in the Tax Lien Expenses as it is hard to
119 estimate how many parcels go to lien.

120 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to recommend the Tax Collector budget to
121 the Budget Committee with Gross Expenses of \$61,131.00, Revenue of
122 -\$14,434,952.00, and Net Expenses of -\$14,373,821.00.

123 **Seconded by** Selectwoman Buco.

124 **In Favor,** Selectman Devine, Selectman Tombarello, Selectman Goldman,
125 Selectman Treanor and Selectwoman Buco.

126 **Motion passes unanimously.**

127
128
129 **Town Clerk budget 4140-02**

130 This budget is being presented by Michelle Short
131 Michelle said this budget is pretty much the same as last year. Lynne Blaisdell
132 reminded the BOS that there are no payroll increases in the budgets being
133 presented so they will need to be revisited after the BOS discuss this. Michelle
134 said she completed the reviews and put in a 2% increase for all employees and
135 Selectman Goldman said that the Deputy Clerk Payroll line is increased by
136 2.98%. Michelle said the Municipal Clerk Payroll line is only at .80% and she
137 didn't receive a copy from the Finance Director. The BOS decided to table this
138 budget until next week.

139
140 **Treasurer budget 4150-08**

141 Lynne said Eric Olsen will not be here tonight as this is a stipend budget.
142 There was no discussion on this budget.

143 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to recommend this budget to the Budget
144 Committee with Gross Expenses of \$3,969.00, Revenue of \$0.00 and Net
145 Expenses of \$3,969.00.

146 **Seconded by** Selectwoman Buco.
147 **In Favor**, Selectman Devine, Selectman Tombarello, Selectman Goldman,
148 Selectman Treanor and Selectwoman Buco.
149 **Motion passes unanimously.**

150
151 **Trustees of the Trust Funds budget 4199**
152 This budget is being presented by Carroll Bassett.
153 Carroll said this budget is the same as last year. There was no discussion on
154 this budget.

155 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to recommend the Trustees of the Trust
156 Fund account to the Budget Committee with Gross Expenses of \$450.00,
157 Revenue of \$0.00 and Net Expenses of \$450.00.

158 **Seconded by** Selectwoman Buco.
159 **In Favor**, Selectman Devine, Selectman Tombarello, Selectman Goldman,
160 Selectman Treanor and Selectwoman Buco.
161 **Motion passes unanimously.**

162
163 **Cemetery budget 4195**
164 This budget is being presented by Carroll Bassett.
165 Carroll said he increased the Supply line by \$400.00 to purchase fertilizer in
166 hope to get the grass to grow again.
167 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to recommend the Cemetery budget to the
168 Budget Committee with Gross Expenses of \$3,801.00, Revenue of \$0.00 and
169 Net Expenses of \$3,801.00.

170 **Seconded by** Selectwoman Buco.
171 **In Favor**, Selectman Devine, Selectman Tombarello, Selectman Goldman,
172 Selectman Treanor and Selectwoman Buco.
173 **Motion passes unanimously.**

174
175
176 **NEW BUSINESS**
177 **Decide on dates for Annual Town Meeting**
178 Lynne refers to the notice received by NHMA and stated Tuesday, January 12,
179 2016 is the last day for voters to petition the BOS for an article on the ballot.
180 Lynne is asking the BOS to decide on a date for Town Meeting and the first day
181 it can be held in Saturday, January 30, 2016 and the last date is Saturday,
182 February 6th. The consensus of the BOS is to have the Annual Town Meeting
183 on Saturday, January 30, 2016. Lynne said the first day to declare candidacy is

184 Wednesday, January 20, 2016 through January 29, 2016. The Annual Town
185 Election is set for Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

186

187

188 **OLD BUSINESS**

189 **Further discussion regarding propane bids for 2015-2016 season.**

190 Lynne said she checked with Palmer and Rhymes in regards a charge of
191 removing the propane tanks and they both said there would be no charge.

192 Lynne also said Rhymes provided a valid through date of September 11, 2015
193 and she wanted to be sure they would still honor the rate they quoted but now
194 it has increased to 147.9 and they will honor it until September 22, 2015. She
195 said Palmer Gas is at 156 and Hartman is at 164. Selectman Tombarello asked
196 Lynne how Hartman has been in the past and Lynne said they have been great.
197 Selectman Tombarello said for the small difference he feels the town should
198 stay with Hartman.

199 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to accept the bid from Hartman Propane.

200 **Seconded by** Selectwoman Buco.

201 **In Favor,** Selectman Devine, Selectman Tombarello, Selectman Goldman,
202 Selectman Treanor and Selectwoman Buco.

203 **Motion passes unanimously.**

204

205 **Update on pending tax deeded properties.**

206 Lynne said one of the properties has been making payments as they said they
207 would and the other may be in later this evening to talk to the Board.

208

209 **Further discussion regarding employee salary increases for 2016**

210 Lynne said she has department heads and the Budget Committee asking about
211 the increases for 2016. Lynne referred to the spreadsheet in the packet in
212 regards to the total increased amount from a 1% increase to a 5% increase.

213 She said this includes all costs associated with payroll. Selectman Goldman
214 asked how this is determined and Lynne said over the last few years the BOS
215 have done an "up to" 2% increase, which is discretionary to the department
216 heads. Selectman Tombarello said the Town has great employees and is in
217 favor of an "up to" 2% increase. Selectman Goldman said he is going to be
218 very vocal when it comes to the health care plan and salary increases may
219 have a bearing on this as well. He would feel comfortable with giving a 3-4%
220 increase. Lynne said she received an email from the insurance rep and if the
221 Town stays with the same plan the increase will be 12% so she is in the

222 process of looking into other options. Selectwoman Bucu asked what the
223 employee pays for their contribution and Lynne said today it is 15% and last
224 year it was 10%, but the health reimbursement amount was increased from
225 \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00. Selectwoman Bucu feels that 2% is too low and is in
226 favor of the 3-4% increase. Selectman Goldman asked if the BOS can see a
227 matrix of the cost because he doesn't want the employees to go backwards.
228 Selectwoman Bucu feels the department heads should have the say as to how
229 much an employee receives between 2-5%. Selectman Goldman referred to
230 an employee that had to pay \$2,000.00 out of pocket for an MRI for a back
231 injury. Selectman Tombarello said the employees are contributing 15% now
232 and the BOS can reduce the contribution to 12% but he can't support a raise of
233 5%. He said the most he could support would be 2-3%. Lynne said there are
234 better plans out there but they don't have the number of employees needed to
235 be eligible for them. She said she is looking into Health Trust Plans which is a
236 big pool of people. This discussion was tabled until a future meeting.
237 Lynne asked the BOS to allow her to ask a representative from a Health Trust
238 Plan to come before the BOS and possibly employees and they agreed. Lynne
239 said the amounts the Board is looking at is wages only, no health insurance
240 benefits.

241

242 **Close out process for the Police Station**

243 Lynne said as part of the close out process of the police station one last
244 payment of about \$38,000.00 is due. They are required to give the BOS a
245 release of liens and Lynne will hand the paperwork to the BOS for review. She
246 said she went over this with the Chief today and he was okay with it. She said
247 there is an outstanding claim in regards to an injury but that has nothing to do
248 with the releases being presented tonight. Selectman Goldman asked if by
249 signing these forms does it release them of the liability and Lynne said no as it
250 was filed through their insurance company. The BOS will look at the
251 paperwork and authorize Selectman Devine to sign it. Lynne said the final
252 figure for the police station is about \$20,000.00 over budget, which is what we
253 expected. She explained the change orders and what they entailed. Lynne
254 said the \$20,000.00 will need to come from somewhere in the General Fund
255 and she was told by the Finance Director that there is money in the Benefits
256 account. She also said that Chief Gordon will be coming before the BOS soon
257 in regards to encumbering \$3,000.00 from this year's budget into next years
258 for the paving of the parking lot at the police station as this needs to be done
259 in warmer weather.

260 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to allow Selectman Devine to sign all
261 documents in regards to the release the liens and what is needed for the new
262 police station.

263 **Seconded by** Selectwoman Buco.

264 Selectman Devine asked about a printout of all the credits and Lynne said she
265 has been maintaining a list of everything for the police station and if
266 Selectman Devine would like to see it, it is in the office.

267 **In Favor**, Selectman Devine, Selectman Tombarello, Selectman Goldman,
268 Selectman Treanor and Selectwoman Buco.

269 **Motion passes unanimously.**

270

271

272 **CORRESPONDENCE**

273 Lynne said there is an email from a gentleman looking for the legal opinion
274 that she read from at last week's meeting. The Board is ok with Lynne
275 providing that to him.

276

277 Lynne said that she received an email from Rob Collins, Danville School Board
278 Member, stating last night the Withdrawal Committee met and they are
279 requesting all work that has been completed by the Town's Minority
280 Committee to date. They would also like to know where they can be directed
281 to download documents and minutes. They would like to do what is best for
282 the students of Sandown. Lynne said she and Paula are working on this and
283 are verifying that everything has been posted on the website and then he will
284 be directed there. Selectman Devine asked Lynne to send a letter of request to
285 the Majority Committee for a copy of all of the information they have to date
286 as well. Lynne asked if this request is coming from the BOS or Selectman
287 Devine personally and he said it is coming from him as the BOS Chairman.
288 Selectman Devine would like to request all work that has been completed by
289 the Withdrawal Committee to date as soon as possible. The Board agreed they
290 will all sign the letter. Selectman Devine asked if there was any other
291 comment in regards to this and there was none.

292

293 **Notice from the Planning Board in regards to the subdivision on Wells 294 Village Rd.**

295 Lynne said they are an abutter to this property which is why they are
296 receiving this letter. Selectman Devine asked what has been done in regards
297 to the fire protection and Lynne said this letter was addressed to the Planning

298 Board and she is not sure if anything has been done yet. Selectman Devine
299 said he would like them to address the fire department prior to the signing off
300 on this. Lynne said this is part of the process for the Chief to give his input on
301 this. Selectman Treanor said he will look into this for the BOS. Selectman
302 Devine also asked the Planning Board to hold on their notice of decision until
303 we get an answer from Selectman Treanor and Lynne feels the Planning Board
304 already gave their go ahead and thinks the BOS approval is not needed for
305 this. Selectman Tombarello suggested reaching out to Chief Tapley.

306
307 Selectman Goldman left the meeting temporarily.

308
309 **NH Association of Assessing Officials**

310 Lynne said there is a 2015-16 ballot and Sandown has the right to submit a
311 ballot in regards to their officers.

312
313 **Letter from Danville Planning Board**

314 Lynne said there is a Planning Board public hearing on September 24, 2015 at
315 8:30 to review a site plan on Cotton Farm. Lynne said we are an abutter to
316 this property.

317
318
319 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to go into non-public session under RSA
320 91A:3II (c) reputation and (b) hiring.

321 **Seconded by** Selectman Goldman.

322 **Roll Call**, Selectman Tombarello – yes, Selectwoman Buco – yes, Selectman
323 Devine – yes, Selectman Goldman – yes and Selectman Treanor – yes.

324 **Motion passed unanimously.**

325
326 Selectman Devine announced that they will not be going back into public
327 session tonight.

328
329
330 Selectman Devine stated that he attended the Withdrawal Committee meeting
331 and Selectwoman Buco said she was tasked with a job that they didn't let her
332 know about and she asked members of that Committee to go with her to tour
333 schools and none of them responded. Selectman Devine feels they don't
334 understand what their job is and they finally realized they have to come up
335 with a plan and they need the info the tasked Selectwoman Buco to do.

336 Selectwoman Bucu said she did what was asked to do and at the fourth
337 meeting, which she did not attend, they agreed to write the withdrawal plan,
338 which she did not agree to. She said she received an email from Rob Collins
339 telling her that she needed to write a withdrawal plan she doesn't feel this
340 was up to her to do and she wasn't discussing this in an email. She said she
341 went to the meeting and forgot her bag and got beat on by everyone and
342 treated her less than human. She said that she has provided them all of the
343 documents that were made public through the committee. She said Rob
344 Collins is asking for the documents to be put in excel and she said she
345 provided him with what she had. She said they never even recognized the
346 Minority Committee and now they are a threat and needed to be disbanded
347 and requesting their work and using it against the Town. Selectwoman Bucu
348 said the Majority Committee is writing a withdrawal plan and made it a point
349 to say so. She said she would like to know why the residents of Sandown
350 didn't go to the Majority Committee after the Minority Committee was
351 disbanded and ask them to disband that committee as they said they were
352 going to do. Then she proceeded to say that John Sherman suggested that
353 Selectwoman Bucu either be removed from the Majority Committee or request
354 the BOS of Sandown not to submit a withdrawal plan. Selectwoman Bucu is
355 upset with a plan saying that Sandown should withdraw from the District then
356 they can tuition their students (middle and high school) back into the District.
357 She then refers to closing Sandown of Sandown Central School and reopening
358 it and said we are in this position because of the School Board and the School
359 District, not because of the warrant article. Selectman Devine feels the BOS
360 can submit their own withdrawal plan after the Majority Committee files their
361 plan. He continued to say that Sandown owns 20% of the district and these
362 numbers aren't considered in their plan. He also said they only went back
363 until 2000 so all of the major school repairs/renovations aren't included in
364 their plan either. Selectman Devine said they need to prove the feasibility and
365 if the Town has to go to court to straighten this out they will. He also said a
366 good chairman gets both sides of each situation and feels that Rob Collins is
367 the opposite and he should not be blogging with his opinions. He also said
368 that Representative Ward was asked to help Selectwoman Bucu with the
369 withdrawal plan and he refused. Selectwoman Bucu said it was about time
370 the Majority Committee did the work that needed to be done. Selectman
371 Goldman thought that the Majority Committee said they were writing a plan to
372 prove it wasn't feasible or suitable to withdraw and Selectwoman Bucu said

373 the Minority Committee was preparing a plan but was not actually writing the
374 plan.

375

376 Selectman Devine announced that while in the non-public session the non-
377 public minutes were sealed.

378

379

380

381 Motion by Selectman Goldman to adjourn.

382 Seconded by Selectman Treanor.

383

384 Meeting adjourned at 10pm

385 Respectfully submitted

386 Sue Reynolds