

1 DRAFT

2 BOARD OF SELECTMEN

3 TOWN OF SANDOWN, NH

4 SANDOWN, NH 03873

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6 **Meeting Date: February 12, 2018**

7 **Type of Meeting: Regular**

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

9 **Meeting Location: Town Hall**

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12 **Members Present:** Selectman Cleveland, Selectman Goldman, Selectwoman Buco,  
13 Selectman Brown and Selectman Tombarello

14 **Town Administrator:** Lynne Blaisdell

15 **Recording Secretary:** Sue Reynolds

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18 Selectman Goldman opened the meeting at 7pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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20 Selectman Goldman asked the Board to review the minutes of Monday, January 29, 2018.  
21 Selectwoman Buco said line 101 should read updated not update.

22 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to accept these minutes as amended.

23 **Seconded by** Selectwoman Buco

24 **In favor,** Selectman Brown, Selectman Cleveland, Selectman Goldman, Selectman  
25 Tombarello and Selectwoman Buco

26 **Motion passes unanimously**

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30 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

31 Selectman Cleveland stated there was a formula error on the expense side of the  
32 spreadsheet that he used to do the land purchase calculations during the Deliberative  
33 Session. He stated it was calculating the number of homes and not students for the  
34 expenses. He has since fixed this and the expenses are more than proposed during the  
35 Deliberative Session and he will have the corrected version put on the town website for  
36 anyone to see that is interested. He also handed out new copies to the Board this evening.

38 Arthur Green came to the table regarding the School Deliberative Session last Thursday  
39 evening. He said the proposed school budget was changed at Deliberative Session by an  
40 increase of 1 million dollars. He said the estimated tax impact for Sandown is  
41 approximately 11.9%, which is the school portion increase only. He stated the other towns  
42 in the district are either increasing by a small percentage, staying the same or decreasing  
43 slightly. Arthur stated that Sandown's increase is because this is decided by the student  
44 enrollment and because the student enrollment went up by 3.2 students last year, and the  
45 other town's student enrollment was decreased by a few students Sandown will bear the  
46 burden of the tax impact. Arthur referenced Timberlane's school district compared to  
47 Salem's district (with Salem receiving higher academic results) and said we are overstaffed  
48 by 90 plus employees. He also feels that because Sandown will bear most of the tax burden  
49 that the other 3 towns are more than likely going to vote in favor of the proposed budget.  
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53 **Public Hearing on proposed Keno warrant article #15**

54 Selectman Goldman stated this is a state mandated hearing because of the Keno article.

55 **Motion by** Selectman Brown to open the Public Hearing on Keno warrant article #15.

56 **Seconded by** Selectman Cleveland.

57 **In favor,** Selectman Brown, Selectman Cleveland, Selectman Goldman, Selectman

58 Tombarello and Selectwoman Buco

59 **Motion passes unanimously**

60 Selectman Cleveland read the process of the public hearing.

61 Lynne said there is no written correspondence regarding this public hearing.

62 Selectman Cleveland said it would be a lot of work for a business to implement this,  
63 including a \$500.00 license.

64 **Motion by** Selectman Brown to close the Public Hearing.

65 **Seconded by** Selectman Tombarello

66 **In favor,** Selectman Brown, Selectman Cleveland, Selectman Goldman, Selectman

67 Tombarello and Selectwoman Buco

68 **Motion passes unanimously**

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72 **Police Chief Joseph Gordon – discussion regarding status of police cruiser and**  
73 **comments on proposed land purchase**

74 Chief Gordon said he spoke with the SSATP regarding the police cruiser and they are not  
75 sure this is the best vehicle for them. He is looking for the Board's opinion on getting rid of  
76 the vehicle and should they go to the sealed bid process. Chief Gordon said advertising for  
77 a sealed bid is expensive. The Board asked that the sealed bids come back no later than  
78 March 5<sup>th</sup>, which is when the bids will be opened. Chief Gordon asked how this will be  
79 advertised and Lynne said they usually put it in the Eagle Tribune.  
80

81 Chief Gordon said he likes the idea of the proposed land as a citizen but feels as a Police  
82 Chief this might cause problems. He feels this is opening up a lot more responsibility for  
83 the town to monitor an area that they are already having problems with, such as ATV's,

84 active shootings, etc. He is asking the Board to look into securities for the best interest of  
85 the community regarding this property. Selectman Brown said these are all really good  
86 points as they would be encouraging the public to use the land for recreational purposes.  
87 Selectman Goldman agreed and suggested using Conservation as a guideline. Selectman  
88 Cleveland said he walked out in that area on Saturday and heard nothing but gun shots for  
89 the entire half hour. He said he is also concerned about lead contamination and the cost to  
90 remove it. Selectwoman Buco thanked Chief Gordon for bringing this forward because  
91 there are a lot of concerned residents that aren't sure if this is the best purchase for the  
92 town.

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95 **Representative Chris True and Representative Jess Edwards to discuss House Bill**  
96 **413 – State's portion of Local NHRS costs**

97 Representative Jess Edwards said he is one of 5 representatives, representing the towns of  
98 Sandown, Chester and Auburn.

99 Representative Chris True said he is also a representative for Sandown, Chester and  
100 Auburn and would like to address the letter they received from the Board regarding why  
101 they voted against House Bill 413. He said there has not been any downshifting of pension  
102 costs as the State have never been responsible for them in the first place. He referred to the  
103 state employees retiring and the effect it had on the pension. He stated over 2016 – 2018  
104 the tax rate in Sandown has increased by approximately \$6.39 per \$1,000.00 evaluation.  
105 He said that for a \$200,000.00 home this is an estimated increase of \$1,278.00.

106 Representative Chris True said the State of NH doesn't have "free money". He said it would  
107 have to be taken from another town and given to Sandown and is not in favor of doing this.  
108 He also referred to the Timberlane Regional School District receiving 8 million dollars in  
109 2017 and doesn't like to hear that is not enough.

110 Selectman Brown stated that he is disappointed in Chris True and Jess Edwards for voting  
111 against the House Bill 413. He said they were elected to represent the citizens of Sandown,  
112 Chester and Auburn and feel they are just going along with everyone with this vote and not  
113 standing up for what is best for Sandown. He commended Representative Lerner for  
114 standing up for Sandown and representing us well. He asked what the plan is in Concord  
115 moving forward to help with the tax relief. Representative Chris True said the governing  
116 bodies of Sandown negotiated the contracts (for the school, police and fire) that are being  
117 spoken of. He said he had nothing to do with it nor did the State of NH. Selectman Goldman  
118 stated there is no contract with the Sandown Fire Dept, the school are the Articles of  
119 Agreement that have been in place since 1950's and the Sandown Police Department is  
120 only a small portion of the amount that is being discussed at this point.

121 Representative Jess Edwards said that he is representing the tax payers and citizens of NH  
122 and feels strongly in local control and feels that every dollar spent is a dollar that needs to  
123 be raised. He said there is no "free money" in NH, the State doesn't make money, and if  
124 they gave Sandown the .04 it would have to come from another town within the State and  
125 feels that would be unethical. Selectman Cleveland asked what the vote was, and  
126 Representative Edwards said the vote to reconsider was 170 – 171 in favor not to  
127 reconsider. He also stated that Selectman Tombarello has observed him reviewing the  
128 budget at the Rockingham County Nursing Home and puts a lot of time in his job and he  
129 takes it seriously. He is asking that if they disagree it does not become disagreeable and his

130 character is not questioned. He said he was insulted with Selectman Brown's comment that  
131 they went along to get along and Selectman Brown replied by saying that 91% of the  
132 Republicans voted this way. Representative Jess Edwards said he is a Republican because  
133 he believes in Republican ideals.

134 Selectman Goldman said he has generally been satisfied with their performance however  
135 years ago the State used to pay 35% of the retirement system that they created. He feels  
136 over time the State has reduced the contribution from 35% to much less, forcing the local  
137 communities to absorb the difference. He continued to say that no one on the local level  
138 has a say in state retirement. He said he would be better off investing his state retirement  
139 money on his own instead of depending on the retirement that the state is offering. He  
140 feels the .04 would have a bigger impact than they think. He did say that he will continue to  
141 support them however he is very disappointed in this vote. He thanked them for coming in  
142 and listening to what they have to say.

143  
144 Selectwoman Buco thanked them for coming in and stated she would like to work with  
145 them and Representative Jess Edwards said he would like that and if the BOS have any  
146 legislative information to share with him he would appreciate it.

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148 Selectman Cleveland he has always wondered why they have a retirement system and  
149 could it ever be like a 401k? Selectman Goldman thinks there is something like this being  
150 proposed.

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152 **NEW BUSINESS**

153 **Discussion regarding Area Selectmen's Meeting**

154 Lynne asked the Board's preference of a date to hold this meeting and to begin to think  
155 about topics to be discussed. Selectman Brown suggested waiting until the beginning of  
156 April, so the newly elected Board can get acclimated. The Board asked Lynne to look at an  
157 open date in the beginning of April. She will look at a Wednesday or a Thursday evening.  
158 Selectman Cleveland said there were a few items from the last area selectman's meeting  
159 that they wanted to discuss at this meeting as well.

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161 **Discussion regarding resignation of School Board Member Donna Green and possible**  
162 **appointment to vacant position**

163 Selectman Goldman stated that Donna Green has resigned from the School Board and  
164 stated that Lee Dube is interested in filling this seat. Selectman Goldman said there are  
165 only 2 meetings left. Selectwoman Buco said it makes sense to appoint Lee to this position  
166 as he is running for this seat in March. However, she is concerned that the School Board has  
167 not accepted Donna Green's resignation yet and Lee is still currently a Budget Committee  
168 member. Selectman Brown and Selectman Tombarello are okay with appointing Lee to this  
169 position with the intention that he will resign from the Budget Committee. Selectman  
170 Cleveland feels the Board should wait for the School Board to accept Donna's resignation  
171 first. Selectman Goldman feels the BOS are the appointing authority and agrees with  
172 Selectman Tombarello. He also stated that Budget Committee doesn't have any more  
173 meetings and would be in favor of appointing Lee to this position as long as he resigned  
174 from the Budget Committee.

175 Cathy Gorman came to the table to say that she is concerned that one person can't hold two  
176 seats on two different committees. She said he would have to resign his position of the  
177 Budget Committee before being appointed to the School Board.

178 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to appoint Lee Dube as the School Board Rep. pending his  
179 resignation from the School Budget Committee.

180 **Seconded by** Selectman Brown.

181 Selectwoman Buco said she is not comfortable with an appointment with Lee currently  
182 holding a Budget Committee seat.

183 Lynne read from NHMA – which states an election can happen if a candidate currently  
184 holds a position and the candidate would have to choose to which seat they wish to hold  
185 and would have to resign from the other. Selectwoman Buco said this is referring to an  
186 elected position and they are talking about an appointed position. The Board feels this  
187 scenario is the same and is okay with this motion.

188 **In favor,** Selectman Brown, Selectman Cleveland, Selectman Goldman, Selectman  
189 Tombarello and Selectwoman Buco

190 **Motion passes unanimously**

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192 Selectman Goldman asked Lynne to reach out to Lee to let him know of the appointment  
193 and ask that he submits his letter of resignation to the School Budget Committee  
194 immediately to both the School District and to Lynne.

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## 197 **OLD BUSINESS**

### 198 **Further discussion regarding Personal Automobile Usage/Mileage Policy**

199 Lynne said she forwarded this to Primex and they feel it looks good and agree they should  
200 require the seatbelt usage and require an employee to have personal insurance coverage.  
201 Lynne said she added a line that reads “Employees are required to use safety belts while  
202 operating any vehicles or equipment or helmets while operating any motorcycles.” Lynne  
203 also said that this was approved by Primex as well. The question was posed how will this  
204 be enforced? Selectwoman Buco said this should be part of their performance evaluation  
205 as well as written warning when cited. It was discussed that if you are conducting town  
206 business then you are required to follow this policy. The consensus of the Board is to okay  
207 this addition and would like to put this draft out to department heads for input.

208 Selectman Tombarello said he is not in favor of the 15 day reimbursement period and  
209 thinks it should be 30. The rest of the Board stated it is 15 days into the following month.  
210 He also asked when the Board will be asking for proof of their insurance information and  
211 their current drivers license.

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## 214 **CORRESPONDENCE**

215 Letter from Eversource letting the Town know there will be maintenance of tree removal  
216 and mowing beginning in the spring.

217

218 Lynne asked the Board how they would like to handle the election coverage for March 13<sup>th</sup>.  
219 Lynne said all members of the Board can be present even if they are on the ballot, but they  
220 shouldn't be touching any of the ballots.

221 Selectman Brown said he is available in the morning until 3pm. And Selectman Tombarello  
222 will cover from 3-the end and the other Selectman will be present to help out with coverage  
223 and will notify the moderator.

224

225 **LIAISION REPORT**

226 Selectman Brown had nothing to report

227 Selectman Cleveland - Finance – auditors were here last week and are coming back next  
228 month.

229 Selectman Goldman had nothing to report

230 Selectman Tombarello had nothing to report

231 Selectwoman Buco – highway continues to clean up after the storms and fixing potholes  
232 within the town. She said that 121A is a state road and needs to be fixed by the state and  
233 not the town.

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235 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to go into non-public discussion under RSA 91-A:3 II (e)  
236 litigation

237 **Seconded by** Selectwoman Buco

238 **Roll Call** – Selectwoman Buco – yes, Selectman Tombarello – yes, Selectman Goldman – yes,  
239 Selectman Cleveland – yes and Selectman Brown – yes.

240 **Motion passes unanimously**

241

242 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to seal the minutes of the non-public session.

243 **Seconded by** Selectman Cleveland

244 **In favor** Selectman Brown, Selectman Cleveland, Selectman Tombarello Selectman  
245 Goldman and Selectwoman Buco.

246 **Motion passes unanimously**

247

248 **Motion by** Selectwoman Buco to accept the non-public minutes of Monday, January 29,  
249 2018 as amended.

250 **Seconded by** Selectman Brown.

251 **In favor** Selectman Brown, Selectman Cleveland, Selectman Tombarello Selectman  
252 Goldman and Selectwoman Buco.

253 **Motion passes unanimously**

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256 Meeting adjourned.

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259 Respectfully Submitted

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263 Sue Reynolds