

**Minutes
FOR
2018 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 6, 2018, 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 10:00 a.m. and remain open until 7:00 p.m.

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

Auditor 3-year term	Linda Sherman	131
First Constable 1-year term	none elected	
Grand Juror 1-year term	Andy McLean	141
Library Trustee 5-year term	Ed Brookman	131
Library Trustee 5-year term (3 years remaining)	Cynthia Cohen	136
Library Trustee 5-year term (4 years remaining)	Nancie McLean	141
Moderator – School 1-year term	Sarah Shippee	132
Moderator - Town 1-year term	Richard Werner	135
School Director 3-year term	Johnny Cleanthes	134
School Director 2-year term	Jollene Mahon	136
Select Board Member 3-year term	Daniel Baliotti	105
	Candis Muuss	31
Select Board Member 2-year term	Sarah Shippee	133
Town Agent 1-year term	Linda Holland	133
Trustee of Public Funds 1-year term	Marco Tallini	144

Boy Scouts lead the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

Moderator, Rich Werner goes over the rules, honors the youngest and the oldest voters in the room and asks a few town trivia questions:

Youngest voter: Jessica DeFrancesco born in 1985

Oldest voter: Louise Severance born in 1929. 2nd place: Eddie Barber and Abe Schuster

From the 1958 Town Report:

Where was the Dover School? In the present Dover Free Library building. – Sue Rand

What was the Grand list in 1958? Sarah Shippee was the closest with \$500,000. It was \$460,000.

Who was School Director in 1958? Phil Bowen knew it was Clyde Jones.

TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters accept the annual report of the auditors and other town officers?

M: Randy Johnson

2nd: Patty Westlake

V: Aye

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters compensate town officers as follows: Town Clerk \$54,108.24 annual salary, Town Treasurer \$5,000 annual stipend, Select Board Chairman \$2,500 annual stipend, Select Board members \$2,000 annual stipend, and Town Auditors \$17.43/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: Randy Schoonmaker

2nd: Ed Barber

V: Aye

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$2,208,391.16 for the coming year?

M: Paul Fisher

2nd: Dan Baliotti

D: Selectmen, total is down 1 percent from last year.

V: Aye

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters authorize highway fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$1,396,483.84 for the coming year?

M: Randy Johnson

2nd: Jessica DeFrancesco

D: Vicki Capitani, up 1 percent.

V: Aye

ARTICLE 6: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$650,000.00 for the Capital Paving Fund?

M: Sue Rand

2nd: Ed Barber

D: Faith Schuster, does this include Rte. 100? No, that's the State. Everybody should sign the petition to fix Rte. 100 because it's awful.

V: Aye

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$250,000.00 for the Capital Equipment Fund?

M: Kevin Stine

2nd: Jessica DeFrancesco

D: Vicki, same amount as last year.

V: Aye

ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$80,000.00 for the Capital Building Improvement Fund?

M: Ted Murphy

2nd: Patty Westlake

D: Vicki, same amount as last year

V: Aye

ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$3,372.00 for Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) activities?

M: Jessica DeFrancesco

2nd: Sue Rand

D: Adam Grinold and Ashley Havreluk given permission by the assembly to speak for SeVEDS: This organization provides a very important high school program to retain people in our community. Ashley joined board last year she grew up in Jacksonville. John Guminak, how did you come up with that number? \$3 per capita. Vicki, what other towns voting on this? 13 communities in Windham County.

V: Aye

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$5,224.66 for MHCA Dover Cinema (Memorial Hall Center for the Arts, Inc.)?

M: Andrea Seaton

2nd: Ed Barber

D: Andrea fully in favor, Brings a lot to the valley. More of a destination.

V: Aye

ARTICLE 11: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$20,000.00 for Deerfield Valley Rescue Inc., for ongoing operations expenditures, community education, and replacement of ambulances and equipment, in accordance with statute 24 V.S.A.?

M: Mark Schauber

2nd: Stephanie Greene

D: Bobby Maynard given permission by the assembly to speak for Deerfield Valley Rescue. Costs going up. 243 calls in Dover, 32 percent of calls. Randy Johnson supports this. Michael Garber, what other towns support with an appropriation? Dover is the first town. Dick Severance, do ski mountains have an unusual amount of service? Does the mountain contribute? Yes. Mount Snow gives \$20,000. Jessica DeFrancesco, Wilmington gave \$30,000 from 1 percent money this year. Linda Sherman supports this. Kevin Stine, other towns should share in funding. Plan next year is to go to all the towns.

V: Aye

ARTICLE 12: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$250.00 for the Windham County Disaster Animal Response Team (WinDART) to assist in the care and sheltering of pets in the event of a local emergency?

M: Sue Rand

2nd: Marc Schauber

D: Dan Hollister given permission to speak by the assembly. Operating budget 5,000 mostly insurance. There was no help during Irene for pets. We'll be here next time. Terry Westby, what constitutes a pet? Dog, cat, rabbit, horses, etc.

V: Aye

ARTICLE 13: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$15,000.00 for Support and Services at Home (SASH) to provide services to the residents of the Town?

M: Lori O'Hern

2nd: Kevin Stine

D: Becky Stockhouse-Arbella speaks for SASH, started in Burlington for people who stay in their homes as they age. This appropriation serves Dover, Wilmington and Whittingham. Serve 150 people locally. Vicki, is this on the ballot in Wilmington and Whittingham? No, 8 signatures short in Wilmington and 20 short in Whittingham. Phil Bowen how many people served in Dover? 58.

V: Aye

ARTICLE 14: Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?

M: Patty Westlake

2nd: Ted Murphy

D: Dick Severance what's the alternative? Stays in the General Fund.

V: Aye

ARTICLE 15: Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to sell properties, which the Town has acquired by gift or through tax sales?

M: David Smith

2nd: Jessica DeFrancesco

D: Linda Holland, how many properties do we have? Marco, a handful.

V: aye

ARTICLE 16: 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 September 15, 2018 and February 15, 2019?

M: Andrea Seaton

2nd: Stephanie Greene

D: Marco, note change of date for first payment. Necessary because of the time crunch between Grand List finalization and getting out the tax bills. Linda Kersten, dollar split same? Yes. Linda Sherman, concern for people on budgets. Andrea Seaton, can we pay on Aug 15? Yes. Patty, will cash flow be adequate? Yes. Linda Kersten, timing works better.

V: yea

Break to hear from State Senator Jeanette White and State Representative Laura Sibilgia.

Linda Kersten asks Laura Sibilgia about status of eliminating social security from taxable income. Laura sponsored that provision in a big omnibus bill. It's still in there right now. David Smith asks Jeanette White about the fourth amendment regarding the seizing of guns in newly passed legislation? Jeanette, there would be due process. Tom Oakley asks about what is being done to address the opioid crisis? Limiting number of pills is making a difference. Kerry McDonald Cady, Deputy States Attorney who administers saliva tests? Medical professionals are not required to administer? Has this been addressed? Jeanette White, this is not really a road side test. Some discussion about how the new marijuana law works. Sue Rand, assault weapons ban? Jeanette, I did not grow up in a house with guns, "assault weapon" definition is the problem. Size of the magazine is really the problem. Laura, we're talking about constitutional rights vs. the lives and safety of loved ones. People aren't generally chill about this. Let's remember to have a civil discussion.

Roscoe Shippee knew that Tom Meade was the first Fire Chief in West Dover. Roscoe gets a prize!

Patsy Bemis knew that Archie Clark was the first Fire Chief in East Dover. Patsy gets a prize!

ARTICLE 17: Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

M: Linda Kersten

2nd: John Guminak

D: Sue Rand, friendly amendment to include an Article 17B: to transact any other business that may legally come before the voters. 2nd Linda Sherman. Ayes and one nay, amendment passes.

V: Ayes and one nay, article passes as amended.

ARTICLE 17B: To discuss any other business that may legally come before this meeting?

Andrea Seaton, survey on table from local nonprofit hospitals please fill out.

Dan Baliotti, thanks to Town from Historical Society. Thanks to Mary Lou Raymo for her years of service as treasurer

Linda Kersten, wonderful Economic Development section in the Town Report.

Kerry McDonald Cady, Deputy States Attorney, we need foster families, many children in our area taken from abusive homes. Help if you can.

Josh Cohen reads his letter regarding school shootings urging the State Legislature to "Do something." David Smith, what about personal responsibility. "In cooperation with parents" should be in the letter. Not supporting something that puts the responsibility on someone else. Sue Rand consider amending letter to incorporate parental responsibility. Marco Tallini incorporate Dave's sentiments and a respect for our tradition of firearms ownership. Linda Kersten, as an appraiser I see a lot of guns in homes in Windham County, a strong local tradition. I don't like the letter, it is a rant. Ed Barber, guns don't kill people, people kill people.

Break for lunch 1:30pm.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Moderator, Sarah Shippee goes over the ground rules.

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town School District expend \$25,000 to add transportation to Brattleboro High School?

M: John Guminak

2nd: Ed Barber

D: Much discussion, some parents have concerns regarding the Moover being used by the public as well as students. Some parents are very comfortable with this. Times for pick up and drop off would be different.

V: Ayes have it.

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town School District expend \$4,000 to the Moover for transportation to Wilmington and Brattleboro High School?

M: Vickie Capitani

2nd: Lori O'Hern

D: Vickie, Twin Valley students depend on this. We need to support it. John Guminak supports this. Carina Hellstrom agrees.

V: Aye

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town School District expend \$30,000 to increase the pre-school to a full day program?

M: Tom Oakley

2nd: Marc Schaubert

D: Tom Oakley, Dover one of the only towns without this. Great for kids, great for working parents. Richie, we actually need \$40,000. Friendly amendment, please. Marc Schaubert, motion to amend to \$40,000. 2nd: Jessica DeFrancesco. Vote: Aye. Discuss amended article, Scott Salway, this will pay dividends with our kids. Richie, when we voted in preschool it decreased special ed costs. Carina, I have three daughters, would have loved to have this. Mike Georgio, Mount Snow daycare is great, but this would be better. Attracts young workers.

V: Aye. Article passed as amended.

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town School District set the annual tuition rate to approved independent schools as \$17,065 for the 2018/2019 school year?

M: Tom Oakley

2nd: Jessica DeFrancesco

D: Richie, Burr and Burton rate.

V: Aye

ARTICLE 22: 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: Vickie Capitani

2nd: Dan Baliotti

V: Aye

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town School District authorize any surplus from the 2017/2018 budget to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund?

M: Dan Baliotti

2nd: Marc Schaubert

V: Aye

ARTICLE 24: Shall the voters of the Dover Town School District approve the school board to expend \$3,001,623 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 \$17,035.14 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.08 % more than spending for the current year.

M: Tom Oakley

2nd: John Guminak

D: Diane Guminak motion to amend to \$3,005,623. Adding \$4,000 for a kiln and supplies. 2nd: Marc Schaubert. Discuss amendment, Diane, increase enrichment and art program at the Dover School. John Guminak ventilation system is already there. Jen Tallini, new art teacher, wants to take this to a new level. Vote on amendment: Aye.

V: on amended article (extra four thousand) \$3,005,623, aye one nay, article passes as amended.

ARTICLE 25: 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: Sue Rand

2nd: John Guminak

V: Aye

ARTICLE 26: 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.

Tom Oakley re: joining with Wardsboro, what do the towns bring to the table. We'll figure that out but looks like Wardsboro has more than us in the bank. Richie, please fill out new school board's survey. Please participate. Dan Baliotti, one room school house in East Dover may be bought by the Historical Society. Matt Martyn, approved to speak, honored and privileged to serve. Thank you for what you do here.



Snowshoe Trail