

**Dunbarton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2020**

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

Board members present:

Mike Kaminski, Chair
Dave Nault, Selectman
Robert “Bob” Martel, Selectman

Town Officials and others present:

Line Comeau, Town Administrator
Jennifer King, Recording Secretary
Jeannie Zmigrodski, Welfare Director

Members of the Public present:

Gary Voss, Hopkinton Road

Leo Martel was present to record 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 Bob Martel, to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 19, 2019 as amended.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

AGENDA ITEMS

Welfare Department 2020 Budget Discussion

Jeannie Zmigrodski, Welfare Director presented the 2020 proposed budget for the Welfare Department.

They currently do not have a lot of applicants requesting assistance.

They did participate in the holiday basket program and were able to serve 17 families.

Discussion occurred on how much they send to the Salvation Army and local food pantry.

TOWN BUSINESS

Mailbox Items

Mike Kaminski shared the following items of correspondence received over the past week:

- Building/Planning update. Some issues are being resolved. Information regarding subdivision approvals included.
- A thank you from a town employee for the gift cards distributed over the holidays.
- Thank you from James Kincaid foundation for some monies that were donated in the memory of Ted Vallieres.
- **Mike Kaminski** looked over the town bereavement policy and made a one-word change in order to provide some greater discretion for the BoS in their decision making.
- Information regarding medical plan changes.
- St. A's cruiser rate change discussion. It appears that there was a misunderstanding in what St. Anselm College was asking for when they requested a lower rate for the use of one of Dunbarton's police cruisers for an event they are holding. It was understood that the BoS was making an exception for one date, but it appears that this one type of event may occur on more than one day. **Bob Martel** said that while this is not a large amount of money, it sets a precedent when but when you make the change for one entity, others will expect the same treatment. The BoS will take some time to review the issue further.
- Recycling rates are increasing again.
- Purgatory Pond is requesting some subdivisions and will be approaching the Planning Board this month.
- **Mike Kaminski** asked Line Comeau to prepare a warrant regarding the Welfare Director **appointment by the Selectmen versus being elected.**
- **Dave Nault** read an email (below) from Alan Gauntt of Granite State Solar, LLC (GSS) forwarded by Dana Lavoie regarding the pending completion of the town's solar project. **Mike Kaminski** expressed disappointment in the performance of GSS, referring to the fact that they have missed the timeline that was promised. **Dave Nault** said that he is happy that they are at least completing the work.

"My full crew will be out on site today at the transfer station. As you know, this project did not go as smooth as planned, but I see no reason we should not be able to finish by the end of next week and it will perform as promised. AS far as the ITC and the state rebate that is on GSS not the town of Dunbarton and would not affect our agreed terms. The ITC is not affected to do Safe Harbor. Nor does it affect the state rebate. Like I mentioned weeks back as soon as the project is complete

I am going to write a letter to the town and answer any questions in person in reference to the build and complications. I do appreciate the towns patience and give my personal guarantee that this system will meet all expectations.

Thank you.

Alan Gauntt, GSS, LLC”

AGENDA ITEMS Cont.

Gary Voss, 62 Old Hopkinton Road

Gary Voss approached the BoS to ask about increasing tax exemptions for residents. Dunbarton currently has among its residents 109 regular veterans and 5 that are 100% disabled. The state maximum is \$750 per veteran, and a total of \$4,000 for 100% disabled veterans.

Mike Kaminski explained that the credits that they currently give are comparable with similar nearby towns based upon their tax base. They don't have a lot of commercial entities which makes a difference in what they are able to do. If they offered the maximum, it would add another \$0.13 onto the tax rate. He advised Mr. Voss to get a petitioned warrant article added for town meeting, acknowledging that it may be wise to wait a year and work to get some numbers together for the voters to look at and decide upon. Discussion occurred regarding the best way to ascertain how many veterans they currently have living in town. **Mr. Voss** suggested asking the question on the vehicle registration application. **Dave Nault** would like to check with the NHMA to ensure that it is a question that is appropriate for the town to ask.

Transfer Station Budget Discussion

Patrick “Woody” Bowne approached the BoS to present the proposed 2020 budget for the Transfer Station.

He has run into the need for increases, the first being the 3% wage increase approved by the BoS

The turnover he is experiencing among his part time staff is at an all-time high. They are not competitive in what they pay their part-time employees. When he brings on new people, he spends a lot of time training them, and does not have as much time to complete his duties, so he falls behind. **Dave Nault** asked Line Comeau to find out what is being paid by surrounding similar-sized towns for their part time transfer station staff. General discussion occurred on some ideas on how to increase retention.

Line Comeau figured out the step increase adjustment resulting from increasing the step III rate for part time to \$16. Step II would be \$15.50 and Step I would be \$14.44.

Other increases include:

- Subcontracted Services: because they are in need of a driver, they ended up using subcontracted haulers several times this year.
- Maintenance: He is anticipating increased costs in this area, as he has already found some potentially expensive maintenance issues.
- Uniforms: They have an increase in uniforms for employees. There is also a 5% cost increase going into effect.
- MSW (Municipal Solid Waste): they are in the 3rd year of their contract. For 2019, their costs were \$70.02 per ton. 2020's rate will be \$73.17 per ton. **Mr. Bowne** expressed some dissatisfaction with their current hauler. After some discussion, the BoS would like to look further into the issue by comparing the services of their current hauler to that of similar towns.
- C&D removal: they are in the 3rd year of their contract and they are looking at an increase of \$3.36 per ton for a total of \$77.93 per ton.
- Hazardous Waste Collection: they saw a lot of increases what they took in last year, and they are also seeing increases in their disposal, costs, especially on tires, glass, electronics, freon units, etc. **Dave Nault** suggested an increase of \$2,000 rather than the \$4,300 requested.

Mike Kaminski asked Mr. Bowne how soon the truck will be ready for bid. Mr. Bowne replied that he needs to remove the letters from the side of it and mentioned that if he can bring it to his heated garage at home that would help speed up the process. The BoS were in consensus to allow for this. **Mr. Kaminski** said once it is ready for sale, he would like to discuss what an acceptable number might be and put it out for sealed bid.

General discussion occurred about the solar panel project

Dave Nault offered the Board's thanks to Mr. Bowne for his open communication about his budget and other updates for his department.

Mr. Bowne mentioned an interest in putting together a recycling committee like they used to have.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Bob Martel to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: (3-0).

The BoS adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

Mike Kaminski, Chair

Dave Nault, Selectman

Bob Martel, Selectman