

**Dunbarton Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 2021**

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

**Board members present:**

Dave Nault, Chair  
Mike Kaminski, Selectman  
Bob Martel, Selectman

**Town Officials and others present:**

Line Comeau, Town Administrator  
Don Larsen, Cemetery Trustee  
Patrick “Woody” Bowne, Transfer Station Supervisor  
Sgt. Christopher Remillard, Dunbarton Police Department

**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).

Dave Nault called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Approve Minutes

**Motion:** by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 21, 2021 as written.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote: (3-0)**

**Motion:** by Bob Martel, seconded by Dave Nault to approve the nonpublic meeting minutes of January 21, 2021 as written.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote: (3-0)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Don Larsen** of 32 Birchview Drive said that he put a survey on the Dunbarton Community Facebook group asking if people would support keeping the lights left up on the trees in the Town Common until March 31<sup>st</sup> in support of first responders. This would be an extension of the time the BoS previously approved (January 31<sup>st</sup>). The majority of respondents were in support of leaving the lights on.

**Mike Kaminski** asked why Mr. Larsen did not mention this during the initial discussion. He feels that this is an insult to the BoS because it is undermining a decision that they already made by drumming up public support on social media. He does not feel that an informal survey on Facebook is an accurate representation of the public.

**Bob Martel** asked how the people that live around the Town Common may feel about this, noting that many of the people that responded don't live near the Common. He would be open to keeping the lights on display until the end of February.

**Dave Nault** noted that there were a few people responding that did not support keeping them on. He feels that this is a decision that had already been made, and not something they should have to revisit.

**Don Larsen** said that the reason he put the poll out on social media is because he had received some calls from a few residents asking that the lights be left up beyond the end of January in support of first responders. He felt that instead of approaching the BoS with the requests of a handful of residents, that he would get the opinions of a larger group of people to be able to show the BoS that there is support for the idea.

**Line Comeau** noted that she had been asked if the time on the lights was going to be extended because of concerns about any snow and ice that may damage the wiring as they are removing them from the trees.

**Leo Martel** said that he also feels that this was handled the wrong way. He feels the decision was made and should have been respected.

**Bob Martel** feels that it is a bit late in the game to make this request. He feels they should have taken this survey before approaching them about the date in the first place. He is fine with keeping them on until the end of January but is willing to offer keeping them until the end of February as a compromise.

**Mike Kaminski** agrees with the suggestion of the end of February with the caveat that there are no further extensions. He also stated that future requests to the BoS should have all of the information and facts ready when initially presented.

➤ ***The BoS was in consensus to leave the lights on the trees on the Town Common until the end of February.***

## TOWN BUSINESS

### Winslow Town Forest Discussion

Agenda item tabled until the next meeting.

### Police Department Vehicle Fleet Discussion

Police Sgt. **Chris Remillard** provided the BoS with a list of vehicles currently in use by the police department, and gave a review of the current conditions of each in order to

explain the necessity of another new vehicle as requested to be included as a Warrant Article for 2021.

Discussion occurred regarding the police vehicle fund that was recently established. The condition of each vehicle in the current fleet was reviewed as well as the possible scenarios that could result should the warrant article not pass.

#### Final Budget Review

**Line Comeau** reviewed the final changes to the proposed 2021 budget and proposed tax rate impact:

- Total budget: \$2,713,248 Increase over 2021: \$55,046 (2.07%).
- Budget less surplus and projected revenues (Article 4): \$1,369,670
- Tax rate impact for operating budget: \$3.47
- Tax rate impact for warrants: \$0.64
- Total 2021 estimated municipal tax rate: \$4.11
- Total 2020 rate (reval year): \$3.80
- Total estimated increase: \$0.31

After some discussion, an adjustment was made to 2021 projected revenues, changing the estimated tax rate as below:

- Budget less surplus and projected revenues: \$1,276,670
- Tax rate impact for operating budget: \$3.24
- Tax rate impact for warrants: \$0.64
- Total 2021 estimated municipal tax rate: \$3.87
- Total 2020 rate (reval year): \$3.80
- Total estimated increase: \$0.07

#### Mailbox Items

**Dave Nault** reviewed the following items of correspondence received since the last meeting:

- Thank you card from Mary Girard.
- Communication regarding the requested \$9.00 increase to the library budget.
- Insurance payment of \$93,396.68 received from the insurance company for 41 Kimball Pond Road. They will receive results from the asbestos testing soon. Discussion occurred regarding the demolition of the building.
- COVID-19 grant documentation.
- Milfoil grant paperwork.

**Motion:** by Dave Nault, seconded by Mike Kaminski to accept the amendment of the milfoil grant to a total cost of \$2,125. The grant amount is \$850, total local cost of \$1,275 to come out of milfoil fund.

**Dicussion:** none.

**Vote:** (3-0).

#### **Special Election**

One of their state representatives has resigned. They need to hold a special election but will need to coordinate it with Bow. Mike Kaminski will reach out to Bow to start the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

**Dave Nault** asked for clarification regarding the how the Welfare Director is selected.  
**Line Comeau** confirmed that this position is no longer elected but appointed by the BoS.  
**Dave Nault** noted that the current term expires at the beginning of March, so they will need to begin looking at this at an upcoming meeting.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

**Motion:** by Dave Nault to enter into nonpublic session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at the request of the Town Administrator. Seconded by Bob Martel.

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

The BoS took a 2-minute recess at 8:34 p.m. to allow the room to clear before entering nonpublic session.

The BoS entered nonpublic session at 8:36 p.m.

The BoS reentered public session at 9:27 p.m.

There were no motions made during the non-public meeting.

Dave Nault asked if Mike Kaminski if he would take on the task of contacting the Town of Bow to see how they want to proceed with a Special Election. Mike responded that he would.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

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David Nault, Chair

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Michael Kaminski, Selectman

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Robert Martel, Selectman