

**Dover Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Dover Town Office
Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE DOVER SELECT BOARD

Select Board members present: Josh Cohen, Victoria Capitani, Sarah Shippee, Dan Baliotti

Select Board members absent: Joe Mahon

Also, present: Office Manager, Jeannette Eckert

Public: Maggie Lewis, Lauren Harkawik, Jim McDevitt, Randy Johnson, Bob Holland, Steve Neratko, Thom Simmons, Nikki Steele & DJ Boyd, Rich Werner, Shannon Wheeler

Regular Meeting Called to Order at 6:30pm by Chair Josh Cohen

I. Public Comments:

Dan Baliotti: Thank God for paper ballots!

Maggie Lewis: Wilmington is assessing the needs/services of the elderly in the community; if Dover ever goes down that path, I am more than willing to help; will be holding Music again on Feb 13 with Jillian Sachs from 1:30 to 2:30pm at The Gathering Place

II. Police Dept: Randy Johnson

A. Dispatching Update

- Attended a Dept. of Public Safety meeting in Waterbury on Jan 29
 - Commissioner Michael Schirling conducted the meeting
 - Possibly looking at sharing equipment among towns
- DPS has a six-million-dollar plus budget just for dispatching
- Cost to agencies is based on preliminary formula and “Call Volume”
- Agencies can be Police, Fire, EMS for municipalities with either no dispatching or without full time dispatching
- Incidents—computer aided dispatching system (CAD)
- Agencies would punch a card or assign an incident number such as:
 - Firearms training
 - Security
 - Suspicious persons
 - Patrols for special details
- With this type of formula, it is based on call volume data from 2018; Will be charged on the call volume
- Dover does not punch a card for certain things: trainings, low types of calls
- Dover had 1134 calls in 2018
 - Shelly Mann entered 310 of those calls
 - How to start separating what formulas are used?
- Spreadsheet considered the budget and the call volume ‘Cost per Call’ dollar amount
 - It would cost Dover \$17,143.24/ year just for Police Dept.
 - $1134 \text{ calls} \times \$60.47/\text{ call} = \$68,572.98 / 4$ (based on a 4-year period)
 - After 4 years will revisit
 - Looking to start this in 2022; not sure if it starts 2021/22 budget or 22/23
 - Numbers can change, and be manipulated
 - Many formulas were discussed, and this is just one of them
- Perhaps do what the Vermont Chiefs do; based on number of full-time officers in the Dept.
- Been put off for a number of years; Dover is grandfathered; Dover pays zero at present
- Free versus paid dispatching

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- Numbers could change dramatically if agencies decide to seek dispatch services from other entities
- Charge everyone? Have the Legislature decide? How is it going to get done?
- Sam Morris got called out for DRE to assist the State Police; Agency assist call was punched; will now have to pay for that
 - Raises our call volume
- Perhaps we need to combine dispatching services with Wilmington
- Contracts with State Police and/or Sheriff's Depts.
- Westminster has a super barracks for dispatching; considering more of them throughout the state
- WDFD & DVR go through Keene Mutual Aid (\$60,000 annually)

Board comments:

- May hit the volunteer fire dept or rescue towns hard if under this same formula
- Do we need to write letters?
- Is there a public safety committee in the Legislature? Gov't Ops—Jeanette White
- Sounds like another Vermont fiasco

Randy will keep the Board informed as things progress

III. New Business:

A. Update on 2020 Census (Thom Simmons, Census Bureau)

- Resident of Chester; Responsible for Windham & Windsor Counties
- Explaining the rollout of the 2020 census & the challenges for this community
- Done every 10 years; for reapportionment reasons
 - Vermont has one Congressman now and that is not going to change
- 65 Federal programs are directly tied to the census for the next 10 years
 - Medicare, Meals on Wheels, Block grants, Special Ed, to name a few
 - All is tied to the census number
- Census for 95% of the country is being done one way and 5% is done another way—Dover is in the 5%
 - Will be three mailings for the 95% starting in March
 - 98% of Dover is in the 5% category; No letters from the Census to Dover
 - Can not deliver to post office boxes
 - Every house will get door to door delivery of the Census form
 - Can be done online for the first time in history
 - Can be called in
 - Short form only this year
 - People who don't respond, will get a knock on the door
- American Community Survey (ACS) response in Dover: 71.2% were returned
 - Children were undercounted by over a million in 2010
 - Over 65+: 19.62% which is suspicious, low for Windham & Windsor
 - 8.14% below poverty rate
 - 30.43% are rental units
- Important to fill out the form!!
- Need 9,000 people to apply as Census Takers; 60% behind in recruitment—Route 100 corridor especially difficult
 - Paid jobs at \$20.00/hour
 - Elected Town Officials (authority figures) cannot be census takers

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- This rule is coming from Washington and New York Census office; they don't know what is involved in small towns
- Have information/flyers available at Town Meeting
- Suggest holding Census Parties
 - To promote recruitment and/or for filling out your census
 - Coordinate with The Gathering Place, Dover Library, Dover School
- Starts March 12th to end of July; but may go to September
- Website; blurb in the Town Report; press releases; news articles
- Meetings with social service agencies to provide information
- Ski slopes will be numbered in March
 - Transitory workers will count
- Telecommunications Survey—could they be incorporated with census information?
 - May want to reach out to WRC

IV. Economic Development: Steve Neratko, Nikki Steele, DJ Boyd

- A. Event Grant Application Review for Old Home Week July 30 thru Aug 2
- Old Home Week is held every 10 years since 1890
 - Parade will be in Wilmington instead of the Blueberry Parade in Dover
 - Committee is asking for \$1000 to sponsor a band in the parade
 - Other sponsor opportunities are available as well
 - Well over 1,000 have attended in the past; brings people back to the area
 - Parade is the big event; Hoping to get all the towns to have floats
 - Towns could create a banner to be carried before the band
 - Probably have 8 or 9 bands
 - Route 9 closes down for 2 hours
 - Fun, Impressive event
 - Other activities going on in Wilmington include BBQ, block party, ice cream social, Fire Dept. competition, house & school tours, town photograph, farewell breakfast
 - Combined with Blueberry Festival which starts July 25

Board comments:

- Nothing is happening in Dover? Historical Society's biggest event is the pie sale
- Perhaps a Park party; other activities are being planned for Dover
- Blueberry parade will return to Dover next year

On a motion by Victoria Capitani, seconded by Sarah Shippee, the Board voted 3-0-1 to fund \$1500 for the Highlanders Band (Baliotti abstained)

V. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve the Minutes of January 21, 2020
On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Victoria Capitani, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of Jan 21, 2020
- B. Approve the Warrants of January 25, 2020 for \$933,693.20 & Feb 1 for \$17,083.45
On a motion by Victoria Capitani, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously approved the warrants of Jan 25 and Feb 1, 2020

VI. FYI:

- A. Upcoming Events at Town Hall
- Patty Carpenter Concert, Feb 5 at 6pm
 - Open Mic Nights—2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 6pm

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- Dover Forge also has Open Mic nights on Wednesdays
 - Annual School Meeting, Feb 11 at 7pm
 - Men of High Degree, Feb 19 at 6pm
 - Pre-Town Meeting, Feb 25, 6pm
 - Town Meeting, March 3, 10am; polls open at 7am
- B. Town Meeting Tune Up, Feb 5 in Montpelier
- C. Windham Regional Commission—Feb 6th, snow date Feb 13th
- Steve & Shannon plan to attend
- D. Local Gov't Day, Feb 13 in Montpelier
- E. Select Board Institute, Mar 21 in Montpelier

VII. Liaison Reports:

Vicki mentioned that Tom Hoskins (the dog studio guy) is now the East Port, Maine City Manager. Folks from Maine had reached out to the Valley News about him. Apparently, Maine gave him the funding he could not get from Vermont.

Rich Werner asked for a few minutes of the Boards time, missed the public comment time

- Over the past 20 years, Dover has fought against Act 60 & Act 68
- In combination with the Select board and School board, have hired lobbyists, conducted studies aided by Laura Sibilia; pushing to make some changes
- Ann Manwaring had asked for a weight study for a number of years
- Study was finally done, and it was eye opening
- Laura held a meeting to discuss the study; now have some real data
- A lot of our neighbor towns have been affected even more than Dover
- Huge detriment to our kids and our taxpayers
- Does seem to be some movement in the Legislature
- Senate is moving a bill; Laura did a write up on it and is requesting folks to write letters to our Senators:
 - House Education, Senate Finance, Senate Education, House Ways & Means
 - WCSU hopes to put together a letter to be allowed to testify
- To aid in creating a letter consider 1) who you are 2) how are you impacted by the study 3) what you are looking for the person to whom you are addressing the letter to do 4) what can be done next
- Hope the Board will agree to compose a letter *from the Board* and to send someone to testify

****Note:** Determine what is in our legal defense fund** Jeannette will check with Marco on this: *He shared that there is a "Tax Reform Fund" which has \$233,164.98 in it*

Maggie Lewis shared that The Gathering Place hired a full-time nurse from East Dover

VIII. Executive Session as needed: none

IX. Adjournment at 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted by Jeannette Eckert

Public notices of these minutes have been posted at the following locations:
Dover Town Clerk's Bulletin Board, Dover Town Meeting Bulletin Board, Dover School
Dover Free Library, East Dover Post Office, Town of Dover Website: www.doververmont.com