

**Dunbarton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2021**

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, May 13, 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

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 April 29, 2021 as amended.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0)

Motion: by Bob Martel, seconded by Dave Nault to approve the nonpublic meeting minutes of April 29, 2021 (8:08 p.m.) as written.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0).

Motion: by Bob Martel, seconded by Dave Nault to approve the nonpublic meeting minutes of April 29, 2021 (8:46 p.m.) as written.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0).

Motion on Police Compensation

Dave Nault stated **that he wanted to go over what was discussed in the nonpublic meeting that was held at 6:30 pm before the regular meeting.** The BoS decided pay two officers an additional amount each, for **the** additional duties they are taking on, while Chief Sklut takes care of some personal matters. Bryan Tyler will receive an additional

\$200 per month **as acting Sergeant** and Chris Remillard will receive an additional \$400 per month **as acting Chief**.

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Bob Martel, to pay police officer Bryan Tyler an additional \$200 per month and Chris Remillard an additional \$400 per month to compensate for additional duties they are taking on beginning at the end of May and continuing until January 1, 2022.

Discussion: Mike Kaminski noted that this is a temporary measure that is subject to change upon any promotions that take place.

Vote: (3-0)

Dave Nault also stated that we held a nonpublic to discuss for a hiring action to fill a vacancy of the janitors position for the Town Office, with an interview to follow.

Dave Nault also stated that the third nonpublic held was to review the draft contract for the new Police Chief vacancy that will start in January of 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

TOWN BUSINESS

Cemetery Trustee Update

Don Larsen updated the BoS on a sinkhole that has developed at Center Cemetery. He has found someone to fill it in for \$35. He asked the BoS if they may be able to use some gravel from the highway department for fill. **Dave Nault** did not think this would be problem and advised Don to contact **Road Agent Jeff Crosby**.

They received many bids on their warrant article projects. Tree removal will begin next week (abutters have been notified).

Mask Mandate and Office Hours Review

The BoS reviewed their mask rules in light of new CDC guidance that states that people **who** have been completely immunized do not have to continue to wear masks. The town will continue with their own mask mandate until the end of the month and will review **it** at that time.

Special Election Warrant

The BoS signed the State of NH Special Election Warrant for the special election to be held on June 8th, 2021 to elect a **State Representative**.

Transfer Station Update

Woody Bowne said that because they are currently short-handed he and his staff are overwhelmed. He is requesting that they temporarily close on Tuesdays and to not reopen the Swap Shop right now. He is working to fill the open positions, but finding help is currently difficult, as people do not show up for their scheduled interviews.

Bob Martel stated that we are not the only town going through this problem because of the extra benefits being offered to those on unemployment.

Woody said he is also finding himself having to work overtime because his trucking hours are affected due to his missing an assistant foreman. He has received pushback from his **only** two employees when he asks them to work extra hours. **Dave Nault stated that he would like to see Woody work the existing staff for the extra hours.**

There was general discussion about Woody's regular scheduled hours. Bob Martel asked if it would be better to close early on Wednesday.

Dave Nault mentioned that when Woody goes on Vacation, we will be outsourcing the trucking so this will help his department. Woody replied that the company said they were not interested in hauling for the Town because they are busy doing their own hauling. Bob Martel stated that it might be worth it for the Town to give them a call. Dave Nault stated that he would call the hauling company personally. Dave also stated that there are many residents that work until 6pm so would not be in favor of closing the transfer station early on Wednesday.

Mike Kaminski stated that, at the very least, that he should request more hours be worked from the current staff. Mike stated that the Town should not be paying all of the overtime when there are two employees that could help pick up some the slack.

Dave Nault stated that he would follow up next week and give the hauling company a call personally to see if we can come up with a plan. Dave Nault stated that we will continue advertise for extra help.

Mike Kaminski also stated that Ryan is no longer working housekeeping for the town so he should be available for more hours.

Dave Nault asked Woody to let us know of his scheduled time of so we can be well prepared.

Woody replied that there are three weeks in September and one week in August. Dave said he would like that schedule in writing so we can preplan for that.

Discussion occurred regarding other trucking options as well as help wanted advertising.

Dave Nault stated that we will do what we need to do when the time comes, even if we have to close the facility for a week, but we will deal with that when the time comes but where not there yet.

Bob Martel stated that there will be some changes happening with the Unemployment Office because the benefits are going away.

Dave Nault reiterated that he would like Woody to check with the department employees to take on more hours and he will follow up with the trucking company for relief there.

Dave Nault reminded Woody that he should not be working overtime when he has staff available work the extra hours.

Mike Kaminski asked the Town Administrator if there were any issues if we had to offer the part-time employees more than 34 ½ hours. Line replied that the Department of Labor recognizes and allows for increased hours to exceed the maximum hours of a parttime position as a temporary increase and/or for an entire season.

There was general discussion on where the openings were being advertised and was asked to continue to advertise. The Board was in consensus to keep the swap shop closed until further notice.

1966 Sign Ordinance Discussion

The BoS discussed their views regarding the 1966 Sign Ordinance. After reviewing an example as provided by NHMA, they agree that it is better to have a simple sign ordinance like the one currently on file.

Motion: by Mike Kaminski seconded by Bob Martel to reaffirm the sign ordinance as written in 1966.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0).

Mailbox Items

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

- Notice from Central NH Regional Planning Commission regarding their assistance in developing a hazard mitigation plan. Line Comeau explained the benefits of this offer, including keeping them in the loop for FEMA funding. The only costs would be in terms of labor
- **Motion:** by Dave Nault, seconded by Mike Kaminski, to enter into a contract with the Central NH Regional Planning Commission to develop a 2022 hazard mitigation plan update. The Town Administrator will be authorized to sign on behalf of the town.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0).

- Letter from Cemetery Trustees regarding the upcoming tree work. Mike Kaminski said that it is important to make sure the trustees understand that they need to operate within contract limits in terms of spending.
- Letter from School Board Chair Clem Madden that the landscaper they hired is doing a great job.
- Letter regarding the General John Stark Scenic Highway Council. Alison Vallieres would like to remain on the council for the town. **Dave Nault** said that he would attend the next meeting on June 15 with her, as they are looking for additional members.

- Letter from Town Clerk regarding the Northfield Town Office closure due to a Covid-19 outbreak. **Mike Kaminski** said that he would like to request that people continue to wear masks in town buildings until they are vaccinated.
- Dave Nault reviewed the MS-1 for 2021. Line Comeau reviewed the calculations to arrive at a possible 2021 tax rate of \$23.09 (a \$0.36 reduction from last year).
- Conservation Commission letter thanking the town for the assistance with the property at 41 Kimball Pond Road.
- Bench in memory of Les Hammond was installed.
- The BoS signed the recon reports for November/December 2020.
- Surplus funds from Covid-19 grant: \$44610.52. Line Comeau stated that an additional \$200 will be going toward more permanent plexiglass dividers for the town clerk and tax collector windows.
- Dave Nault asked Line Comeau to see if their handyman Greg Miller could look at the door to the meeting room at the fire department.
- Revenue from razing of 41 Kimball Pond Road: \$93,396.69. After expenses, they have \$78,501.81 remaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Martel wanted to make sure that the BoS was aware of the work being done to the roof of the Hearse House.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

Bob Martel noted that there is no town that provides NHMA with the wage rates for their towns, but they've been able to come up with a lot through researching online.

Dave Nault stated that he attended the Town Forest meeting to discuss tree planting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Bob Martel to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

David Nault, Chair

Michael Kaminski, Selectman

Robert Martel, Selectman