

**Dunbarton Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
December 30, 2020**

A special meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, December 30, 2020 at 4:00 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  
Jon Wiggin, Fire Chief

**Members of the public present:**

None.

Dave Nault called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Approve Minutes

**Motion:** by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 21, 2020 as amended.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote: (3-0)**

**Motion:** by Bob Martel, seconded by Mike Kaminski to approve the nonpublic meeting minutes of December 21, 2020 as written.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote: (3-0)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

Deputy Town Clerk Wages

The BoS reviewed a request from the Town Clerk to increase the wages of the Deputy Town Clerk. The request was for an increase to step 2 at the beginning of 2021, and then increasing to step 3 on the employee's anniversary date.

**Bob Martel** is ok with the increase to step 2 in January, but he is not in favor of the additional increase in August. He feels that there is a reason for the wage scale they have

in place, and he feels that it should be followed. He also suggested looking at their personnel plan and look at possibly creating a policy covering wage increases for exemplary employees.

- *The BoS was in consensus to approve a wage increase to step 2 for the Deputy Town Clerk, effective January 1, 2021.*

#### 2020 Revenues and Expenses

Line Comeau reviewed revenues and expenses to date for 2020. **Dave Nault** requested a list of current expenditures on government buildings for review.

#### Review Draft Warrants for 2021

**Line Comeau** reviewed the first draft of the Town Warrant for 2021.

- #1: to choose all necessary town officers.
- #2: Placeholder for Planning/Zoning
- #3: Proposed Operating Budget for 2021
- #4: \$14,000 for Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund
- #5: \$20,000 to Transfer Station Vehicle fund
- #6: \$60,000 for FD Emergency Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund
- #7: \$54,000 for new police cruiser (\$22,000 from Special Detail Revolving Fund)
- #8: To add money to the Police Vehicle & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.  
Dave Nault would like to set a preliminary amount of \$10,000 but would like to discuss this further with the Police Chief on how best to go about obtaining vehicles for the department.
- #9: \$25,000 for the Highway Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. Road Agent **Jeff Crosby** stated that he would be comfortable with reducing the amount for this fund to \$15,000 this year.
- #10: \$100,000 for paving. **Jeff Crosby** asked the BoS if there was any more discussion regarding a bond for future paving projects that he had mentioned at a previous meeting. **Dave Nault** said that it is something they will look at once they have a chance to closely review all of the warrant articles.
- #11: Placeholder for milfoil control.
- #12: \$6,875 for cemetery road upgrades.

**Line Comeau** shared that she has received a request for the All Veterans' Credit, and that there will be a petition to the selectmen. The signed petition is due by the beginning of February.

#### Proposed Warrant to Purchase Fire Equipment

**Jon Wiggin** reviewed the condition of their current equipment. They have found that their tanker is again leaking. The vehicle is about 30 years old. They have had it repaired several times over the years. He is hoping to use some of the money in the capital reserve fund to replace the body of the truck. **Line Comeau** stated that there is currently \$268,780 in the fund. After some discussion, the BoS agreed that the funds for the body is to come from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Discussion on Fire Department Wages

**Jon Wiggin** reviewed the volume of calls handled over 2020. He would like to bump up the hourly wages of each **position** by \$2 per hour.

**Motion:** by Dave Nault, seconded by Bob Martel to increase the emergency call hourly rate of pay for Fire Fighters, EMT's, Officers/Lieutenants/Captains, Deputy Fire Chief and Fire Chief by \$2.00 per hour. New rates to be effective as of January 1, 2021.

**Discussion:** none.

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

Discussion occurred regarding a house on Kimball Pond Road that would be a potential training tool. The house is severely damaged and needs to be demolished. Chief Wiggin didn't find much training potential as far as burning it, but there would be a possibility of other sorts of training (ventilation, etc.).

On-Call Stipend for Snow Removal

This agenda item was moved to the agenda for the non-public session to occur following this meeting.

TOWN BUSINESS

Town Treasurer Salary

The BoS revisited this topic held over from a previous meeting. The town's treasurer had requested an increase in salary to from \$7,200 to \$10,000.

**Bob Martel** feels that any increase to the salary of an elected official should occur at reelection. He also feels that what they offer their treasurer is adequate and within the salary ranges of surrounding areas. He is willing to increase the current amount to \$8,000.

**Dave Nault** is willing to increase the current amount to \$8,000. This is something she had asked for more than once in the past but was never really given an answer.

**Mike Kaminski** supports a policy of increases for elected officials occurring at the time of reelection. This position has received cost of living increases over the past several years. He doesn't feel that it is fair to grant a 15% increase to one elected official and not others. He feels that they are playing favorites, and there needs to be equity in how they apply increases. He is willing to agree to an increase of 10%, with a caveat that the position is not eligible for an additional increase when they do a salary review in the coming year.

**Line Comeau** stated that in her years working for the town, the salaries for elected officials have never really been looked at or reviewed. The process of how the rates were developed or applied to begin with has been questionable. She also pointed out that this position carries a lot of responsibility. She suggested that they put it into a separate warrant article, as had been done in the past for the Town Clerk.

**Leo Martel** suggested that the BoS pay closer attention to the salaries of the elected officials so that they don't need to approach the BoS for increases.

**Motion:** by Bob Martel, seconded by Mike Kaminski, to set the salary for the Town Treasurer to \$8,000 for 2021.

**Discussion:** nothing further.

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

#### Transfer Station Truck

**Dave Nault** stated that one of the transfer station truck broke down in New London today. They were working on finding an emergency mechanic to fix the issue.

#### 41 Kimball Pond Road

**Dave Nault** said that the house at 41 Kimball Pond Road is now empty. The occupant is working with the town Welfare Director to try and obtain adequate housing.

#### Mailbox Items

- Transfer station request to obtain some containers in which to store some equipment (these will eventually be used to possibly become a semi-permanent building). He did find some suitable 40' containers, of which he would like 2. The price per container is \$5,895, with a delivery cost of \$125. This money would come from his budget. **Line Comeau** stated that they would be able to encumber the funds for this purpose.
  - ***The BoS was in consensus for the Transfer Station Supervisor to proceed with this purchase.***

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

#### BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

**Mike Kaminski** commended the Road Agent on the condition of the roads after the recent storm.

#### NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, to enter into nonpublic session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c).

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

The BoS entered nonpublic session at 5:28 p.m.

**The BoS reentered public session at 6:18 p.m.**

**David Nault** stated that the Board had reviewed the request to pay one of the independent contractors for an on-call stipend when it was determined that the contractor could not provide the service for personal reasons. The consensus of the Board was not to pay the stipend until he could provide proof that he is able to return to work and plow for the town.

David Nault abstained from the discussion of a complaint from a resident on Kelsea Road, regarding snow removal. Michael Kaminski stated that the Board was following up with a complaint regarding the town plow trucks turn around at the end of Kelsea Road. Michael stated that both he and Bob were in the consensus that the highway department continue to use the temporary turn around which turns west and try to utilize a minimal area on roadway when backing up.

**ACTION:** David Nault abstained from the discussion on this matter. Michael Kaminski stated for the record that there was an application before the Planning Board for a subdivision on Kelsea Road. Michael stated that the application was at a standstill because the Planning Board was looking for direction from the Selectmen as to where Kelsea Road really exists. Michael also stated that both he and Bob Martel were in agreement that the Town should pay to have a survey location of Kelsea Road of its present condition. **Action:** Town Administrator was asked to contact a minimum of two surveyors to get quotes for this service and to encumber the funds from 2020 to complete the work.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** by Bob Martel, seconded by Mike Kaminski to adjourn the meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:20 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