

Dunbarton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2023

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

Board members present:

Mike Kaminski, Chair

Justin Nault, Selectman

Selectman Dave Nault was not in attendance.

Town Officials present:

Line Comeau, Town Administrator

Linda Landry, Town Clerk

Chris Remillard, Police Chief

John Trottier, Town Moderator

Members of the Public present:

Robert “Bob” Martel

Lee Martel recorded the meeting for the benefit of citizens that were unable to attend (Linda Nickerson uploads the videos to YouTube).

Mike Kaminski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Approve Minutes

The meeting minutes for the meeting of March 2, 2023 were tabled until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Martel expressed his appreciation to Fred Mullen and Bob Martel for filling in and operating the video camera in his absence.

NEW BUSINESS

Election Preparation Discussion

Town Moderator John Trottier joined the BoS to discuss the status of Town Meeting preparation. The following points were discussed:

Meeting agenda/scripts have been distributed.

Because Dave Nault is on the ballot running for reelection, **John Trottier** said that he cannot permit him to have any involvement with the acceptance of completed ballots.

They are coordinating with Woody Bowne on setup which will occur on Monday at 4 p.m.

There is no state requirement for Covid protocols, but there will be a small section of chairs separated from the crowd for those that would feel more comfortable.

The Recreation Department will have a refreshment table, and Wreaths Across Dunbarton will have a display table as well.

They are working on a schedule for the day in terms of breaks, lunches, etc.

Town Clerk **Linda Landry** will be sending the links to the Secretary of State videos regarding ballot clerks and the affidavit ballots so that they may familiarize themselves with them and the proper process. John Trottier would like to implement the over/under counting process.

Discussion occurred regarding the ballot counting process. Jon Rickard has been through the appropriate training and will be assisting with the ballot counting.

Discussion occurred regarding firearms in the polling place. They are not permitted to prohibit a resident from bringing a firearm inside. The fact that it is a school does not matter as the building is serving as a voting place at that time.

Discussion occurred about the misinformation regarding town budgetary items that appears to be spreading on social media.

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Justin Nault to appoint Jonathan Reckard as a ballot clerk for the upcoming election.

Discussion: none

Vote: (2-0)

Solar Power Update

Mike Kaminski said that they are halfway through their lease period for the solar array. Right now, the town is earning on average \$150 per month, or \$1,800 per year after the lease payment. They will have the option to purchase the solar array at the end of the lease period for \$50,000. They will save \$12,000 annually once they are purchased, or they can continue to lease them and earn less.

Mailbox Items

Mike Kaminski reviewed the items of correspondence received since the last meeting:

- Letter regarding School Meeting
 - Operating budget increase = \$2.83
 - Warrant tax impact = .02Overall increase for 2023 tax rate is \$2.85 per thousand
- **Mike Kaminski** said that he attended the Public Hearing and learned that the School Board increases were mainly for items that were authorized last year (bond, payments for school teachers, and an increase in their agreement with Bow).
- Transfer Station Update email Woody Bowne, with updates
 - Speakers are now upstairs at the Town Hall Library.
 - Still waiting for direction for storing the old chairs and tables from the school. BoS will check to see if Dave Nault was able to check for room at the Highway Garage.
 - Requesting a fee schedule hike for his department. (disposal prices continue to increase).
 - Will incur a small amount of overtime.
 - Would like to start advertising the vacancy in department.
- Letter from NH Department of Health and Human Services. Still have vaccination services for a limited time if the town is interested in scheduling a clinic. **Mike Kaminski** feels that the vaccine is well-distributed in their community and suggests that they pass on the offer of a clinic. **Justin Nault** concurred.
- Request from Recreation Commission mailout or (town meeting) hand out a survey to residents regarding interest in town wide activities. The BoS is in support of this request.
- County of Merrimack Budget Proposal (increase of \$41,130) est. .10 cents impact to Dunbarton.
- Painting quote for 2nd floor of Town Hall building. (confirmed that this would be paid by the benefactor).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chief Remillard reported that his vehicle that was recently involved in an accident will be out of commission for a couple of months until it is repaired. Hoping the new cruiser will be in soon, and he has confirmed that there are vehicles available at the dealership they purchased the last vehicle from, **should the vehicle warrant pass at next week's Town meeting.**

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

Mike Kaminski feels that they have put in a lot of work and effort into the budget this year, and he feels they have done right by the taxpayers as a Board. He is looking forward to a good Town Meeting.

NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion: by Mike Kaminski to enter into nonpublic session in accordance with RSA 91-A 3 II (b) as requested by Chief Remillard for a hiring action.

By roll-call vote: J. Nault-yes; Kaminski-yes.

The BoS took a 2-minute recess at 7:30 p.m. to allow the room to clear for nonpublic session.

The BoS entered nonpublic session at 7:32 p.m.

The BoS reentered public session at 7:50 p.m.

MOTION: by Michael Kaminski, second by Justin Nault to hire Daniel Philbrook at the Step II Field Training Officer at \$24.98 plus the 4% increase if the Budget is approved at the next Town Meeting.

Michael Kaminski asked the Chief to work out the actual date of hire with the Town Administrator so that he completes the necessary paperwork to get him in the system. Chris Remillard asked to have the Town Clerk swear in the new Officer next Thursday so that this doesn't interfere with his paperwork or field training start date. The Board was in consensus to start the regular meeting fifteen minutes early on March 16th for the swearing in of the new Police officer.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Justin Nault, seconded by Mike Kaminski to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: (2-0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

Signed:

Michael Kaminski, Chair

Justin Nault, Selectman