Dunbarton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2018
7:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, October 18th at 7 p.m. at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

Mike Kaminski called the public session of the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present:
   Mike Kaminski, Chairman
   Dave Nault, Selectman
   Robert “Bob” Martel, Selectman

Town Officials and others present:
   Line Comeau, Town Administrator
   Jennifer King, Recording Secretary
   Dana Lavoie, Energy Committee
   George Holt, Energy Committee
   David Elberfeld, Energy Committee
   John Stevens, Energy Committee
   Lou Duval, Energy Committee

Leo Martel was present recording the meeting for the benefit of the citizens who could not attend.

OLD BUSINESS
   Approve Minutes
      Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Bob Martel, to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 11th, 2018 as amended.
      Discussion: none.
      Vote: (3-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT
   None.

AGENDA ITEMS
   Audit Exit Conference
      Pat Mohan of Melanson Heath attended the meeting to discuss the audit exit conference.
      The town is doing very well as far as their assets vs. long-term liabilities.
      Receivables are comparable to the prior year.
      Overall, the town has been consistent from year to year and is in a better spot than last year.
Mr. Mohan also explained how the internal control testing was conducted, reviewed prior year recommendations, identified the issues that were still outstanding, and made new recommendations. There are definitely improvements being made in processes and internal controls.

**Solar Options for Warrant**

*Dana Lavoie* appeared before the BoS on behalf of the Energy Committee to present the status of their investigative work of solar options for the town.

The committee is seeking to offset electrical usage costs incurred at the Town Hall/Library, Town Offices, Town Garage, Safety Complex (police and fire), and the Transfer Station.

It was determined that the ideal site for solar panel installation would be at the Transfer Station. The Forest Committee is in agreement with this option.

They are looking at installing 160 panels, located on approximately a half an acre of land.

The solar panels have an expected life of 30 years and would provide a projected surplus of $340,000 (starting in year 12). They are guaranteed to produce 83% of their expected power over 30 years.

Energy usage at the transfer station is more beneficial as it is credited at higher rates, and there is more grant potential.

A lease-to-own option is more beneficial to the town than an outright purchase due to tax credits, etc. It would be cash flow neutral for 6 years. They sell you the system for 30% of the initial cost.

Risks include lack of sunlight, future technology that causes a drop in electric rates, and uninsured losses to the facility.

Many towns are taking advantage of the decreased cost of installed solar and significant return on investment.

*Mike Kaminski* has concerns over the proposed location due to the burn pit that is nearby. He wonders how soot would affect the panels. George Holt replied that Woody is checking into alternatives to burning.

*Mike Kaminski* is generally in favor of this. He wants to avoid running into the same failure as last time, **when solar panels were proposed for the Town Offices**. He also has some concern about newer technology coming out after they invest in the solar panels. *Bob Martel* replied that this is a different proposal than
last time. They didn’t have a lease proposal back then, only an outright purchase proposal.

**Mike Kaminski** questioned if it needs to go to a warrant if there is a zero-cost option. **Dana Lavoie** felt that they would have to account for a $50,000 buyout in year 7. If they put that money away, they will earn 21.85% on their money in years 7 through 25.

**Dave Nault**: would like to put the whole thing on a warrant article for the voters. Asked that they look for any additional costs they haven’t already come up with just in case.

General discussion took place over whether or not a warrant article is needed for this project. **Dave Nault** suggested consulting the NHMA and DRA on the best way to approach the voters with this.

**Dana Lavoie** stated that they went to different towns to see how they handled the project. Allenstown now has 3 systems in place over the past 2.5 years. The town of Webster was able to get their system at cost because the solar company was in the process of obtaining business at the time. Their system would cost $1.50 per watt on a lease-purchase plan. $2.85 per watt to buy it outright.

**Mike Kaminski** wants to follow up with the Transfer Station Supervisor to determine plans for alternatives to the burn pit. He thanked the committee for their work.

The next step for the Energy Committee will be to develop requirements and specifications and put it out to bid by solar companies.

A discussion of the process for bid submission took place.

**Accept Donation**

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Bob Martel, to accept a donation per RSA 31:95-b III (b) from fundraising in the amount of $70.00 for Wreaths Across Dunbarton.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 3-0.

**TOWN BUSINESS**

**Absentee Ballots**

**Mike Kaminski** explained that the absentee ballot has an error that was made by the Secretary of State’s office. Town Clerk Linda Landry contacted the state about the error. The state concurred, reprinted and sent them new ballots. The new ballots were sent out to voters with a brief letter explaining the error.
The BoS is in consensus for the Town Clerk to use self-addressed/stamped envelopes for ballot return.

Returned Checks
The Police Department has given the Town Clerk the appropriate form to move forward on the issue of the returned checks. Mike asked Line Comeau to have Linda return to the BoS next week to follow up.

The letter pertaining to dog licensing is being worked on.

Mailbox Items
Mike Kaminski presented the following correspondence items:

Primex: insurance rate decreases.

HealthTrust: rates went up approximately 10%. A HealthTrust representative will be at the next meeting to review. Dave Nault noted that there was a decrease of 6% last year.

Grapevine road is completed. There is $2,200 left on the warrant for that project that will lapse back to the general fund.

Calendar of meetings.

The NRRA dinner is coming up. Mike Kaminski asked Line Comeau to remind Woody Bowne of the Transfer Station to get his reservation in.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Leo Martel likes the idea about the solar panels. It is a much better proposal than the last one from a few years ago. He feels It’s a really good thing for the town. Bob added that they’ve done a lot of research. Dave: over the years, the energy costs may increase. They will see savings over time.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES
Dave Nault spoke with Brian Nordle about the turnaround on Purgatory Pond Road. The concern was that including parking could block a town vehicle from turning there. The language has been updated on the deed paperwork. The property owner was made aware that they spoke with the Police Chief about allowing nighttime fishing at the pond.

Bob Martel said that he took a look at the public works buildings. They did a really good job. Jeff Crosby is very pleased with how it looks. The painting work at the transfer station is almost complete.
Line Comeau said that the Safety Complex painting project was awarded to Don Tuttle. He recently stopped in and said that due to weather and temperature concerns, he may not be able to get the work completed until April. He will hold his price and complete the entire job in April of 2019. Dave Nault agrees that it has been too wet and cold to start that work. Line will encumber the funds for the project.

The siding work on the Safety Complex will be started in the first week of December. Start date will be confirmed.

Mike Kaminski said that Mike Tardiff of the Central Regional Planning Division attended a planning meeting, and said he was aware of the Pages Corner issue, and suggested they fit it in with their 10-year plan. They have until November 30 to have it included. The ultimate solution would be either a rotary or a turning lane. The Town Administrator will forward the application to the Police Department.

Mike Kaminski noted that the discussion of renovation of the library has generated a lot of interest, and a committee is in the process of forming.

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


The BoS took a brief recess at 8:36 p.m. before entering nonpublic session.

The BoS entered nonpublic session at 8:39 p.m.

The BoS reentered public session at 9:11 p.m.

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Bob Martel to seal the nonpublic session minutes.
Discussion: none.
Vote: 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Dave Nault to adjourn the meeting.
The BoS adjourned at 9:11 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

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Mike Kaminski, Chair

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Dave Nault, Selectman

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Bob Martel, Selectman