

**Minutes  
FOR  
2016 Town of Dover Annual Town Meeting  
And  
Town School District Meeting**

The legal voters of the Town of Dover, Vermont, and the Town School District of Dover, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned that, pursuant to Title 17, V.S.A., Section 2655, they are to meet at the Dover Town Hall on Dover Common in said Dover, Vermont on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. to act upon the following articles to wit:

**ARTICLE TO BE VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT (Include Article 1 only)**

**The polls will open for Australian ballot voting at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 7:00 p.m.**

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose all Dover town officers and Dover school district officers for the following positions required by law to be elected at the annual meeting:

Auditor 3-year term	Robert A. McIntyre Jr.	343
First Constable 1-year term	Randy Johnson	311
	Marco Tallini	121
Grand Juror 1-year term	none elected	
Library Trustee 5-year term	Darcy C. Canu	151
	Patricia LaRosa	172
Library Trustee 5-year term (1 year remaining)	Jason Staloff	338
Lister 3-year term	Linda Sherman	384
Lister 3-year term (2 years remaining)	none elected	
Moderator - School 1-year term	Sarah Shippee	54
Moderator - Town 1-year term	Rich Werner	66
School Director 3-year term	Laura H. Sibilia	361
School Director 2-year term	Jollene C. Mahon	350
Select Board Member 3-year term	Edward Barber	167
	Joseph Mahon	239
Select Board Member 2-year term	Randy Terk	343
Town Agent 1-year term	none elected	
Town Clerk 3-year term	Andy McLean	415
Town Treasurer 3-year term	Marco Tallini	369
Trustee of Public Funds 1-year term	Marco Tallini	357

Moderator, Lawrence Feldstein opens the meeting at 10:00 am.

Pledge of allegiance led by our local Boy Scout troop

The moderator goes over the ground rules for the day's proceedings.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the Town School District support the Lafter program in the amount of \$23,100, said sum to come from the Reserve Fund?

M: Randy Terk

2<sup>nd</sup>: Linda Holland

Discussion: Judy Edberg, what is the Lafter program? Rich Werner, School Board chair, blue colored handout on your chairs explains the after school program. Grant we received for this ran out. Should we continue? The program works really well. Display provided by parents at the front of the room. Judy, I support the after school program but, why no more grants? Rich, it actually costs more with the grant. We can provide the same program for less.

V: Ayes, unanimous

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the Town School District approve the amount not to exceed \$4,655 for the purchase of a new oven for the School Kitchen, said sum to come from the building reserve fund?

M: Jim Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup>: Cliff Turpin

Discussion: Ed Barber, need electronic ignition for ease of use and safety. Rich, original oven from the 70's or 80's. Requiring lots of repairs. We need a new one. Money to come from reserve fund.

V: Ayes, unanimous

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall the Town School District set the annual tuition rate to approved independent schools as required by Title 16, Section 824(c), for students in grades seven through twelve, up to \$16,250 for the 2016/2017 school year?

M: Andy McLean

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jim Lynch

D: Rich explains, yellow handout on your chairs. We are required to have this in a stand-alone article. It's basically the same article that you have seen in previous years.

V: Ayes, unanimous

Mark Tashjian, Burr & Burton headmaster, speaks about Burr & Burton and Dover's relationship to the school.

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall the Town School District compensate the Officers as follows- Chairperson- \$2,500 per year; Members- \$2,000 per year, and mileage reimbursement at the Federal reimbursement rate for the month in which the mileage occurred?

M: Linda Holland

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jim Lynch

V: Ayes, unanimous

**ARTICLE 6:** Shall the Town School District authorize any surplus from the 2015/2016 budget to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund?

M: Jim Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup>: Judy Edberg

V: Ayes, unanimous

**ARTICLE 7:** Shall the Town School District authorize funding the Capital Vehicle Fund in the amount of \$10,550, with such funds coming from the Capital Reserve Fund?

M: Sarah Shippee

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jim Lynch

V: Ayes, unanimous

**ARTICLE 8:** Shall the Town School District authorize funding of the Capital Building fund in the amount of \$12,000, with such funds coming from the Capital Reserve Fund?

M: Jim Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sarah Shippee

V: Ayes, unanimous

**ARTICLE 9:** Shall the voters of the Dover Town School District approve the school board to expend \$3,199,383 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,180.55 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.57 % more than spending for the current year.

M: Jim Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup>: Judy Edberg

D: Rich explains, because the State changes numbers after the Town Meeting Warning is published we need a friendly amendment to 3,186,350.

Jim Lynch, friendly amendment: Shall the voters of the Dover Town School District approve the school board to expend **\$3,186,350** which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,180.55 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.57 % more than spending for the current year.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Victoria Capitani

Discussion: Rich explains, green sheet under your seats.

Vote on Amendment: Ayes, unanimous

Vote on article as amended: Ayes, unanimous

**ARTICLE 10:** Shall the Town School District authorize the School Directors to withdraw money from the Capital Reserve Fund to offset the Homestead tax rate, but not more than \$330,000?

M: Sarah Shippee

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jim Lynch

V: Ayes, unanimous

**ARTICLE 11:** To discuss any other items that the voters would like to discuss, and to conduct any other business that may legally come before the voters including Act 46 and the study committees that have been working with the School Board?

M: Randy Terk

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jim Lynch

Rich Werner honors Meredith Anton on behalf of Dover for her role in Town and at the School. We are losing principal, Bill Anton, to the Windham Central Supervisory Union. New principal, Matt Martin, is welcomed. Carina Hellstrom questions the third question on the Act 46 survey, eliminate Dover School all together? Yes, an option. Laura Sibilia, Marge Thurber, it would be nice to have a comparison of options. Rich, so complicated hard to analyze options at this point, but that is the goal when we know more. Trip Morse talks about his Act 46 committee, International Baccalaureate Program Magnet School. Two in Burlington were visited, one in Mass. Kids would be pulled from other towns by lottery and interview process. Jim O'Brien, financial situation? We'd get grants etc. would not cost more. Randy Capitani speaks about Legal Committee. Looking for other groups in the State to ally with.

Rep., Laura Sibilia addresses the assembly, Schools are the big topic in Montpelier. Choice is driving most of the conversation. Choice in Dover is not currently threatened. Independent contractors bill is in Laura's committee. Need to classify employees correctly. Broadband community meetings. Gilfeather Turnip bill, three cheers for the Gilfeather Turnip! We need to lengthen terms for State officials. Two years means too much time is spent campaigning and not enough time to get things done. Marijuana bill: please, let me know your feelings on this. I don't support provider taxes for physicians and dentists. I may support the proposed mutual fund fee which simply brings us in line what surrounding states are doing.

Randy Johnson, against the marijuana bill. If passed, I will propose an ordinance outlawing the sale of marijuana in Dover. This is not a good idea from a public health and law enforcement standpoint.

Adam Levine, paid sick leave bill? Laura, I did not vote for it but, it passed.

#### TOWN MEETING

**ARTICLE 12:** Shall the voters accept the annual report of the auditors and other town officers?

M: Linda Holland

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jim Lynch

V: Ayes, unanimous

**ARTICLE 13:** Shall the voters authorize the elimination of the Office of Lister and replace it with a professionally qualified assessor appointed by the Select board who shall have the same powers, discharge the same duties, proceed in the discharge thereof in the same manner, and be subject to the same liabilities as are prescribed for Listers or the board of Listers under the provisions of Title 32?

M: Sarah Shippee

2<sup>nd</sup>: Judy Edberg

D: Randy Terk speaks to this: our Lister, Linda Sherman came to the Board of Selectmen and proposed this as a way to deal with some of the issues in her office. It makes sense. Diane Guminak, will we have one person or three? Vicki, one. There is a good deal of training involved with the position and we should have more longevity in the office. Adam Levine, is it your intent to hire someone with the same level of

training as the subcontractor you now hire? Randy Terk explained that Jim Boyle has always been a part of that office and there will be no change there. Adam asked about Lister qualifications, why is it not our intent that the qualification of the appointee be equal to the subcontractor that we now have so we can do away with the subcontracted appraiser. Linda Sherman explained that the difference between an assessor and a lister is nothing. Just one person versus three. Joe Mahon, having an appraiser shows more credibility to the State that we are keeping up with our grand list. Andy McLean- not town clerk just a voter- does not like moving away from elected positions into appointed positions- I am OK with an appointed assessor as that appointment provides insulation between the appointed person and the select board. An appointed Assessor can only be removed for cause after a hearing, unlike a hired position. I am OK with taking Linda and the selectmen's word that this is good for the Town. Judith Edberg- does this go far enough to build up the listers office to get the job done? Randy Terk- this allows them to bring in the people if they need to. Cliff Turpin- he is concerned about giving up his ability to vote for the town position- he does not feel good about giving up his right. Eddie Barber- how much do you expect to spend? Randy Terk- it is in the budget. An amount adequately budgeted- \$58,700 for listers' office. Vicki Capitani- Linda works many hours and receives no benefits, she should receive benefits. Rich Werner- we don't elect now as no one runs, and at any time the voters can petition the select board with 60 signatures to add an article to go back to elected listers. Kevin Stine- want to know is it possible to make decision on a yearly basis? Can we decide at Town meeting? Randy Terk- it is not the intent to have an article every year. But, as stated before, the voters can through petition have an article in the warning. The voters can decide if it is not working, then petition an article to reverse it. Or, the Select board can insert an article. Michelle Vicary- what happens to the other listers positions? Randy Terk- the elected listers positions go away today. Jim Lynch- call the question. Judith Edberg seconded- all voted in favor of calling the question

Paper ballot required by statute.

V: Ayes 62, Nays 12. Motion carries

**ARTICLE 14:** Shall the voters compensate town officers as follows: Town Clerk \$51,002.21 annual salary, Town Treasurer \$5,000 annual stipend, Select Board Chairman \$2,500 annual stipend, Select Board members \$2,000 annual stipend, Lister Chairman \$19.45/hr., Listers \$16.32-18.39/hr., and Town Auditors \$16.43/hr., all others – chairmen Vermont minimum wage plus \$1.50/hr., members Vermont minimum wage, and mileage based on the Federal reimbursement rate for the month in which the mileage occurred?

M: Judy Edberg

2<sup>nd</sup>: Abe Schuster

D: Jim Lynch- in honor of Buzzy, "point of order" we should remove listers from the article because the previous vote made this moot. Andy McLean, again as a private citizen- The select board moved a majority of the Treasurer's salary into a book keeper position which is hired, essentially making the Treasurer a hired position. When we voted to appoint an assessor, we maintained the insulation between the select board and the assessor that an appointment provides. This is not the cases with a hired position. In statute a selectman cannot also, be treasurer because the offices provide a check on each other. In the "Lest we forget" file that Mary Lou created Dover had a Town Manager who embezzled Embezzling is the official State sport in Vermont. Would like to see the Treasurer's salary returned to the position from the book keeping position. Ned Wilson- agree with what Andy just said- Randy Terk- not eliminating the Treasurer- creating two positions- bookkeeper who answers to the select board- Treasurer still has same statutory responsibility. Bill Anton- in a unique position to see benefits of the selectmen's decision. Having worked with the book keeper on the school side, this is a good thing for the Town.

Andy McLean- Make an amendment to read- "Town Treasurer- annual salary- \$50,861.40"- striking \$5,000 annual stipend.

Dan Ballioti seconded

Vote on amendment: Nays have it by a 2 to 1 margin

Marlaine McLean- why do we need two positions in the first place? Randy Terk- we wanted the book keeper to answer to the select board in case we need to take disciplinary action. Jim Lynch- understand but concerned about lack of insulation. Susan Rand- why have an elected Town Treasurer? Randy Terk- statute requires us to have one. Marco Talini- there are certain things that by statute have to be done by the treasurer. Cliff Turpin - Treasurer is now in name only. Michele Vicary- why are we doing this now if it has worked well for two hundred years? Randy Terk, decision was made last year to split the position with input from the former Treasurer. Marlaine McLean - if the people of the Town are qualified to elect a select board then they should be qualified to elect a treasurer. Judy Edberg - that assumes that we have knowledgeable voters, and I bet there are people who do not know who they are voting for. Jim Lynch - did the select board check with town attorney? It feels like this is an end run, that people in town are not qualified to elect a treasurer. Randy Terk, we are electing a treasurer.

Vote on article as warned: Ayes have it, article passed as warned

**ARTICLE 15:** Shall the voters authorize the Select board to appoint a collector of delinquent taxes pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2651d?

M: Jim Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup>: Abe Schuster

D: Randy Terk - If no Delinquent Tax Collector is elected it defaults to First Constable- The Select Board would like to see a portion of the 8% collected go to the Town to offset taxes- Victoria Capitani - 250 to 300 hours per year- 8% penalty collected even if one day late on second payment- Mary Lou was. over last five years, earning \$45,000 per year- thought it was time to discuss some of the money going back to Town to reduce taxes for everyone. Randy Terk -there is some discretion as to if the full 8% is collected- and Select Board would be able to weigh in on it- Selectmen could set up a policy of leniency, etc. Not trying to eliminate an elected position, trying to do the best for the voters. Randy Johnson- takes away for the Town's right to elect-Randy asked if he could make an amendment- that the Bookkeeper be the delinquent tax collector. Randy was told no by the Town Moderator that the voters at Town Meeting don't have that power. Mary Lou- if appointed and goes bad we can get rid of the position. Marlaine McLean- who set 8%?- Randy Terk - collector can charge from 0 up to 8%. Andy McLean- as a private citizen- Initially against appointing this position, however, Marco's point at Candidates Night that bringing the position in house by appointing the Treasurer would make the delinquent Tax Collector's books subject to the annual audit by Sullivan & Powers. This added accountability has made the article a positive for the Town, but only if we appoint Marco.

V: all in favor with a few nays, article passes

**ARTICLE 16:** Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$2,167,710.42 for the coming year?

M: Judy Edberg

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ned McElroy

V: aye unanimous

**ARTICLE 17:** Shall the voters authorize highway fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$1,374,030.67 for the coming year?

M: Jim Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup>: Abe Schuster

V: aye unanimous

**ARTICLE 18:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$650,000.00 for the Capital Paving Fund?

M: Jim Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup>: Abe Schuster

V: aye unanimous

**ARTICLE 19:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$250,000.00 for the Capital Equipment Fund?

M: Jim Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup>: Abe Schuster

V: aye unanimous

**ARTICLE 20:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 for the Capital Building Improvement Fund?

M: Jim Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup>: Linda Sherman

V: aye unanimous

**ARTICLE 21:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 for the Town of Dover Legal Defense Fund?

M: Bob Hickey

2<sup>nd</sup>: Linda Holland

V: aye unanimous

**ARTICLE 22:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$3,372.00 for the purpose of supporting Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) activities?

M: Vicky Capitani

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jim Lynch

D: Randy Terk- explained while it is always an article- the selectmen want them to come and explain what they have done- Katy Negorski- talked about SeVEDS work over the past year.

V: aye unanimous

**ARTICLE 23:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$5,202.00 for the purpose of supporting MHCA Dover Cinema (Memorial Hall Center for the Arts, Inc.)?

M: Judy Edberg

2<sup>nd</sup>: Faith Schuster

D: Dan Facilla explained- why do we need money each year? - has never made money- donations are stronger- \$27,000 deferred capital expenses- paid off projector with donations- had a great winter but not every winter is great. Larry Feldstein- One question, 501C3? Not a profit making endeavor? No. Adam Levine, Have you applied for 1% money? No. Susan Rand- supportive of this, should we move it to a line item in the budget like other non-profit appropriations? Randy Terk- take it under advisement for the next budget year.

V: all ayes with some nays, article passed

**ARTICLE 24:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?

M: Jim Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup>: John Guminak

V: aye unanimous

**ARTICLE 25:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to sell properties, which the Town has acquired by gift or through tax sales?

M: Jim Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Hickey

V: aye unanimous

**ARTICLE 26:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to set the tax rate sufficient to cover the approved expenses of the Town of Dover and the Town of Dover Highway for taxes due on August 15, 2016 and February 15, 2017?

M: John Guminak

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jim Lynch

V: aye unanimous

**ARTICLE 27:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

M: Jim Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup>: John Guminak

V: aye unanimous

**ARTICLE 28:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Rich Werner- pay attention to change in regional commissions to regional governance; thanked Larry Feldstein for his years as Town Moderator.

Faith Schuster moved to adjourn- Jim Lynch seconded