DRAFT, SUBJECT TO REVIEW, CORRECTION AND APPROVAL

DUNBARTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, February 23rd, 2017
TOWN OFFICES 7:03 PM

Dunbarton Board of Selectmen held their scheduled regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at the above time, date and place with Brian Pike, Chairman, presiding.

The following Board Members were present:

Brian Pike, Chairman
Robert “Bob” Martel, Vice-Chairman
Mike Kaminski, Selectman
Line Comeau, Town Administrator
Koren Maccubbin, Recording Secretary

State of New Hampshire Representatives, Merrimack District 23 (Bow & Dunbarton)

The Honorable Bill Kuch
The Honorable J. R. Hoell
The Honorable Mary Beth Walz

Members of Boards/Committees & Town Officials:

Don Larsen, Cemetery Trustee
Jeff Trexler, Member of Dunbarton School Board
Linda Landry, Dunbarton Town Clerk
Dan Sklut, Dunbarton Police Chief
H. Gary Maccubbin, Deputy Town Clerk
Janet Casey, Supervisor of the Checklist
Debra Foster, Dunbarton School Board

Members of the Public:

Leo Martel
Robert Ray
Sue Bracy
Maggie Johnson

It is noted for the record that Leo Martel was videotaping the regular Selectmen meeting.

Brian Pike, Chairman, called the regular Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting to order at 7:03 PM with the full Board present.
Old Business:

Approval of past minutes:

MOTION:

Bob Martel made a motion to approve the minutes of the BOS public workshop held on February 2nd, 2017 at 7:11 PM. Mike Kaminski seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: (3-0)

The BOS signed the above-approved minutes.

MOTION:

Mike Kaminski made a motion to approve the minutes of the BOS public workshop held on February 16th, 2017 at 7:06 PM. Bob Martel seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: (3-0)

The BOS signed the above-approved minutes.

MOTION:

Brian Pike made a motion to seal the minutes of the BOS non-public session held on February 16th, 2017 at 9:19 PM. Bob Martel seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: (3-0)

The BOS signed the above-approved minutes.
PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Leo Martel asked the Board if the public would be permitted to direct questions to our State Representatives.

Brian Pike said that is the intent, but it will actually be up to each Representative if they choose to answer the questions.

The State Representatives all said they would answer questions.

Brian Pike closed Public Comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

The BOS signed the papers from DES accepting the Milfoil Grant for Gorham Pond. Linda Landry notarized the document.

TOWN ISSUES AND CONCERNS TO THE DISTRICT 23 STATE REPRESENTATIVES

The BOS introduced themselves to NH State representatives.

The NH State Representatives, Bill Kuch, J. R. Hoell and Mary Beth Walz introduced themselves to the BOS and the attendees. Representative Scott McGilvray will attend the next BOS meeting.

Brian Pike gave an overview of concerns of both the BOS and town residents.

Mike Kaminski addressed the Representatives and said if House Bill 324 passes, it would give the DRA the authority to set local taxes for utility companies. If this were to happen, using the DRA taxing formula, Dunbarton would lose 15 million dollars in assessed value. State Representative Kuch said he voted to retain the bill for more study. Representative Mary Beth Walz said the bill had unintended consequences because it was written too broadly. If the bill comes to a vote, she would not support HB324.

Mike Kaminski said another concern for the Town is House Bill 413, which requires that the State contribute a 15% share to the retirement cost of firemen, policemen and teachers. He would hope that this bill be passed to help the Towns and municipalities.

Brian Pike said land set aside for Flood control in the Dunbarton, which Massachusetts is supposed to be paying a share of the loss revenues from property taxes, has not been coming to Dunbarton. Representative Walz said those monies were received by the State but put into the General fund. Representative Walz said Representative Neal Kurk is the person to contact to rectify the payments.

Bob Martel said the State of NH is enriching their coffers at the expense of the Towns and Municipalities.
J.R. Hoell said HB 354 if it passes would give approximately $150K to School Aid to the Town of Dunbarton. Jeff Trexler said he was told that the aid was coming but not sure if it will come in early 2017 or the latter half of the year.

Jeff Trexler commented to the Representatives that there is a serious problem for retirement funding in Dunbarton. While the student population is decreasing and hence the need for fewer teachers, our budget is being overburdened by the increases in retirement funding when the budget should be decreasing. He asked the Representatives to look for short term as well long term solutions for this problem.

J. R. Hoell said there are some House bills that are being consolidated into HB 561. This bill, which passed the House, defines retirement funding rules for full-time position that transition to part-time position.

Brian Pike voiced his concern HB 369, increasing the amortization from 30 to 40 years for retirement unfunded accrued liability. J. R. Hoell told that HB was killed.

Deb Foster asked about the Representatives views on full time Kindergarten. J. R. Hoell would rather see privatized kindergarten. However, he said the governor has funded 14 million dollars for ½ day public kindergarten. Jeff Trexler stated that studies have shown that children who go to full time public Kindergarten are better prepared for the first grade. By half day funding, Dunbarton is losing out on $63K of school aid.

Deb Foster asked about HB 647, establishing education freedom saving accounts for children with disabilities. This HB is still in the House finance Committee.

Question was asked concerning the status of HB 609, establishing a children’s savings account. Mary Beth Walz said she believed this bill was retained in Committee.

Bob Ray told the Representatives that he thinks the State should raise the gas tax for more revenues that can be shared with the Towns. Bob Martel said he feels that increasing the gas tax is probably the most equitable way to raise revenues. Margaret Watkins agreed with both Bob Ray and Bob Martel. Line Comeau said last year the town received an extra $9K in a State block grant for road repairs due to the gas tax increase.

Janet Casey asked the Representatives if they feel voter fraud has happened in NH. J. R. Hoell said not in Dunbarton but in other towns and cities it has occurred. As to the extent of the fraud, he is not sure. Mary Beth Walz thinks there is very little voter fraud that causes concern.

Don Larsen asked if same day voting is going away. J. R. Hoell said there is some draft bills that have different amount of days before the election that one must register. Mary Beth Walz said if we do away with same day voting we have to make sure the State complies with the Federal laws that are already enacted. Leo Martel said he feels there is a more likely chance of voter fraud in the absentee ballot process. Brian Pike stated that any voting method is not perfect.
Debra Foster asked J. R. Hoell about HB 694 concerning public employee appearances before the legislature. Debra Foster said she thought the employee’s supervising authority should decide whether an employee should testify before the Legislature. Jeff Trexler agreed with Debra Foster. Brian Pike said in his State Department Division, if an employee wants to testify before the Legislature they must take personal time.

Bob Ray asked Bill Kuch about a number of bills in his committee. Bill did not know the bill numbers and said that Mr. Ray was welcome to call him and he would go over each and every bill.

Mary Beth Walz mentioned about a bill she favors on the property tax exemption for pollution control devices. She said this bill was passed circa 1980 and needs to be revisited. If this bill were changed it would be a revenue windfall for many towns and cities.

Jeff Trexler asked the Representatives if they could try to update the version of the BOCA code to the 2015 edition. The State is operating on an outdated version of the BOCA code.

Brian Pike reiterated the Town of Dunbarton is suffering from the cost shifting from the State to the Town.

Brian Pike thanked the Representatives for appearing before BOS and residents of Dunbarton and fielding questions on their concerns. At 8:20 PM, Brian Pike, called for a short recess in order for the Representatives and residents of Dunbarton to shake hands and say their farewells as the Representatives left the building.

Brian Pike ended the recess and called the BOS meeting back to order at 8:27 PM.

**Town Business:**

Line Comeau presented the copies of the 2017 Town Warrants. The BOS signed all 5 copies. Line Comeau will post the above copies to the Town of Dunbarton’s web site under hot topics.

Line Comeau said she had received a call from Representative McGilvray informing the Town that he is not able to make tonight’s meeting but if the Town so desires, he would come to the next meeting. BOS said he is welcome to come and Brian Pike asked Line Comeau to contact the other Representatives and invite them also.

Line Comeau briefed the BOS that she has reached out to all concerned parties of the Library Roof Support issue and all agreed to attend a meeting next Wednesday at 1:00 PM to come up with an alternative design for the Library roof support. Bob Martel and Mike Kaminski said they would attend that meeting. Brian Pike said the Town should post the meeting since a quorum of Selectmen would be present. Brian Pike mentioned the need to record minutes at the Wednesday meeting and if the BOS see the need for him to attend, let him know.
Line Comeau said the 2017 Town Report would be delivered on Friday and all is on schedule to mail the reports to the Town residents in plenty of time before the Town Meeting.

Selectmen signed 5 copies of the MS636 (2017 Budget form that goes to the DRA).

MAILBOX:

Line Comeau requested leave from March 27th to March 31st. The BOS approved her request by consensus.

Informational memo from School Board saying the tax rate impact of the School Budget for this year is going to be approximately $3.00 over the 2016 Budget if all the school warrants pass.

Received a letter from Dave Montgomery saying it looks like getting high speed internet on Armand’s Way, is being addressed at Dunbarton Phone Co.

Mike Kaminski said after the Town Meeting the BOS should get concerned parties together for a meeting.

The Guiney Road name change was tabled by the lead petitioner, the petition and supporting information will be retained in the road files.

Jon Wiggin submitted his resignation as the Acting Town Building Inspector and Health Officer effective March 31st, 2017. Line Comeau said the Town has had a few responses for Building inspector position. Jon Wiggin said he is interested in continuing as the assistant building inspector for Dunbarton.

MOTION:

Brian Pike made a motion to accept the resignation of Jon Wiggin as Building Inspector and Town Health officer with regret and gratitude for all that Jon has done. Bob seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: (3-0)

Town received an e-mail from Donna Dunn, representing the Dunbarton Historical Awareness Committee, showing a “Teacher Tidbit sheet” on Dunbarton’s Black History, which was forwarded to the Dunbarton Elementary School. BOS said it was a nice piece of work

The BOS thanked Line Comeau for her time and effort in putting together the Town budget and Town Report.
Bob Martel mentioned that the Town Hall Restoration Committee would like to put out a questionnaire to the Town residents and would be asking if the Town would make 200 copies for distribution. Line Comeau said they do this for other committees and does not see a problem.

Brian Pike reminded everyone to keep March 11, 3:00 PM at the DES, open to attend the Annual School Board Meeting.

Bob Martel told a story about an old home he and brother investigated for a possible purchase and their discovery of a secret room. The secret room was probably used to hide slaves.

Mike Kaminski said sooner, rather later, the Library entrance door needs to be fixed. The BOS asked Line Comeau to seek out a repair contractor to inquire on cost and speed to which the door can be repaired or replaced.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Leo Martel said he would be against renaming Guiney Road.

**Motion:**

Brian Pike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 PM. Mike Kaminski seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** None

**VOTE:** (3-0)

Respectfully submitted,

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Koren J. Maccubbin, Recording Secretary

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Brian Pike, Chairman

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Robert “Bob” Martel Vice-Chairman

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Mike Kaminski, Selectman