

**Dunbarton Board of Selectmen**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 11, 2023**

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

**Board members present:**

Mike Kaminski, Chair  
Dave Nault, Selectman  
Justin Nault, Selectman

**Town Officials present:**

Line Comeau, Town Administrator  
Jeff Crosby, Road Agent

**Members of the Public present:**

Michael McGearry  
Emilia Holban (DGC)  
Lizz Ferdina  
Nora LaMarque  
Mike Guiney  
Nate Narus  
Robert “Bob” Martel  
Alison Vallieres  
Mary Girard  
David Jay

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**

**Motion:** by Dave Nault, seconded by Justin Nault to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 27, 2023 as amended.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote: (3-0)**

## PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

### First Quarter Expense and Revenue Review

**Line Comeau** reviewed the first quarter expenses and revenues with the Board.

#### Expenses

Line noted the impact of the increased electric rates on their budget, demonstrating that they have used nearly half their budgeted amount for electricity in the first 3 months of the year.

#### Revenues

Land Use Change Tax has already exceeded what was budgeted. They may want to change their budget for this line at tax rate setting time.

Building Department: They are at nearly 50% of their projected budget within the first three months of the year. As of today, they have less than \$800 to collect before they exceed their budgeted revenue.

## PUBLIC HEARING: 2023 Road Projects

A Public Hearing was held to review the status of 2023 road projects.

Mike Kaminski called the hearing to order at 7:10 p.m.

Road Agent **Jeff Crosby** gave an overview of the routine road maintenance done so far this season as well as the paving work they plan to do during the spring and summer. He spoke to the challenges they have run into in terms of increased costs, particularly in asphalt, causing them to exceed the bond amount by approximately \$125,000. They found a lot of culverts that need to be replaced, so they will be doing a lot of those this summer.

The roads they plan to pave this summer are:

- A section of Flintlock Road
- Blackbrook Road has lots of culverts to replace, so they will be replacing 10 culverts and paving.
- Barnard Hill Road minor ditch work to be done.
- Montalona Road; there are a few spots that need gravel and drainage work. They plan to pave from the Goffstown town line to Jay Drive. There is a section near County Road that needs a couple of culverts replaced and a lot of repair work. They will not be able

to afford to repave that section this year, so it would be included next year as a regular road construction project.

- Ray Road also needs to be reclaimed and finished.
- The state will be paving Jewett Road.

**Dave Nault** noted some washouts along some of the newly paved roads. **Jeff Crosby** said that there are a number of those from the recent rains that they will be addressing.

**Mike Guiney** of 32 Kelsea Road expressed concerns regarding snow maintenance on Kelsea Road, stating that his road was not plowed until 2:30 p.m. on Election Day in addition to other issues he has noted over the years. He would like to know what is being done about it. **Mike Kaminski** noted that the town is working with the utility company to relocate the utility pole to facilitate a larger truck that would be able to do a more sufficient plowing job.

**Nora LaMarque** of 58 Stark Lane asked about the timeline of work that will be done on Barnard Hill Road and Ray Road. Jeff Crosby said that work is planned for Barnard Hill Road first, but Ray Road may be one of the roads that they need to hold off on for this year, depending on funds.

**David Jay** of 28 Ordway Road inquired about work that had been done on Purgatory Pond Road, wondering why they chose to pave that road instead of Ordway Road. Ordway Road is a throughway and needs work as there are a lot of problems with the road structure and drainage problems that need to be addressed.

**Jeff Crosby** explained that a landowner did a lot of work on Purgatory Pond Road in order to bring it up to an acceptable standard (gravel-grade) so that he could subdivide his property. They chose to pave that road to protect the work that had been done so that the road didn't begin to deteriorate. There is a lot of work that needs to be done to Ordway Road to bring it up to a level where it can be paved. That work was already completed by the landowner on Purgatory Pond Road. In order to address the gravel and drainage issues on Ordway Road, they need to wait for the ground to dry.

**Mike Kaminski** mentioned a complaint received from resident Sharon St. Amand (corner of Barnard Hill and Mansion Road) regarding the grass that gets torn up from the plows in the winter. Jeff Crosby acknowledged that despite their best efforts, there is some damage that occurs along the sides of the roads during winter snow maintenance.

**Mike Kaminski** noted that there appears to be a shortage of plow drivers in many areas across the state, and that is something they may start to feel locally within the next few years. This will result in slower road clearing, but their crew always does their best.

Public Hearing closed at 7:37 p.m.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Use Requests

**Mike Kaminski** reviewed the rules and regulations for usage of the newly renovated second floor of the Library/Town Hall building with the small group of people that gathered to request usage.

**Lee Martel** noted that the names of the town committees and town organizations are intermingled when they should not be, as town committees take precedence in room usage. The policy will be amended accordingly.

A resident asked how much notice someone would have if their use of the room gets superseded by a town committee meeting. **Dave Nault** explained that it's not something that would happen often, but sometimes they know they are going to have a larger audience than usual for a meeting which would lead to them needing to use the room. They would let any already scheduled party know as soon as they are able to make that determination. Each occurrence will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and they will be as accommodating as possible if there is a conflict.

The Board reviewed and approved the requests received from the public for use of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor:

- Emilia Holban: Dunbarton Garden Club, the second Monday of every month, April through December (the BoS is currently approving recurring monthly events 3 months at a time). 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Lizz Ferdina: Spireside Open Mic, Saturday June 3, 2023 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
- Mary Girard, Bruce Banks: Dunbarton Public Library, Summer Reading Program, Weds June 28 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. and Thursday July 13 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Other items were noted:

- The Audio/Visual system has not yet been installed. Once it is, they will get some training for some key people on how to use it.

- The Old Home Day Committee requested to use the front foyer of the library as a meeting area the first Monday of the month for the next 3 months.
- Discussion occurred regarding how late events can go. The main concern is noise, but they do have a noise ordinance in place which lists a time of 10 p.m. This item will require further discussion.
- They are having two fiber-optic lines run and they will be offering internet access upstairs. Discussion occurred on whether or not they need to run a separate router for just the upstairs.

**Line Comeau** introduced Mike McGeary, who attended the meeting out of interest in getting more involved in town.

#### Mailbox Items

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

- Proclamation from the Governor's Office regarding flag lowering. Discussion occurred regarding who would be responsible for lowering and raising the flag as per Governor proclamations. They decided they would put it out to town employees to see if there is anyone interested in volunteering for that responsibility.
- Request for support from Historical Awareness Committee in their pursuit in receiving a trail marker from Black Heritage Trail of NH. **Justin Nault** stated that the Cemetery Trustees are in full support of this effort. Discussion took place regarding a suitable stone to mount the plaque on when they receive it. Lee Martel has a couple of suitable options. Justin and Dave Nault will assist in moving whichever one is selected.
  - ***The BoS were in consensus to sign a letter of support for the town to receive this marker.***
- Notice from Transfer Station Manager Patrick Bowne stating that the town has been awarded the grant submitted in February toward the can crusher (\$3,409).
- Vacation request for town employee.
- Notice from the Police Department regarding damage to the bumper of vehicle D1 which occurred when responding to a medical call. Line Comeau asked the Board what budget line she should charge the deductible cost to complete the work. The Board asked Line to follow up

with the chief to see if he has it available in his budget. If not, they will charge it to the maintenance.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

**Lee Martel** submitted a written request via email to the Selectmen for the requested correction to the spelling of a name on the veterans' memorial that he mentioned at a previous meeting. He showed the Board the correction that needs to be made and asked if someone from the town could step in and officially reach out to the memorial company to get the work scheduled.

**Nate Narus** said that he knows a potential additional truck driver/truck that could help the highway department with winter maintenance. **Mike Kaminski** advised that he follow up with the Road Agent on this, noting also the possibility of hiring on an additional full-time person in the future as the town continues to grow.

**Nate Narus** stated that he had put in a couple of quotes regarding roof work in the highway department. **Mike Kaminski** noted that they did receive his quote, but they do have a bid process they need to follow, and they need a minimum of three bids. They have several buildings that need roof work, so they are working on getting an RFP together.

#### BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

**Line Comeau** said that the audit is 90% complete. According to the estimated tax warrant they are expecting to pick up an additional \$7.2 million in new property assessments. She recommends that they keep their overlay amount the same to cover the costs of appeals that are sure to be received.

**Dave Nault** said that he attended the recent meeting of the Town Hall Restoration Committee. They would like to turn their committee into a committee of uses that promotes healthy town-related uses of that renovated space. They considered moving the open house date to the 25<sup>th</sup> of June so that it coincides with the chicken barbeque held by the Fire Department, but after much discussion, they decided that June 10<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. would be the date and time for the Open House. If they cannot find anyone to step in and cook on that day, then the Selectmen will handle cooking on the grill. Justin Nault has a grill that they can use. **Line Comeau** asked that they provide her with the information as soon as possible so that she can publicize it and answer questions.

**Dave Nault** said that he addressed an issue over the phone with Unitil related to the pole relocation on Kelsea Road. There is also one on his property that needs to be moved as well.

**Dave Nault** said he has a local roofer working on a job in town and he will ask if he will look at work that is needed on the town buildings so that they can begin to develop an RFP.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Justin Nault to adjourn the meeting.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

Signed:

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Michael Kaminski, Chair

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Dave Nault, Selectman

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Justin Nault, Selectman