

**Dunbarton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2022**

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

Board members present:

Mike Kaminski, Board Chair (via phone)
Dave Nault, Selectman
Justin Nault, Selectman

Town Officials present:

Line Comeau, Town Administrator
Jeff Crosby, Road Agent

Members of the Public present:

Ron Slocum
Fred Mullen
Dan Sklut

Bob 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 Justin Nault, seconded by Dave Nault to approve the regular minutes of May 12, 2022 (7:00 p.m.) as amended.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (2-0-1) Kaminski abstained.

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Justin Nault to approve the nonpublic meeting minutes of May 12, 2022 (7:48 p.m.) as amended

Discussion: None

Vote: (2-0-1) Kaminski abstained.

Motion: by Justin Nault, seconded by Dave Nault to approve the special meeting minutes of May 20, 2022 (10:00 a.m.) as written.

Discussion: None

Vote: (2-0-1) Kaminski abstained.

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Justin Nault to approve the nonpublic meeting minutes of May 20, 2022 (10:04 a.m.) as amended.

Discussion: None

Vote: (2-0-1) *Kaminski abstained.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

TOWN BUSINESS

Accept Donation

Motion: by Justin Nault, seconded by Dave Nault to accept per RSA31:95-b III (b) a donation in the amount of (\$593) from the Bow Memorial School students and faculty fundraiser for the Welfare Department.

Discussion: **Dave Nault** thanks the Bow Memorial School students and would like to send them something expressing their thanks. **Line Comeau** noted that the Welfare Director will be sending their thanks.

Vote: (2-0-1) *Kaminski abstained.*

Signing of Paving Contract

Dave Nault signed the contract with Advanced Paving on behalf of the BoS for Phase I of the road projects planned throughout the town. **Line Comeau** said their application has been accepted, they are just going to forward everything to their attorney who will ensure everything is in order before forwarding it to the bond bank.

Signing of Septage Agreement

Dave Nault and Justin Nault signed the Septage Agreement with the City of Concord. **Dave Nault** said that this is a routine agreement that states that the city will accept pumped septage from their town for disposal. **Line Comeau** will forward the completed agreement to the City of Concord as well as DES.

Signing of Agreement for Roadway Extension

The BoS signed the agreement for the roadway extension of Zachary Drive.

7:10 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANNED TOWN ROAD PROJECTS

Dave Nault opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Road Agent **Jeff Crosby** spoke about the planned road projects in town for the upcoming summer season. They will be completing their routine maintenance and upkeep around town (brush cutting, pothole filling, washout repairs, minor repairs and maintenance). Their large project that they are using part of the bond money for as approved at town meeting is actually taking place over two years. This year, the plan is to complete 3 roads:

- Gorham Pond Road from the town line to Rt. 13 will get a shim and overlay as needed

- Twist Hill Road will also get a shim and overlay as needed from the Goffstown town line to the Bow town line
- Robert Rogers Road from just below the school to the Bow town line. This road will require a little more maintenance and prep work (culvert repair/replacement, etc.) to complete.

The bond process is moving along well. **Line Comeau** added that the application was approved, and they should know the actual rates in a couple of weeks that the BoS will then accept. Line feels that they should be able to get started around the end of July.

Other projects to include Ray Road (grind up, add gravel and repave), which is to come out of the road construction/maintenance line of their regular operating budget. **Jeff Crosby** noted that they are fighting escalating costs of fuel, crushed stone, asphalt, etc. but they will proceed as best they can to get the job completed.

Dave Nault said that an important part of the work that will be done is that the edges of the road will be shimmed and rolled, which helps the roads to hold up longer. These three roads are also not all on one side of town, they run throughout town, and the combined total miles of road that will be completed will account for half of what they have planned to do, and the second half will be completed next year.

Jeff Crosby added that they are also through roads that get a lot of traffic. He acknowledged that they may need to revisit what they have planned for next year and adjust accordingly depending upon their costs. Mr. Crosby also mentioned a recently approved subdivision on Gile Hill Road; the developer had to pay an exaction fee, which contributes money to the town, so a portion of money that will go to upgrading that road, so that is another area that will be having work done. The developer will be obligated to make road improvements to their frontage as well.

There are another two new developments that are in progress: Countryside Golf Course and an extension to Zachary Drive. The developer is footing the entire bill of road construction and paving. Once the roads are inspected and approved, the town will then assume responsibility for maintenance. The road at the golf course will be approximately (6,800') and the extension at Zachary Drive will be (1,250').

Mike Kaminski wants to make sure the Road Agent's operating budget will be sufficient to complete the routine maintenance he has planned in light of increasing costs. **Dave Nault** said that he reviewed the budget a few weeks ago, and right now things look ok; he's about 1/3 of the way through their budget. **Jeff Crosby** said that they always try to hold some back toward the end of the year just in case, but they still need to go forward and try to get the work done with the money they have. In the past, if they have had large emergencies, they have been able to receive assistance from FEMA. Jeff added that they've also gotten some items out of the way and paid for already (road salt, etc.), so that helps as well.

Dave Nault asked for commentary from the public:

Ron Slocum of Tenney Hill Road addressed the BoS about the conditions of some of the dirt roads in town. He has been doing research on effective methods of treating dirt roadways to cut down on the dust created by passing vehicles. He has found a couple of approaches that they can take with their dirt roads: they can leave them be and let nature take its course, treat them for dust control, or pave them.

Their current method is to apply calcium, which is a very temporary fix that should be applied weekly or after each rainstorm. He has found that there are other chemical agents that are more environmentally friendly that will bind to the road material so that it will last throughout the season. There have been a lot of studies done on these compounds that show that they aren't harmful to vehicles, or the environment and they last longer. There are some binding agents that can be mixed with the top layer of the road that creates a harder surface on the top of the road. This lasts about a year.

Mr. Slocum acknowledged that the best option is to pave these roads, but he acknowledges that this is not realistic, so that is not his request. People drive too fast along some of these roads including where he lives on Tenney Hill Rd. Paving some of these roads will make that problem worse.

He would like to move forward with studying the current products on the market by working with the Road Agent and the BoS to see if there is a viable alternative to calcium treatment to cut down on the road dust on the dirt roads in town. He would be willing to foot the bill to purchase some samples to try on a small section of Tenney Hill Road to see how well it works.

Jeff Crosby said that he is welcome to try any of these items that he would like. Mr. Slocum stated that he prefers that whatever they decide to try is reviewed and selected by the BoS, rather than him just choosing something. He also doesn't want to be liable for complaints from people utilizing the road.

Mike Kaminski is in favor of proceeding with this project as suggested.

Justin Nault asked Mr. Slocum to pass along the information he has on these products to Line Comeau electronically and she will pass on to them to review.

Jeff Crosby noted that some of these treatments are great, but they require specialized equipment which would stretch their equipment and manpower more than it is currently.

Dave Nault agreed and added that they have budget constraints at the moment and that this likely wouldn't be something they would be looking at putting into place for at least the next couple of years, depending upon what their costs are looking like at that time.

Mr. Slocum is only looking to try and test these products at his cost to choose to use in the future. He also doesn't recommend treating entire roads; and suggested perhaps limiting the road treatment to residential sections.

Discussion occurred regarding different road aspects and how the product would stand up to drainage issues, high traffic levels and road grade issues. It was acknowledged that the best way to determine that is to test some of the products.

Dave Nault closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Fred Mullen of 14 Stark Highway shared that two of the school classes came out to place flags on the Veterans' graves; the kids were all very well-behaved and respectful, and he feels they and the school deserves some kudos.

Review Request Regarding Utility Poles on Kelsea Road

Dave Nault suggested they forward a request from Attorney Pat Panciocco regarding the movement of utility poles on Kelsea Road to their attorney before contacting Unitil to ensure they are proceeding properly.

Mike Kaminski stated that he has already been in contact with someone at Unitil in their Government Relations Department. He shared the request with them based upon the recommendation of a few members of the Planning Board. He felt if they kept it low-key and not pursue this through their attorney at first it would save **the Town** some money. Right now, this request is under review at the Unitil level. Unitil reached out and identified their contact person and asked for a contact person from the town with the authority to speak on the matter of moving the poles, which Mike identified as Road Agent Jeff Crosby. If they start receiving lip service from Unitil that is when Mike would like to get a consensus to get their attorney involved if they have to.

Dave Nault feels that this should have been reviewed by their attorney before moving forward and contacting Unitil because he has some concerns with the way certain things are laid out in the exhibits submitted with the application. It seems that there is some confusion over how many poles need to be moved and to which locations they need to go.

Mike Kaminski agreed, and said he did notice the same issue, but that their Road Agent is aware of exactly which poles need to be moved, and he expects Unitil to coordinate with the Road Agent on site to complete this task. He feels that the town could actually end up saving money as a result, which **is** why he has rather aggressively pursued this. The applicant will save on the exaction fee, and the town could save money on a 2:1 ratio.

Justin Nault asked if there would be a site visit done. **Mike Kaminski** said that there **will be** one done with the Road Agent, and that his stipulation has been that this must be coordinated on site with their Road Agent. **Dave Nault** said that the whole Board hasn't looked at this, and he would have felt better approaching Unitil with a letter from their own attorney. He would like to make sure that Unitil is aware that the letter did not come from the town's attorney because the letter submitted states that the Fire Department and Road Agent said that it is the worst

road in town. But when they spoke to that, they were talking about the road surface and the ledge, not the location of the poles. **Mike Kaminski** said that Unitil did ask who is driving this request to which he responded that it is the Road Agent and Planning Board in charge of making improvements to the road.

Dave Nault asked Jeff Crosby if they didn't have a subdivision application in front of them, would they be touching the poles at all? **Jeff Crosby** answered that there would be one potential pole that is in the turn-around and it has been under dispute for years. The way things are going, it could solve part of the problem. He met with Gary Raymond out there and told him the gist of the job. The applicant applied through the Planning Board who requested information from the highway department on what needed to be done at a minimum to make the road safer and usable for a 6-lot subdivision. The Planning Board has been using an 18-foot formula for the width of the road with a 2-foot shoulder on each side. To meet this, these poles they are talking about they would have to be moved at a minimum. There could be a couple of more that need to be moved. The subdivision is the driving force, but that is the work that needs to be done. There are some other complications with the project involving the ledge. He feels this comes down to a simple question: do you move them for free, or does someone have to pay for it? The applicant's attorney had indicated that they didn't have the correct licensing for poles in the town (he has no information on this either way). He doesn't think where they are relocated is as big of a deal as who is going to pay to do it.

Mike Kaminski agrees that they do not have the poles laid out correctly in the paperwork. He did not want to wait; he wanted to get a vote from Unitil up or down on what it would be doing. His plan was to bring it back to the BoS to get the consensus to proceed with their attorney if necessary.

Mailbox Items

Dave Nault reviewed the items of correspondence received from the last meeting:

- NH DES Inspection Report on Town Garage underground storage tanks.
There are some deficiencies that need to be addressed with their fuel pumps. They will be given some time to fix these issues. Road Agent Jeff Crosby will sign off on this report.
Jeff Crosby explained the findings of the inspection and the changes that need to be made: This was a triannual inspection. They had recently had some work done on the pumps, and didn't realize that there were some issues to address:
 - There needs to be a concrete pad for the vehicle to rest on while at the pump. They currently have only an asphalt pad.
 - Something through the Fire Marshal's office which requires an emergency off switch or button that would immediately cut power to the pumps in case of an emergency.

He was told by the inspector that these are items that they only recently began enforcing. They will be given the extra time to fix the issues given where they are at in the year in terms of their already slim budget. Glen from Gold Eagle is going to figure an estimate of what these items would cost to complete.

- State of NH District 5 – notice update of resurfacing various roadways (includes paver shim on Mansion Road; Winslow Road and Jewett Road)
- Letter dated 5/13/22 from Conservation Commission – recommendations for oversight for Gile Hill Road improvements.
- FYI: Folder with Jeff Trexler inspection reports of the Town addition. Everything is going great and will be pouring the top slab tomorrow. The foundation has been poured and all interior piping is in place. They will begin construction next week after the holiday.
- Email from Chief Remillard regarding radio infrastructure. Their membership in the Central NH Special Operations Unit (CNHSOU) includes radio reprogramming at no additional cost to the town. They have also provided the town with 4 additional Motorola portable radios at no extra cost.
- The BoS signed a thank you letter to recognize Don Larsen for the flag donation to the town with a value of (\$4,500). Mike Kaminski will sign at a later date.
- FYI; State of NH DOS; rule-making action (*readopt w/amendment related to addressing fire safety violators*)
- They have some items they have consigned to the St. James' State Auction. They got a value of (\$2,214) in return; sold were some stepladders, a couple of lawnmowers, a waste oil tank, military trailer and some fire hose.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Sklut said that he has a couple of dead cruisers he had hoped to have stripped down in time for this auction. They are on his property currently. Neither car is serviceable. One has a dead engine. He wanted to know what the BoS thought of selling that one for scrap. **Dave Nault** noted they will need to drain the fluids prior to scrapping it. He said that when he has them stripped to let them know, and they can decide how to proceed then. **Jeff Crosby** offered space at the highway garage to hold the vehicles until they are ready to scrap the one with the dead engine and bring the other one to auction in the fall.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

Line Comeau told the BoS that she has applied for the GOFERR equipment grant on behalf of the Fire Department. Fire Chief Jon Wiggin presented quotes totaling approximately \$53,000 for equipment that is covered since the grant was opened up to fire departments as well. The Governor's office has awarded the match grant in the dollar amount of \$47,949 (with the town match of \$5,327.58).

The only stipulation is that the town has to show the purchase paid, and/or sufficient obligation prior to December 31, 2022.

Line Comeau told the BoS that the town office has received many complaints through social media in the last two weeks:

- Lawn care at Dunbarton Elementary School (resolved – cut last Saturday at ball field)
- Commercial tank truck removing water from pond off Grapevine Road. (has been referred to the Conservation Commission); **Jeff Crosby** said the contractor doing the work at the end of Zachary Drive asked about getting water there. Jeff told him said there was no problem, but they needed to call the Fire Chief. So, they do have the proper permission. Line said that there were issues in the past where seeding companies were going into Kimball Pond to get water during a drought period, but each instance was found to be allowable. The matter was referred to the Conservation Commission.
- Recent complaint about the number of trucks using Ray Road to get to Dirt Doctor – pit/site. **Justin Nault** referred to a video that was posted about trucks going in and out of the pits. They have the proper permits, so he is not sure how much they can do. **Fred Mullen** asked what sort of toll that traffic is going to take on Ray Road, especially where they are going to be repaving it. **Dave Nault** said that when the permits are issued you can alter the hours but not so much the number of trips in and out. They are doing what they are supposed to be doing on the property itself. He can understand people not liking more trips past their house since it was sold, but they went through the approval process. They didn't come in for new permits because it is being used for the same purpose. **Bob Martel** added that unfortunately, when you have pits around you, there is going to be truck traffic accessing those pits. **Mike Kaminski** said these are public roads, and the trucks have every right to access those roads.

Line Comeau said that she may need to close the office early tomorrow as there is no office staff available. **Mike Kaminski** asked that a note be put on the door stating they are closed for that reason.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Justin Nault to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Vote: (3-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

Signed:

Michael Kaminski, Chair

David Nault, Selectman

Justin Nault, Selectman