

APPROVED 2/20/12

Copies of the Agenda for the meeting of January 23, 2012 were available to all who were present prior to the meeting being called to order.

**Sandgate Selectboard
Minutes for Meeting of January 23, 2012**

1. **Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mr. Trachte.
2. **Selectboard members present:** Don Trachte, Chair; Judy Boehlert, Vice Chair; Erica Lin, Treasurer; Lee Arrington, Selectboard Assistant. **Selectboard Member Present by Speakerphone:** Tom Fierravanti. **Selectboard Member Absent:** Betsy LaVecchia.
3. **Approve outstanding minutes from January 2, 2012.** Ms. Boehlert moved to approve the minutes from January 2, 2012 as written and the motion was seconded by Mr. Fierravanti and unanimously agreed.
4. **Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:** Erica Lin. Discuss shape of the roads, a car being stuck in the notch and the fact that the road crew did not show up on the past Saturday until 11:00 am even though it had snowed the previous night.
5. **Announcements:**
 - a. Arlington Fire Department Annual Report was received and included a summary of emergency calls responded to in our area. The report stated that 13 calls were received from Sandgate, 77 from Arlington, and 33 from Sunderland last year.
 - b. Judicial Bureau reported that there were no unpaid judgements in Sandgate.
6. **Reports:**
 - a. Treasurer's Report: The General Fund balance is presently \$86,262 and delinquent taxes have been received in the amount of \$10,384. Discuss the new restricted accounts created and how they are combined with the other restricted accounts in a money market account. Discuss \$3,400 left in records restoration and its possible use.
 - b. Highway Report: Discuss the Winter Materials and Hauling budget and a Sheldon Excavating bill recently received for \$14,000. The Treasurer recommended approving a restricted fund transfer soon as spending is already at 91% and does not include the bills that have just been received. Mr. Fierravanti inquired as to why there has been such an increase in the Materials and Hauling expenses this year and the Treasurer indicated that she will investigate the matter further. Discuss Garage Maintenance going over the budget limit due to the repair of the garage door. All other accounts are believed to be in good shape.
7. **New Business:**
 - a. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate maps – Proposed Base Flood Elevations (BFE) have been received and the Selectboard will have the opportunity to review them from January 27 to April 26, 2012. Ms. Boehlert discussed a conversation she had at a recent meeting where a town changed their mind about adopting the program once they looked at the

details. Discuss reviewing the maps and the restrictions that may be adopted as a result of joining the program.

8. Old Business:

- a. Budget Finalization: Discuss additional changes made from the last budget meeting. Discuss the Zoning Administrator's Salary & Expense allocations and decide to keep it flat as per the Treasurer's recommendation. Discuss the postage and Town Report allocations, the increase in postage rates, and the decision to keep everything flat. Review previous changes made to the General Fund budget including the increase in the Animal Control and Cemetery allocations. Decide to keep the Cemetery budget at \$4,000 and adhere to stricter policy of making the outside contactors keep within the budget. Discuss keeping the allocation for BCA Meetings flat at \$1,200 and the overall reduction of the General Fund budget by \$308. Review the budget for the Highway Fund and discuss the allocation for materials & hauling, and the \$135,000 surplus in the restricted fund. Discuss the need to use a portion of the surplus for additional salt this year and raising the materials and hauling budget to \$23,000. The Treasurer reported that the money used for the FEMA repairs came from the restricted fund and will be reimbursed once the FEMA process is complete. The revised highway budget as amended is \$270,720 which is a decrease of \$17,490 or 6% from last year. Ms. Boehlert moved to approve the budget as amended and the motion was seconded by Mr. Fierravanti and unanimously agreed.
- b. Review of action item list: Discuss Town Hall damage and the Advisory Smart-meters petition that has been circulated around Sandgate. Discuss the Warning disallowing Smart-meters that must be drafted and posted and the Dry Hydrant request that needs to be approved in order for Ed Pike to commence work. Discuss grant money that could potentially be used towards the work, and submitting the road crew's hours so the Town can get reimbursed for a portion of their time spent. Also discuss the need to add the Dry Hydrant request to the Warning and the need to find a Selectboard replacement for Betsey LaVecchia. Nothing new to report with respect to the independent audit or the Sandgate website. Ms. Boehlert submitted a request for an electronic copy of an Overweight vehicle policy to Mr. Trachte. Briefly discuss the re-districting of our area by Cynthia Browning and decide to discuss the matter further at the next regular meeting.

9. Review of Bills and Signing of Selectboard and Highway Orders: Selectboard members reviewed and signed the orders presented by Mr. Trachte. Discuss need to delay mailing of checks until a third Selectboard member was available to sign the orders.

10. Adjourn: Ms. Boehlert moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trachte and unanimously agreed.

11. Next Meeting: February 6, 2012 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Arrington, Selectboard Assistant