

DRAFT, SUBJECT TO REVIEW, CORRECTION AND APPROVAL

**DUNBARTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON SB -2 AND 2.5% BUDGET CAP
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016
TOWN OFFICES - 7:00 P.M.**

The Dunbarton Board of Selectmen held the scheduled Public Hearing for SB-2 and the 2.5% Budget Cap at the above time, date and place with Brian Pike, Chairman, presiding.

The following were present:

Brian Pike, Chairman
Ted Vallieres, Vice Chairman
Tom Groleau, Selectman
Line Comeau, Town Administrator
Alison Vallieres, Recording Secretary

Members of Boards/Committees and Town Officials:

Patrick Bowne, Transfer Station Manager
Leo Martel, Historic Awareness Committee
Fred Mullen, Town Moderator
Jeff Trexler, School Board
Deb Foster, School Board
Dan Sklut, Police Chief
John Stevens, Energy Committee and Old Home Day
Margaret Watkins, Conservation Committee
Janet Casey, Supervisor of Checklist

Members of the Public:

Charles "Chuck" Williamson
Scott Kuhn
Ron Slocum
Ralph Fellbaum
Debra Fellbaum
Eric Weiss
Larry Petersen
Michael Kaminski
Jim Michaud, arrived @ 8:30 p.m.
Don Larsen
Randy Bauer

It was noted that Leo Martel was videotaping the meeting.

Brian Pike, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a full Board present along with Line Comeau, Town Administrator and Recording Secretary Alison Vallieres.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes of the Budget Public Hearing - Thursday, February 4, 2016:

Ted Vallieres made a motion that the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen accept the regular meeting minutes of Thursday, February 4, 2016 as written. Tom Groleau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes of the Budget Workshop - Tuesday, February 2, 2016:

Ted Vallieres made a motion that the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen accept the meeting minutes of the Budget Workshop of Tuesday, February 2, 2016 as written. Tom Groleau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Due to the fact that the Public Hearing was scheduled for 7:15 p.m., Brian Pike, Chairman, started the meeting by reviewing the Board of Selectmen's mailbox as follows:

1. DOT (Department of Transportation) report of a list of bridges that are red listed. Dunbarton is already aware of the Stark Bridge which is in the process of being replaced.
2. Letter of resignation from Tim Terragni from the Board of Assessors effective February 4, 2016.

MOTION:

Brian Pike made a motion that the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen accept the resignation letter of Tim Terragni from the Board of Assessors with regret and thank him for his service to the Town. Ted Vallieres seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Letter received from Mary LaValley requesting a replacement for Tim Terragni on the Board of Assessors.

The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus that they would advertise for a replacement on the Dunbarton Web Page, etc. and see if there were any interested residents who would like to serve on the Board of Assessors. They would request a letter of interest outlining experience and capabilities regarding assessing, etc.

4. A letter from Edward White requesting that the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen appoint Patrick Bowne to the Town Forest Committee to replace Jacques Belanger.

MOTION:

Brian Pike made a motion that the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen appoint Patrick Bowne to the Town Forest Committee upon the recommendation of the Town Forest Committee. Tom Groleau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Update from the School Board regarding revised time for School District Meeting to start at 3:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 4, 2016.

At this point in the meeting, it was suggested that Town employees that work on Saturday be given permission to leave at 2:30 p.m. to allow time to attend the School Meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 2016.

The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to allow town employees to work until 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 4, 2016 to allow for attendance at the School District Meeting that starts at 3:00 p.m.

6. Letter from Town Counsel regarding legal inquiry regarding the video recording of meetings and putting the video on the Town Website. Attorney has stated that everyone has every right to record meetings but it is the best practice to not become part of the Town. It should be separate from the Town. There are also disclosure issues. They can put them on their own website. In addition, the public can request copies under the Right to Know Law.

The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus that even if the videotaping is not put on the Dunbarton Website, they will continue with writing a policy for videotaping/recording of meetings. This policy would apply to any type of electronic recording of meetings.

At this point in the meeting, Brian Pike, Chairman, opened the Public Hearing for SB-2 and the 2.5% Tax Cap. It was noted that SB-2 will be voted on the Official Ballot and will require a 3/5 vote to pass. The 2.5% Tax Cap will be voted on during Town Meeting and a paper ballot will be allowed at least one hour for voting. It will also require a 3/5 vote to pass.

The SB-2 discussion was turned over to Eric Weiss, the sponsor of the SB-2 Warrant Article.

Eric Weiss first passed out a sheet listing all New Hampshire towns that presently have SB-2. There were 68 towns in all. He noted that SB-2 was voted down in Dunbarton in both 2006 and 2007. If SB-2 is passed, there will be a deliberative Session and then a thirty day period for voting. All registered voters can vote.

Eric Weiss stated the following in his explanation of SB-2:

"Your Moment of Decision in the Voting Booth.

Picture yourself at your polling place preparing to exercise your voice in government. After running the gauntlet of requirements for access to the booth or curtain (whatever), such as name, address and identification, you are here at a time of your choosing that best fits your schedule. You are informed on those matters that have impelled you to this time and place. It is now decision time. If all this strikes you as familiar and commonplace, then you are a supporter of SB-2 whether you have thought about it or not. SB-2 is no more remarkable than the fundamental constitutional principle that elections shall be held from time to time and voters shall express their views by ballot. SB-2 allows you to cast your vote for All Warrant Articles on voting day by ballot. How could your representatives not want to hear your view at this moment of decision? Send this simple message to your representatives: you got me to the booth, you got my attention, now I shall decide."

Eric Weiss noted the following statistics:

Dunbarton Presidential Primary 2016 - There were 2166 registered voters and 1491 votes cast for 69% turn out

Town Restoration Project - 443 votes cast for 21.5%. After that Warrant Article the voters decreased that night and then even further when it was continued on the following Saturday - by the last Article, approx. 20 voters or <1%

Ballot for School Board and Town - 735 votes cast for 36% turn out

School District change from Goffstown to Bow - 399 votes cast for 19% turn out

SB-2 on the ballot this year for Bow and Dunbarton

Eric Weiss also passed out a sheet listing the years from 1984 to 2016 Primary with the list of percentages of voters who voted on the ballot and at Town Meeting for the budget and Warrant Articles. Stated that he obtained this information from Dunbarton's Annual Reports. Stated that Town Meeting only gets 1/3 of the actual voters. Stated that he had spoken with a reporter from the Concord Monitor who did a story on SB-2, etc. Stated there are people that do want this change. The time has come to revisit this again.

Public Comments:

Deb Foster - Deliberative sessions will no longer happen with SB-2?

Eric Weiss stated that you would still craft your budget. The budget hearing determines how the budget happens. People can change the Warrant Articles. That is eliminated. People could still go to the budget hearing. You will raise your pencil or pen at the polling booth. Informed voters are going to be making the decisions. You will also have some write-ins. There will be a lot more people. Stated that he has two young children, and works five days a week. It is difficult for him to come to Town Meeting.

Fred Mullen - Noted there was a question at the school Public Hearing that if we had SB-2 and there was a budget change because of an emergency such as special needs children come to town which would increase the budget, how would this occur? In addition, a teacher from Epsom who lives in Dunbarton, stated that Epsom had SB-2 and it was the worst thing that has happened.

Eric Weiss was not sure but he suggested that under SB-2 they could possibly schedule a special session under SB-2 to increase the budget, etc. due to an emergency situation.

Randy Bauer noted that this happened in Epsom and they had to add \$200,000 and they had to modify the budget every which way. Dunbarton might have the same situation. It was not resolved as of last night. You would not be allowed to have a special school meeting. Would assume the same thing would apply to our Town.

Eric Weiss stated there are advantages to electronic scanning of votes. In 1991 there was a recount of the Road Agent and it ended up differently.

Fred Mullen, Town Moderator, stated that when they count ballots by hand, they are counted by "voter intent". If an electronic scanner is used, votes are nullified because they use a X instead of a check mark, etc. If it is not done accurately, it spits the ballot out.

It was noted that this year there are 21 Warrant Articles.

Ralph Fellbaum - Does this require us to buy electronic scanning machines? We are going to have to go to a machine.

Fred Mullen stated that for every election, the electronic scanning machines are going to have to be recertified. Don't know the cost for this.

Ralph Fellbaum asked if there was an RSA that says we have to purchase these electronic scanning machines. If so, what is the cost of the machines? How many would we be required to have? Is there a place where a small town like us could bring the ballots to be counted?

It was noted that the ballots would never be allowed to leave the town.

It was noted that the Town of Henniker had a problem with their electronic counting machines and they had to be all counted by hand.

Jeff Trexler stated you have a number of Warrants and you might have 6 or 8 for the School side. Each ballot has got to be counted.

Mike Kaminski stated there has got to be a better way. The logistics can be overwhelming.

Scott Kuhn noted that you could look up RSA 40:13-16 and it will tell you how to have a Special Meeting under SB-2. Under SB-2, you have two deliberative sessions and the vote.

Eric Weiss stated that going back to the recount for Road Agent in 1991: Originally the vote was 262. After the recount it was 260 to 259. There was a difference of seven votes and one was for another candidate and the others were blank. This information is in the 1991 Town Report. This way people are voting but they also get to vote on the Warrant Articles. You don't afford us that now, unless we can come on Tuesday evening/Saturday. That is when participation drops off.

John Stevens - Stated that he (Eric Weiss) seemed pretty well informed on all this. I have heard that the towns that have adopted SB-2 have tried to un-adopt it and were not successful. Do you know where this happened and what were the reasons given for trying to get rid of it?

It was noted that 68 towns have adopted SB-2 and only three towns have been successful in getting it rescinded i.e. the Towns of Orange, Enfield and Dorchester. It requires the same threshold of 3/5 to vote it out. It takes a very strong push to get someone to say that this isn't working.

Randy Bauer - Stated that this is his 16th year in Dunbarton. This is a community that is rich with public participation where neighbors and citizens get together and stand up and be counted. Everyone has a chance to talk about it. If we move ahead and adopt SB-2, we are going to lose the idea that more and more towns have experienced and found they made a huge mistake and can't get it back. I stated my name and picked up my card and didn't see it as a big challenge to come to Town Meeting. Almost every person present works 9-5 five days a week. I can't believe that if something is that important that we can't say what is on our minds and attend Town Meeting. Noted he had info on SB-2 of excerpts of an article that appeared in the Concord Monitor on February 21, 2015 regarding now 20 years later towns are lamenting their SB-2 decision. It gives a lot of background information. In 1995 people thought it was convenient. What we have found out over the years is that people don't participate. Mark Sisti lives in Gilmanton, a town of 2500 population. The deliberative session had 15 people who showed up and passed a \$10 million dollar budget with no discussion. No one is participating. My wife is a teacher in Epsom. Jeff Keeler says the same thing happened at the deliberative session in Epsom. A \$10,000,000 budget was approved by ten people. Once you get this in, you are never, never going to get rid of it.

Ralph Fellbaum asked if anyone knew the cost of the electronic voting machines?

Don Larsen stated that he moved here from California in 2009. The first town meeting they attended was the Warrant Article about Milfoil. You got the flavor of the Town Meeting. Town Meeting is part of the flavor of the community. Everyone has the same opportunity to attend Town Meeting. They can be as informed or uninformed as they choose. The first year we knew five or six people and each year it has gotten more and more of the people coming to Town Meeting. It gives us a voice. Everyone gets a chance to talk if they want. It is like the Transfer Station. That is the place to be because you are going to see more people there than anywhere else. I take my visitors to the Transfer Station. SB-2 is not good for Dunbarton. I hope everyone realizes this. A lot of people just come here and never attend Town Meeting. If they want to be part of the community, they should attend Town Meeting. Maybe there are only 300 that attend Town Meeting but we are the ones that are driving the bus.

Fred Mullen noted that his wife and he have attended every Town Meeting for 43 years and have made provisions to attend because we feel it is our civic duty to be there. I think you are going to be losing this with SB -2. Whatever was said everyone got up and had their say. Whatever happened at Town Meeting stays at Town Meeting. You have voting at the Town election. You have to have someone count all the ballots. The town could have 30 articles along with the school which could be up to 60. Who is going to count all these ballots? They cannot be hand counted. We don't have enough ballot counters. I am from the "old school". I am against this. In New Boston, they had three people decide on the ballot. The concept of SB-2 is okay but they found out that no one participates. The Town of Weare which has three times more population than Dunbarton had 16 people at the deliberative session making the final decisions.

Brian Pike stated he would definitely agree with Fred. People come to Town Meeting to learn what is happening. Most people will read the Town Report and will go through the Warrant Articles.

Mike Kaminski noted that the public can give adequate input at Town Meeting. I don't think any Warrant Article has gotten through without a challenge at Town Meeting.

John Stevens stated he came to Town in 1980 from California and Alabama, etc. My first Town Meeting, started with someone ranting about something and two or three other people got up and amended the Article and it changed how I voted. Without that discussion, I would not have been able to vote the way I should have. That is where Town Meeting comes in.

Janet Casey stated that the Warrant Article that was submitted says "zero" tax impact. After this discussion, it will have a tax impact. What will the tax impact be? A lot of people make their decisions on

tax costs. Voting machines cost money. We don't know what the cost is. No one should vote on this if they don't know what the cost will be.

Ron Slocum stated that any of the arguments against this, I can turn around against Town Meeting. People are lazy.. At Town Meeting the whole issues are not decided by only 40 people. I have been to Town Hall meetings. There is a very small turnout. There is no safety net. It is a minority that votes every time. If people want to be informed they will come to Town Meeting. I have been coming to every Town Meeting. PR comes up if issues are there. You don't sit on your "duff" and wait. There is a perception between Town Meeting and deliberative session.

Jeff Trexler -At the deliberative session you don't have to show up to vote. For the School you have to show up to vote. It is like a "bad tattoo" and you are stuck with it. Some folks choose to be informed. The State had to reduce the vote to do away with SB-2 to a 2/3 vote instead of 3/5. Not a single SB-2 town could vote for a Bond so they had to reduce it to 60% for SB-2 towns.

Randy Bauer stated we discuss Warrant Articles. Is there a push for SB-2?

Deb Foster stated people can change their mind at Town Meeting after discussion. If you have a deliberative session it doesn't have the weight of the Town Meeting discussion. Durham with a population of 24,000 - 27,000 had six people at their deliberative session to make the decisions. 15-20 people could show up and they could vote to go with a zero budget and that is what goes forward to the rest of the people Potentially that could happen.

Jeff Trexler stated he moved from Manchester. This community gets together for various events and without it, the community changes and instead there is e-mails and none of the face to face discussions. Being on the School board, I get a lot of feedback on the Town Meeting.

Margaret Watkins stated she was not in favor of reducing Town Meeting. This is where people have their say. You get a recommendation and it is very hard to find out what is going on in this town if there are people that can't make the time to go to Town Meeting. When you go into the booth and there is no potential for discussion. It is not for voting for the President of the United States about who you were going to vote for. I see going against the Selectmen or people sending out mailers or whether it is accurate or not. We will use volunteers. Will see people face to face. Absolutely, we will lose that. This town is built on volunteers and that would be a huge loss. An example is the boys bathroom in the school. A group of volunteers said they would help and they also did the girls bathroom and that probably would have been voted down and would not have gotten funded. Town Meeting is once a year always on the same night and I would be very said to see the Town go to SB-2.

Ron Slocum stated the deliberative session is the same as Town Meeting. Who here would go to the Town deliberative session? The same people that come here.

Line Comeau stated she lives in an SB-2 town (Goffstown). She lives on the east side of Dunbarton in Goffstown and she does not have the time to attend the deliberative session or get involved in the community. I just go in and vote yes or no. I have never been to the deliberative session so it is difficult for me to vote. A lot of times I am misinformed.

Ron Slocum noted that people get busy and don't show up.

Randy Bauer stated that people will just come in and vote on the ballot without being informed.

Jeff Trexler stated that Ron Slocum is right in that the same folks can show up at SB-2 but in reality it doesn't work and people don't show up. Perhaps Dunbarton would just drop off to about 12 people. Londonderry has a huge population and they had only 49 people show up.

Ralph Fellbaum asked if they vote no on everything because it will increase their taxes by \$5.00?

Eric Weiss noted that regarding deliberative session in small population towns, they have more people show up than larger populations. The minority is already voting on the issues in town. He noted he came from an SB-2 town. Had the opportunity to go to the deliberative sessions and talk to other people in the town. People did not always vote in Bedford.

Ron Slocum stated that we have a Town Meeting. The Selectmen had a budget hearing. Half of the people present were Department Heads requesting the money. That many would show up for a deliberative session. I can attend Board of Selectmen's meetings and also read the minutes and there are a few others that do this also. We had about 50 people at the budget hearing. It is Town Meeting versus deliberative session. What can we do to get people to show up at the deliberative session and keep the attendance going?

8:25 p.m. - There being no further discussion on SB-2, the Public Hearing went to the 2.5% Tax Cap Warrant as follows:

6. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than 2.5 percent. (By Petition) (3/5 Ballot Vote Town Meeting.

Brian Pike, Chairman, asked Ralph Fellbaum, the originator of this Warrant Article to explain as follows:

Ralph Fellbaum stated that because we had this big jump in taxes this year, I looked up the RSA. The taxpayers have the right to expect some sort of control. 2.5% is in excess of the annual rate of inflation. I realize that a lot of the Warrant Articles are out of your control. The Board of Selectmen can vote for or against, etc. I went to the Transfer Station and had people coming up and signing the petition for the 2.5% tax cap. Some people had large increases in taxes of \$50 - \$75/month or \$6,000 a year. I know a lot of people did not have the money in their escrow. The seniors got no cost of living increase. It is not unreasonable to say we should have no more than a 2.5% increase per year. There was a big spike this year in taxes. My taxes went up \$800 with my assessment value staying the same.

It was noted that the 2.5% applies to the Operating Budget.

Jeff Trexler noted that the 2.5% is based on 2.5% of the Operating Budget plus the Warrant Articles which passed. This is reported on the MS-26 for the school. He noted that his taxes went up 10%.

Ralph Fellbaum stated the Town had to raise the taxes because of the decrease in valuation from the Reval. This affects the tax rate. We still have to raise the same amount of taxes. It doesn't matter what the tax rate is. We still have to get to that figure. This changes the tax rate.

Mike Kaminski noted that if we had an emergency contingency fund it would be handy.

The Board of Selectmen stated it is called a "Rainy Day" fund and there is a way to go to the DRA and actually raise more taxes even with this cap in an emergency. At Town Meeting anyone can amend any of the Warrant Articles. Changes can be made to exceed the tax cap.

Fred Mullen noted that regarding the MS-26, it lists all the appropriations that are being proposed and the total of the Warrant Articles. Add all together and subtract estimated revenue and at the very last page budget for Warrant Articles. This is the total appropriation less revenues. The bottom line is the estimated monies to be raised by taxes. Comparing this to last year's bottom line, if you applied that money x 2.5% it would be \$25,000. This would mean the budget could only increase by \$25,000.

Mike Kaminski stated we are asking the Selectmen to be responsible for the budget. Generally the budget is responsible. It is the Warrant Articles that are adding to the cost that get out of control if we had passed the Town Hall Restoration project, it would have been devastating.

Ron Slocum stated something like this is what Ted has been trying to do. I appreciate what Ted is doing. You can do something to affect the overall budget. I see something like this to rein in the tax rate.

Jeff Trexler asked how much did the Town raise in Warrant Articles. It was reported about \$300,000 total. If you do have a Bond Article that is going to "blow your case".

The Town of Franklin had a tax cap and they were unable to repair their roads because of it. They had to turn their paved roads into dirt roads. Property values in Franklin have decreased considerably because of this.

Ron Slocum noted that he could relate to converting paved roads to dirt roads. Dirt roads are better roads. The down side is the dust. It was noted that property values will go down on dirt roads.

Margaret Watkins stated it was her concern if there are things that we want to put money away for in an CRF, at some point we have to do it. How do you do it? I guess the roads would be one of them. There are some things we have to do. How do you deal with the cost of what you have to do?

It was noted it can be brought up at Town Meeting. If you came in with something small, it can be amended at Town Meeting. Don't know how you do it?

Ralph Fellbaum stated a lot of people are making less money. We need to do something. This is the only way I can see until incomes start rising again. We need to do something. People need to participate in government. At least this way, most people have a say.

Jeff Trexler said he agreed with what Ralph is saying. I know it was coming on the school side because our revenue went down last year. We changed the bathroom project to a volunteer project. My concern with a Tax cap is having a critical increase on our taxes. I would rely on the Board of Selectmen. It takes a 3/5 vote to get it out as well. It was noted the Town Operating Budget has only increased by \$14,100. The Board of Selectmen have done a great job. They are trying to keep the tax rate level.

Mike Kaminski stated he thought it was because the Town did not like all the Warrant Articles.

There being no further public comment on the 2.5% Tax Cap, the Public Hearing was closed at 8:50 p.m.

Brian Pike, Chairman, declared a recess until 9:00 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen's meeting reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

Brian Pike, Chairman, continued with the Board of Selectmen's mailbox as follows:

Warrant Articles for Police Cruiser and Data Terminals:

- e-mail from Dan Sklut, Police Chief, regarding information on the Warrant Article for a police cruiser and two data terminals. At this point, due to the fact that Dan Sklut was present, there was a discussion regarding the two Warrant Article for the Police Department as follows:

Police Cruiser Warrant Article: Stated the new vehicle does not include a data terminal. Presently the Police Department has two primary patrol vehicles. The Police Chief's vehicle will not have a data terminal. The Board of Selectmen asked at what time during the year will Goffstown be ready for the data terminals for Dunbarton?

Police Chief Sklut responded that he would looking at obtaining the data terminals in October, November or December of 2016. At this point, Goffstown does not have the infrastructure to get Dunbarton on board with the data terminals. Goffstown will be taking on the town of Weare also.

The Board of Selectmen asked if it would behoove him to get the two data terminals the following year instead of 2016 since he will not be getting them anyway until the last of the year.

Chief Sklut stated he might not be able to get the same pricing plan as now.

It was noted there will be probably \$10,000 more in the fund by 2017.

The question was asked if Chief Sklut could approach the vendor to see if they could extend the price of the data recorders into 2017.

Vehicle Replacement:

Chief Sklut stated he had listened to the comments from Ted regarding the deferment of the purchase of a police cruiser until the following year. Did a study on the vehicles we have now and used the mileage from 2015 and that is how he came up with the vehicle replacement. He stated that if we do not replace the Crown Vic this year, and do it next year instead, the Tahoe which he planned on giving the Fire Department would not be available until two years from now. The three vehicles would have about 100,000 miles each. We would be giving the Fire Department a vehicle with 100,000 miles instead of 72,000 miles. This would takes the vehicles replacement plan and throw it out of kilter.

Tom Groleau stated he was okay with the present schedule of replacing the police vehicle this year.

Selectmen's Message:

Brian Pike, Chairman, stated that he had written a draft Selectmen's Message and had forwarded it to the other members of the Board of Selectmen. Asked if there were any comments or corrections to the draft.

There were no corrections or changes at this time.

At this point, Brian Pike, Chairman, stated the Board of Selectmen will continue with the Warrant Articles and make recommendations on each as follows:

At this point in the discussion, Ted Vallieres, Selectman, stated he would like to make some comments prior to going over the Warrant Articles.

Ted Vallieres stated that all he would like to say is that four years ago when it came time to set the tax rate, I was informed that every utility was suing the town for tax abatements. Part of the tax rate has to do with overlay. What you might have to repay in rebates. I wanted to start putting money into overlay at the rate of \$50,000 per year. I was overridden by the other Selectmen at the time when it came to the overlay. No money has ever been put aside. Last year, we settled with some of the utilities. One of the suits we settled with, we reduced their assessment by almost \$1,000,000. I don't want to go into this, but we lost almost \$70,000 from abatements. We came to an agreement instead of going to court, and we lost \$70,000 and we also guaranteed that we would not touch their assessment for the next five years. This means we would collect \$70,000 less in revenue than we did last year. The other two utilities are assessed at about \$18,000,000. There is a formula they came up with and they are pretty much using the same formula. I would hate to see what would happen if the settlement by the court were to be anywhere near what the other settlement was. We are losing \$70,000 for five years now and we are looking at a big revenue loss if these other utilities settle for the same formula. We are going along and spending money and sooner or later these are going to be settled and they are not going to be in favor of Dunbarton. We should be really careful as to what we are spending money on. Last year, we had \$400,000 in Warrant Articles and only one was defeated. We approved \$365,000 in Warrant Articles and our tax increase would have gone over \$1.00 but we were able to apply \$150,000 from the unanticipated fund balance which brought the increase down to between .46 and .47. We don't have any money this year to take out of unanticipated balance. Everything you are going to spend this year is going to go right towards the tax rate. The Warrant is language from the 1700's warning voters of a meeting to discuss town matters. But it doesn't say that the Selectmen have to put any of the items on this Warrant. This Warrant is by the Selectmen. Some Warrant Articles we should take out.

Revenue is not going up and we are going to lose \$70,000 from utility assessments. There is the likelihood that quite a bit more might be reduced. When your taxes go up by \$1.50 you will know.

The Board of Selectmen went through the Warrant Articles and reached consensus on them as follows:

1. To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year.
2. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Dunbarton, NH on the second Tuesday of March. Passage requires a 3/5-majority vote of those voting.
(By Petition) (3/5 Majority Vote Required) (By Official Ballot)

Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.00

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 3 No)

3. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray town charges for the ensuing year and make appropriations of the same in the amount as follows but excluding all appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately:

The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 3 YES)

4. To see if the town will vote to discontinue as a public highway the following described portion of a certain gravel drive which is an extension of Kelsea Road and has been previously maintained by the town: beginning at the westerly boundary of the Class V Kelsea Road right of way, running for distance of approximately 127 feet westerly along said gravel drive, terminating at a point along the gravel drive even with a Rebar Found near the southeastern corner of the barn on Tax Map B6, Lot 01-05 North presently owned by Michael Guiney, having an approximate total width of 3 rods from the centerline of the Cart Road Easement, as depicted and more particularly described as the "Cart Road" on the Cart Road Easement Detail on a "Boundary Plat, Land of Michael Guiney, Tax Map 86-01-05, Kelsea Road," dated September 16, 2015, and recorded at the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds as Plan #201500016476.

The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant

Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.00

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 2 YES/1 NO)

5. To see if the town will vote to adopt RSA 41:14-a, to allow the selectmen to acquire or sell land, buildings or both; provided, however, they shall first submit any such proposed acquisition or sale to the planning board and to the conservation commission for review and recommendation by those bodies. This article will remain in effect until rescinded. (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant

Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.00

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 2 YES/1 NO)

6. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than 2.5 percent. (By Petition) (3/5 Ballot Vote Town Meeting)

The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant

Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.00

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 0 YES/ 3 NO_-)

7. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$25,000) to be added to the Highway Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund previously established for this purpose as summarized in the Capital Improvement Plan.

*The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant
Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.08
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 3 YES/0 NO)*

8. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$14,000) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established for this purpose as summarized in the Capital Improvement Plan.

*The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant
Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.05
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 3 YES/ 0 NO)*

9. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$60,000) to be added to the Fire Department Emergency Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund, previously established for this purpose as summarized in the Capital Improvement Plan.

*The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant.
Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.20
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 2 YES/1 NO)*

Board Discussion:

Ted Vallieres stated that this year they want to increase this to \$60,000. They are also asking for \$20,000 for a forestry truck. This means this went from \$20,000 last year to \$80,000 this year. We should start increasing gradually and we can bring this Warrant Article up to \$40,000 next year.

MOTION:

Ted Vallieres made a motion to reduce Article 9 (Fire Department Emergency Vehicle) from \$60,000 to \$30,000.

There was no second to the motion so the motion died on the floor.

Tom Groleau stated that this Article was derived from the CIP and the plan as put forward. The CIP is pretty level and if we start moving things around, it won't be good. But I would also say a motion could come from the floor to amend this Article. I understand where you are coming from but am of the opinion that because this came out of the CIP Committee, we should leave it alone. This is only a recommendation. As it is, we don't have enough volunteers on the CIP Committee. If we do this, we would be throwing their recommendations out the window. This Committee puts a lot of work into this.

10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$20,000) for the purchase of a forestry truck.

*The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant.
Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: .07¢
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 3 YES/0 NO)*

11. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$44,000) to purchase a new police cruiser with equipment and installation of equipment as summarized in the Capital Improvements Plan. A portion of these funds to come from the Police Special Detail Revolving Fund in the amount of (\$18,000). The balance of (\$26,000) to come from taxes.

The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant.

Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.09

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 2 YES/ 1 NO)

~~12. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$16,825) to purchase mobile data terminal equipment for two police cruisers and installation of equipment.~~

~~*The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to take out this Warrant Article.*~~

~~*Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.06*~~

~~*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote --)*~~

Board Discussion:

The Board of Selectmen reviewed this article and agreed that due to the fact that Goffstown was not ready and the fact that we would not be receiving the data terminal equipment until November or December 2016, they would take out this Warrant Article.

12. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$100,000) to reconstruct a section of Grapevine Road (phase II) approximately 7,500 feet. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the construction is completed or by December 31, 2021, whichever comes first.

The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant.

Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.33

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 3 YES/ 0 NO)

~~14. To see if the town will vote to authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund, pursuant to RSA 35:1 known as the transfer station roll off truck CRF, for the future purchase of a roll off truck and to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$31,000) as summarized in the Capital Improvements Plan.~~

~~*The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to take this Article out of the Warrant.*~~

~~*Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.10*~~

~~*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote --)*~~

Board Discussion:

After discussing various options for the Transfer Station Roll off Truck and on the recommendation of Patrick Bowne, this Warrant Article was removed from the Warrant.

13. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$10,068) for the milfoil control at Gorham Pond and to authorize the selectmen to accept a grant from the State of New Hampshire DES in the amount of (\$4,027), known as the Variable Milfoil Control Grant. The balance of (\$6,041) to come from taxes.

The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant.

Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.02

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 0 YES/ 3 NO)

14. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$9,860) to fund the position of Deputy Town Clerk. (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant.

*Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.03
Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 0 YES/ 3 NO)*

15. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$101,894) to purchase breathing apparatus for the volunteer fire department. Furthermore to withdraw (\$4,852) from the Fire Department Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose and to authorize the board of selectmen to accept a Federal grant of (\$97,042) for this purpose. This article is contingent on the receipt of the grant. No amount to be raised from taxation. This article is non-lapsing and will not lapse until the equipment is purchased or December 31, 2021 whichever comes first.

*The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant.
Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.00
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 3 YES_/0 NO_)*

16. To see if the town will vote to establish a Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the maintenance and upkeep of town cemeteries and to appoint Cemetery Trustees as agents to expend and further to authorize the transfer of cemetery lot funds received for the sale of said lots to be added to the fund per RSA 289:2-a. Said authority will remain until such time as it is rescinded. (Majority Vote Required)

*The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant.
Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.00
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 3 YES/0 NO)*

17. To see if the Town of Dunbarton will vote, pursuant to RSA 35:9-a, II (which became effective July 26, 2014), to authorize the Trustees of the Trust Funds, without further action of the town meeting, to charge any expenses incurred for professional banking or brokerage assistance for capital reserve funds in their custody as authorized in RSA Chapter 35, against the capital reserve funds involved, such authority to remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of the town meeting, which said vote to rescind such authority shall not occur within 5 years of the adoption of this article. (Majority vote required)

*The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant.
Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.00
Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 0 YES/ 3 NO)*

18. To see if the town will vote to exclude all funds from unassigned general fund balance (aka surplus) for the purpose of passage of all future warrant articles. This policy to remain in effect until rescinded by the legislative body.

*(By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)
The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant.
Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.00
Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 1 YES/ 2 NO)*

19. To see if the town will vote to have the Selectmen provide, within 60 days, an easily located "link" on the town website for quick access to videotaped Selectman's Meetings, with disclaimers as necessary. Videotaping is being done by volunteers and posted uncut on YouTube and Facebook.

*(By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)
The Board of Selectmen reached a consensus to leave this article in the Warrant.
Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$.00
Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 0 YES/ 3 NO)*

20. To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees and other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

21. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

At this point in the meeting, the following motion was made:

MOTION:

Brian Pike made a motion that the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen accept all the above changes to the Town Warrant. Tom Groleau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

JIM MICHAUD, COMPUTER VPN DISCUSSION:

Jim Michaud, True North, appeared before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the option of having a VPN (Virtual Private Network) for the Town Treasurer instead of a separate computer.

After discussing the pros and cons, the Board of Selectmen agreed to add a VPN to a dummy terminal in the computer room to allow for the Town Treasurer to access BMSI instead of having a separate computer.

It was noted that replacement of the Welfare computer is in the offing in the near future.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with the following motion:

MOTION:

Tom Groleau made a motion that the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen adjourn at 10:30 p.m. Ted Vallieres seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

**Alison R. Vallieres
Recording Secretary**

Brian Pike, Chairman

Ted Vallieres, Selectman

Tom Groleau, Selectman