

**Dunbarton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2020**

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

Board members present:

Mike Kaminski, Selectman
Bob Martel, Selectman

Dave Nault was not in attendance.

Town Officials and others present:

Line Comeau, Town Administrator
Patrick “Woody” Bowne, Transfer Station Supervisor
Police Chief Dan Sklut
Police Sgt. Christopher Remillard
Don Larsen, Old Home Day Committee
John Stevens, Old Home Day Committee

Members of the public present:

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 Bob Martel, seconded by Mike Kaminski, to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 19, 2020 as written.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (2-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Larsen stated that there is a mailer being distributed for a fundraiser for Wreaths Across Dunbarton. Wreaths will be placed on December 12th.

AGENDA ITEMS

2021 Police Department Budget Discussion

Sgt. Chris Remillard presented a “bland” budget for 2021, with the most notable increase occurring in personnel due to the 1% pay increase, a step increase for an officer and 53 pay weeks. Total increase in personnel is \$10,280. Contractual increases amounted to \$1,300. No increases were made to discretionary budget lines.

Discussion occurred regarding possible future expenses for replacing vehicles and technology. **Sgt. Remillard** confirmed that they are keeping track of these expenses and are prepared to look at grant funding when necessary.

Chief Sklut spoke to his intention to leave the detective line funded because he would like to eventually hire another full-time officer in anticipation of his retirement.

Line Comeau asked about any possible warrant articles for the police department and if they will be adding any money to the capital reserve fund established last year. **Chief Sklut** stated that there will be a warrant article for a new vehicle. If approved, this vehicle would be placed into service in December.

2021 Old Home Day Discussion

John Stevens presented a level budget, noting that it is still unclear what sort of event they will be able to have this year. **Mike Kaminski** stated that timing will be critical, but hopefully they may be in a place by late August or September that they will be able to gather again **for the old Home Day Celebration.**

Accept Donation

Motion: by Bob Martel, seconded by Mike Kaminski to accept per RSA 31:95-b III (b) fundraising proceeds in the amount of (\$2,204) for Wreaths Across Dunbarton.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (2-0)

Covid-19 Stipend Discussion

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel, that a Non-First Responder Covid-19 stipend be initiated. To be eligible, a person must be either a current full-time, part-time, or on-call town employee who has performed regular scheduled work during this Covid-19 pandemic. Payment will be made in December 2020 for those employees of record on November 30, 2020. This payment will be taxable. The amount will be (\$1,000) to full-time employees and (\$500) to part-time/on-call employees. This is a one-time payment not to be funded by local taxes, but by funds from the CRF Municipal Aid Grant.

Discussion: **Mike Kaminski** detailed inclusions or omissions from the list of proposed payees, noting that a few elected officials were included but that the BoS was excluded. **Bob Martel** noted that they are one of the only towns doing something like this and feels that it is a positive gesture. **Line Comeau** feels that this is a generous offer from the BoS. **Mike Kaminski** stated that this stipend is being paid out to the town employees listed because they helped to keep the town operational during the pandemic and many times were in direct contact with front lines. **Bob Martel** added that they didn't feel that it was fair to scrutinize the number of hours different people put in aside from noting whether they were full- or part-time. The people were there when they were needed, and he feels that that is enough. **Woody Bowne** stated that he felt the Selectmen were also out and working with the public during the course of their jobs and felt that it was unfair that the Selectmen are not a part of this program. **Bob Martel** said that it would be a conflict of interest. They want to be able to do this for the employees without benefiting

themselves. **Mike Kaminski** agreed, noting that he can defend his decision to create the stipend, but would not be able to defend taking it himself.

Line Comeau noted that because this was unanticipated grant money, the BoS has the authority to ultimately determined what it is used for. **Mike Kaminski** added that 80% of the money is going to the taxpayers **via surplus**.

Vote: (3-0).

TOWN BUSINESS

Mailbox Items

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

- Notice that the Merrimack County budget increased by 2.9%
- Notice regarding legislation passed to offer municipalities flexibilities in how they hold their town and school meetings (virtually). A meeting will be held on December 21st with the School Board to discuss how they want to handle their meetings.
- A letter from a former on-call **winter contractor** that would like to be reinstated. To be passed on to the Road Agent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Woody Bowne said that he and the Road Agent felt that it would be a good idea to have a concrete pad poured for the new storage container to be placed on when it arrives.

- The BoS was in consensus for **crushed stone** be put into place for the storage container.

Woody Bowne said that they have had a few problems with irate residents at the transfer station. He has spoken with Chief Sklut and they are now on their regular patrol route. Their increased presence seems to have helped so far.

It appears that someone was inside the Transfer Station facility during Thanksgiving break. There is a police report on file. He would like to possibly install a security camera. His main concern is that someone could get hurt on the property. Discussion occurred regarding security camera installation as well having a panic button installed for added security during business hours.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

None.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, to enter into nonpublic session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (b) at 7:50 pm.

By roll-call vote: Kaminski-yes. Martel-yes.

The BoS took a brief recess before entering into nonpublic session.

Motion: by Michael Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel to exit the nonpublic at 8:14 pm.

In the regular public session, a **Motion:** by Michael Kaminski, and seconded by Bob Martel to hire Ryan Tacy at the Step I rate of \$14.22 per hour for the cleaning position effective December 7th, 2020, at a schedule that will work for the Town Offices and supervised by the Town Administrator with a six-month probationary period.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Bob Martel, seconded by Mike Kaminski to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 8:16p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

Michael Kaminski, Selectman

Robert Martel, Selectman