

**Dunbarton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2021**

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, January 21, 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
Jeff Crosby, Road Agent

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 Bob Martel, seconded by Mike Kaminski to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 14, 2021 as amended.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0)

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel to approve the nonpublic meeting minutes of January 14, 2021 as written.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

TOWN BUSINESS

Accept Donation

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel, to accept per RSA 31:95-b III (b) unanticipated revenue from fundraising to purchase a cemetery bench with engraving from Dave Nault in the amount of \$1,000.

Discussion: none

Vote: (2-0-1, *Nault abstained*).

Highway Department Warrant Discussion

Jeff Crosby asked the BoS what their thoughts are regarding their previous discussion about a paving project bond. **Dave Nault** stated that they had discussed this at a previous meeting and decided not to pursue it for this year, but plan for next year. During that time, they can pull together their examples and explanation to show the public why it is necessary and how it would work.

Jeff Crosby inquired about increasing his initial budget by a little bit. The BoS will consider this request as they continue to review the budget totals.

Letter from attorney regarding the disputed portion of Rt. 13. **Dave Nault** asked if Jeff Crosby plows any section of that roadway. **Jeff Crosby** said that they used to plow up to the back side of the house, but they don't currently, because the resident had a plow and had just begun plowing it himself, so they are not currently maintaining it.

Jeff Crosby asked the BoS to accept the bid from Advanced Paving and Excavating, as he would like to continue working with them for another year.

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Mike Kaminski, to accept the bid from Advanced Paving and Excavating of Suncook, NH for the following prices for 2021:

- Machine Pave at \$68.50;
- Handwork Pave at \$25/ton;
- Reclaim and Fine Grade at \$1.50 per square yard;
- Flaggers at \$35 per hour.

Discussion: Mike Kaminski expressed concern about being in compliance with the rules on bidding, where this is a larger contract. **Jeff Crosby** stated that this is a company that they have worked with in the past that they have developed a good relationship with. The prices are not increasing, so it is not something they would need to put out to bid at this time. **Bob Martel** added that there usually aren't a whole lot of companies that respond to the bid request.

Vote: (3-0).

Department Budget Review

Line Comeau reviewed the changes she made to the department budgets that were discussed by the BoS in previous meetings.

The total budget for 2021 as adjusted by the Selectmen is \$2,713,239.

The total budget for 2020 was \$2,658,202.

Total increase for 2021 is \$55,037 (2.07%)

Proposed revenues for 2021 are \$1,099,122.

Revenues for 2020 were \$1,141,948.

Total decrease for 2021 is \$42,826.

Excess Revenues from 2020: \$77,335
Lapsing budget surplus from 2020: \$293,621

Tax impact from warrants is \$0.64
Tax rate impact from proposed budget is \$4.09
2021 tax rate: \$4.73
2020 tax rate (reval year) was \$3.80
Overall increase of \$0.93 (not including excess revenues)

Lee Martel questioned why the BoS would not decrease the line for building maintenance, when they have been asking all of their departments to submit budgets for level services, noting that they did not use all of their budgeted money for 2020. **Dave Nault** explained that there were a few projects they could not complete this past year due to the pandemic, but they still need to be completed. **Mike Kaminski** added that they are trying to not leave themselves short should something unexpected arise. He also noted that any money not used if it is another slow year will go back to offset taxes.

Discussion occurred over how to apply the surplus. **Dave Nault** suggested they round off the amount added to the rainy-day fund for a total of \$70,000. **Mike Kaminski** feels that the remainder of the surplus should be applied to the tax rate instead of applying it to the warrants as they did last year. The warrants can stand by themselves. This would result in an overall increase in the tax rate of \$0.20 to \$4.00. He didn't feel the taxpayers appreciated the way it had been done last year.

Mailbox Items

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

- Winter Stipend on call rate correction:
 - **Motion:** by Dave Nault, seconded by Mike Kaminski, to adjust the increase for the on-call rate for the 1-ton driver from \$55 to \$57 (due to administrative error).

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0).

- **41 Kimball Pond Road:** They have found a company that deals with asbestos testing, which needs to be done prior to demolition. 4 hours at \$65 per hour. It takes about 10 tests at about \$25 each. Results will take approximately 2 weeks. The check they will be receiving from the insurance company is \$93,396.68. Insurance will also pay for expenses related to testing for positive results in damaged areas of the building.

Dave Nault noted that the utilities needed to be switched over to the town's name and disconnected. **Line Comeau** has been in contact with the utility company and they are working on getting this completed.

- The Public Hearing for the budget will be held on Thursday February 4, 2021 at the Dunbarton Town Offices.
- 2nd letter from Society for Protection of NH Forests. It was noted that the letter has been forwarded to the members of the Town Forest Committee to address at

their next meeting. Mike Kaminski suggested that they write a letter back to let them know that the Committee will be addressing this at their next meeting in March.

- *The BoS was in consensus to send flowers or a donation to Mary Girard for the passing of her father, and a sympathy card to George Holt for the passing of his father.*
- The BoS discussed the picture of cover of the town report.
- Merrimack County Budget Report for the year of 2021.
- Letter from Jamie Johnson of Goffstown.
- Letter from attorney regarding the discontinued section of Old Rt. 13 that is currently under dispute, as a resident is using a portion of the right-of-way for storing personal property. It appears that this is a current town road. They also received a request from the attorney of the other resident asking to be notified of all proceedings pertaining to this matter. **Dave Nault** asked that Line Comeau respond to let the attorney know that she is welcome to attend the next meeting and ask her to submit any information that she would like considered during the proceedings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

Mike Kaminski met with the Energy Committee. They will submit something written for the town report regarding the solar panels. The School Board is also looking at the possible use of solar panels.

The Planning Board met regarding the subdivision on Kelsea Road it was a well-received meeting. The town's requirements were clearly delineated. Some more work still needs to be done by the applicant, but things are in progress.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: by Mike Kaminski 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: Kaminski-yes. Nault-yes. Martel-yes.

The BoS took a 2-minute recess at 8:17 p.m. to allow the room to clear before entering nonpublic session.

The BoS entered nonpublic session at 8:19 p.m.

The BoS reentered public session at 8:30 p.m.

The Board gave authorization to the Town Administrator to process the social security tax correction from the 2020 budget to correct the W-2's.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Michael Kaminski, seconded by Robert Martel to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

David Nault, Chair

Michael Kaminski, Selectman

Robert Martel, Selectman