A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, November 15th 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
- Chief Dan Sklut, Dunbarton Police Department
- Sgt. Christopher Remillard, Dunbarton Police Department
- Patrick “Woody” Bowne, Supervisor, Transfer Station

**Members of the public present:**
- Fred Mullen
- Brian Naro
- Ashley Rioux
- Torin Ward
- Peter Weeks
- Tom Cusano
- Michelle Dufos
- Mary Beth Waltz, State Representative
- John Trottier
- Don Larsen
- Laurie Naro
- Nancy Miller
- Rich Schaefer
- Ed Wagner
- Karen Cusano
- Alex Amann
- Brian Merrill

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 November 8th, 2018 as amended.

**Discussion:** none.

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

**Motion:** by Bob Martel, seconded by Dave Nault, to approve the sealed nonpublic meeting minutes of November 8th, 2018 (8:52 p.m.).
Discussion: none.
Vote: (3-0).

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel, to approve the sealed nonpublic meeting minutes of November 8th, 2018 (9:30 a.m.).
Discussion: none.
Vote: (2-0-1) Nault abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Don Larsen noted that the wreaths for Wreaths Across Dunbarton will be placed on December 8th, beginning with an opening ceremony on the Common at 10 am. Veterans graves have been marked.

AGENDA ITEMS
Accept Donation
Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Bob Martel, to accept a donation in accordance with RSA 31:95-b III (b) in the amount of $185 for Wreaths Across Dunbarton, consisting of donations from several local residents.
Discussion: none.
Vote: (3-0).

PUBLIC HEARING ON PAGES CORNER TRAFFIC STUDY
Mike Kaminski called the public hearing to order at 7:15 p.m.

Mike Kaminski explained that the BoS asked the Police Department to look into how they could improve the safety at the intersection at Pages Corner. The Police Department, working with the NH DOT and Central NH Regional Planning, conducted a study and has developed some ideas.

In order to get their project scheduled with the state, there is a queue system that must be followed.

Sgt. Chris Remillard provided a handout containing the count of peak hour turn movements as well as the Road Safety Audit Report from the NH DOT. There is a lot of driver confusion at this intersection which has led to some accidents and near-misses.

Based on the studies, the following short-term solutions have been suggested:
1. Oversized stop signs.
   Additional warning signs
   Visual speed readout signs
   Trimming of some shrubbery from the area of the intersection.
2. Remove eastbound stop sign, meaning that north and south would have to stop.
3. Change the intersection to a 4-way stop.

4. A long-term solution that was mentioned is creating a roundabout. The cost for this be about $1 million. Choosing to move forward with this option would get the town in the queue with the state.

Chief Sklut noted that there is some shrubbery located at the eastbound stop sign that blocks the view of eastbound traffic. Where it is on private property, they would need to get permission from the landowner to remove it.

Fred Mullen of Stark Lane stated that he has served on the Fire Department for 35 years. In that time, he has seen two fatalities occur at this intersection and several other minor accidents and near-misses. He presented the following

Heading east from Rt. 77, the problem is that drivers are cresting the hill and not necessarily paying attention. He suggests installing red flashing lights on the stop sign, or lights that travel around the edges of the stop sign in order to draw attention to it.

It is nearly impossible to get through the intersection at certain times of the morning. In the wintertime, heading west on an incline, the road freezes because of the north wind that comes through the power lines. He feels that if they install a roundabout or a two way stop there it will compound the problem. Even road maintenance trucks have a hard time in that area when they treat the roads. If you have a two way stop, it will help westbound traffic but not eastbound traffic. Lack of common courtesy is another part of the problem.

Mr. Mullen likes option #1, involving the lights and oversized signs because they need to catch drivers’ attention. He added that Jewett Road needs another ‘Stop Ahead’ sign prior to the intersection. They need to be mindful of consequences in all seasons. If they don’t keep westbound traffic flowing in the wintertime, those cars are not going to get up the hill. He is all for solving the problem but feels that a 2-way stop, or a roundabout is not the answer.

Don Larsen asked if rumble strips would be an option. Dave Nault responded that they were determined to be too noisy for the neighborhood. Don Larsen suggested putting them near the bridge. Chief Sklut said that they are very effective, but they will drive the people that live in their neighborhood out of their minds. Don Larsen likes the idea of lighting the signs and putting warning signs further out, noting that in the afternoon, westbound traffic is flowing quickly.

A resident asked if there were statistics on how many fatalities have occurred at the intersection. Sgt. Remillard replied that there have been 2 fatalities, one
occurring last year. There aren’t as many crashes aren’t as people think, but there are a lot of near-misses that happen there. He feels installing speed signs are a good idea. The DOT recommended solar-powered speed readout signs. They could put one on each side of the intersection to catch people’s attention. The state would pay for installation, but the town would be responsible for maintaining them.

A resident asked about how long it would take to get them installed. Sgt. Remillard replied that the DOT is quite busy, adding that it took 3 months to get their report. However, the state does want to see safety improvements, so if they were to put together a plan, he feels things would move relatively quickly.

Torin Ward of Stark Highway North said that it appears that traffic traveling south and north does not adhere to the speed limits. He likes the idea of the flashing signs on 13W and 77E. He noted that the town of Bedford has solar powered lights on their stop sign near the school, and the flashing LED’s definitely grab your attention. The red flashing light doesn’t seem to be enough. Sgt. Remillard agreed that there is some merit to the speed issue. One of their officers writes a lot of tickets in that area. People are doing nearly 50 miles an hour, and the person involved in the last fatal accident was going in excess of 55mph. He also supports the idea of additional lights to grab drivers’ attention

Alex Amann of Stark Highway North noted that until Fred Mullen spoke, he liked the idea of the 4-way stop. He thinks getting people to slow down is a good idea.

Tom Cusano 10 Old Fort Lane said that they discussed this at their association meeting. His experience has been that a lot of public input and business input influences changes to their plans. Fred Mullen gave them tremendous background information. This intersection has multiple problems. He feels that the sign indicating that the intersection is a 3-way stop is too small for people to notice. He suggests approach signs that state ‘dangerous intersection ahead’. He also noted that if they go to the state with a plan, and along with examples of other places this plan is working, it may happen more quickly. He would also like to see better lighting, as there is next-to-none at that intersection. There are built-in hazards that residents have taken for granted because they live there.

Ed Wagner of Tenney Hill Road agrees that they need more lights. Bedford has a sign near the school with lights around the outside that you can’t miss. He added that a stop sign going west is not a good plan. There also needs to be a sign added stating that they need to yield to oncoming traffic.

Brian Merrill of 662 Old Fort Road said that he is not in favor of making the intersection a 4-way stop.
John Trottier of Stark Highway North said that it is a state road, and while they would take their suggestions, it is their road. As far as the speed indicator signs, he finds that people seem to use them as a toy, seeing how high they can get the reading to go. He understands the issue with the road grade coming from the east. DOT and Public Works understand they will need to spend more time maintaining that area. If they do implement the 4-way stop, they need to reduce the shoulder heading westbound.

Bob Martel doesn’t feel that getting a roundabout into the 10-year queue is a bad thing.

Rich Schaefer of Old Fort Lane feels that part of the problem with the sign that he was mentioning is not only the size but the wording.

Karen Cusano said that she is not in favor of a roundabout, because not only do they take up a lot of space and land, but it is also on a hill.

Mike Kaminski agreed that they do need to get in the queue with the state. They aren’t going to decide that tonight, but he did note that Option 1 seems to have a lot of support.

Chief Sklut said that when he first moved here, he had never seen a 3-way stop in his life. The natural flow is east and west with stops north and south. It is a single lane in each direction. He went out there at 6am and watched the intersection. His big concern is the turning traffic. With the amount of traffic that he has observed, he doesn’t feel that a two-way stop would be a bad idea.

Dave Nault fears that going back to a 2-stop would cause just as many accidents. Chief Sklut agrees and noted that some education, notification and signage would need to take place. The accidents that he has seen has been from people stopping at the stop signs and being rear-ended. He likes the idea of having flashing lights to warn about the stop signs but added that they need to be careful of having too many signs in a small location because it can be overwhelming.

Michelle Dufos noted that the stop sign used to be a bit bigger.

John Trottier believes they need to look at a turning lane to get people out of the flow of traffic. Chief said there isn’t enough volume for one. When the traffic is flowing, there isn’t a problem.

Chief Sklut noted that his concern with a 4-way stop is there will be a mess there twice a day.

Don Larsen of Birch View Drive commented that on Saturday mornings, he has sat there waiting at that intersection for a long time because the traffic going to
We are at that time is heavy. People coming up from going west on 13 toward the intersection need to use their turn signals.

Mary Beth Waltz said that she doesn’t feel that there is any consistency in the traffic pattern that the Chief described. Bow has the same problem with one of their intersections. They had seed money from the state that would have covered the roundabout. Many of the younger people with families that wanted the roundabout didn’t show up and it was voted down. The DOT is working on a project in the heights and is not listening to the residents. They have a plan that does not make any sense. She suggests that the town remain assertive when it comes to dealing with DOT to make sure they are being heard.

Mike Kaminski thanked the public for attending the hearing. He thinks that it was heard loud and clear that visibility and lighting are definitely issues that people are talking about.

Mike Kaminski closed the public hearing at 8:11 p.m.

The BoS recessed for one minute to allow the room to clear. Meeting reconvened at 8:14 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Kaminski asked to rescind his motion from last week and revisit the discussion of the grandfather clause pertaining to insurance coverage when they review their personnel plan in the summer. Bob agrees that this is not the time to look at the change and rescinds his second of the motion.

TOWN BUSINESS

Mailbox Items

Mike Kaminski shared the following items received over the past week:

Letter from Cohen Steel.

Mike Kaminski explained that Cohen was the supplier of steel for the town hall building. The contractor purchased steel and never Cohen was never paid. They have a balance of money left over from the project that was not paid to the contractor, and they are going to see if they can pay that money to Cohen Steel.

The BoS is in consensus to pay Cohen Steel the portion of money they have left over from the Town Hall project.

Line Comeau shared that she notified employees about the coming insurance changes.
Letter from Merrimack County sharing that they have a new administrator.

Letter from Chief Sklut regarding Brian Patten taking advantage of tuition reimbursement. **Mike Kaminski** has no problem as long as it follows the personnel plan.

Letter from the Police Department regarding upcoming events.

Maintenance Budget: **Line Comeau** said she does not have all the quotes for the transfer station. Woody has two contractors coming on Tuesday to look at the work that needs to be done in the bathroom as mentioned in the memo: mold mitigation, washing/painting walls, adding base molding around the walls. **Dave Nault** said that if they go by that list that was reviewed by the board, that should cover what needs to be done in the bathroom.

**Line Comeau** said that she has not heard from the Twin Meadow Roofing and that she will follow up with them this week. **Mike Kaminski** noted that he wants to make the roof a priority over the second part of the vinyl siding. **Dave Nault** asked Woody to get them the numbers for the work on the bathroom.

**Chief Sklut** likes the job done with the vinyl siding. They were fast and did quality work. They also left a piece of the siding with the label from the box for future reference. He took a picture and will send it to Line for her files. **Mike Kaminski** mentioned that the painting work will be done in the spring.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Woody Bowne** asked if the BoS has considered putting a whole new roof on the safety complex, because they currently have 3 different ones on that building. **Dave Nault** responded that they did review it, noting that the building was designed in the 60’s, so they would need to look into some possible structural issues.

**Chief Sklut** noted that Jeff Crosby finished paving the back-parking lot. He said they did a fabulous job of getting it level, graded and fixed, adding that it is pitched perfectly and drains very well. **Dave Nault** asked about working with the School Board regarding making the school driveway a one-way drop-off. **Chief Sklut** answered that he has been talking to the school about it. They need to work through the process of afternoon pickup, but they will get things sorted out and implemented.
Sgt. Remillard thanked the BoS for supporting Officer Tyler’s tuition. He also noted that Troy Simpson has been hired by Goffstown as a full-time officer. Line Comeau requested a resignation letter for the personnel file.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

Bob Martel addressed the issue of the new healthcare plan, noting that from 2008 to 2017, healthcare has increased 144% for single coverage and 177% for family coverage. They’re trying to manage healthcare for the town employees, attempting to find a fit to work for everyone and are doing the best they can to try to keep both their employees as well as the taxpayers happy.

Line Comeau said that she attended a seminar with the Trustee of the Trust Funds. She has asked John to come before the BoS with some of the information they got there, including new documentation requirements for the Federal Trust.

Line Comeau also noted that an individual contacted the town offices to ask if they accepted the expanded veterans’ option. It’s possible there may be a petition warrant article. Mike Kaminski asked that it be made an agenda item at a future meeting.

Dave Nault asked Woody Bowne if he has any new applicants for the open positions at the Transfer Station, suggesting that they put the sign out by the road after the storm. Mike Kaminski also asked Woody to work with Line to take a look at the non-cost-effective recyclables, as eliminating some would take some of the workload off of the recycling center.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Bob Martel to adjourn the meeting.

The BoS adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

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Mike Kaminski, Chair
Dave Nault, Selectman

Bob Martel, Selectman