

**Dover Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 10, 2020**

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86800444071?pwd=RIU2WDQ0cDM3d3AwSGREeFNON2tnQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 0044 4071

Password: 052648

Dial in: 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 868 0044 4071

Password: 052648

Select Board via Zoom: Victoria Capitani, Sarah Shippee Dan Baliotti, Joe Mahon, Scott Salway
Also, present: Office Manager, Jeannette Eckert

Public present via Zoom: Tabi Freedman, Jim McDevitt, Travis Briggs, Andy McLean, Shannon Wheeler, Linda Sherman, Sam Wade, Katie Knoll, One Smith, Michelle Mann, Marco Tallini, Eric Durocher, Randy Johnson, Lauren Harkawik, Paul Fisher, Hank Naughton, Tracy Bartels, Royal & Ned Wilson, Maggie Lewis, Tim Dolan, Meg Staloff, Randy Capitani

Regular Meeting Called to Order at 6:30pm by Chair Vicki Capitani
Chair Capitani informed all that we are back to an all zoom format for this evening; Tabi Freedman is the administrator and everyone except the Board & Jeannette Eckert will be muted. Please raise your hand or type in the chat box to indicate you would like to speak and Tabi will unmute you.

I. Public Comments: Hearing none, the Board moved on to Unfinished Business

II. Unfinished Business:

A. 2021 Health Insurance Decision

- Jeannette provided a cost comparison between BC/BS & MVP
- Total expense with HRA for MVP is \$586,176.10—2.78% increase
- Total expense with HRA for BC/BS is \$599,386.98—3.6% increase
 - Presuming all employees used every dollar of their HRA
 - The difference is \$21,595.00
 - Small increases this year over past years
- Would like to stay with BC/BS; the incremental difference is not worth the disruption to our employees
- Board consensus is to stay with BC/BS

On a motion by Victoria Capitani, seconded by Sarah Shippee, the Board voted 5-0-0 to fund the employee health care for 2021/22 fiscal year with the BC/BS Silver standard (reflective) plan; premiums in the amount of \$659.14/month for singles; two-person at \$1318.28/month; adult & child(ren) at \$1272.14/month; family at \$1852.18/month; with HRA funding in the amount of \$8,050 for singles & \$16,100 for all others, while leaving the out of pocket maximum at \$1,500 for singles and \$3,000 for all others

The employees thanked the Board for their continued support for our health care

B. Review Suggestions for Conducting Future Board Meetings (Tabi Freedman)

- Reviewed three scenarios after the last meeting which was technologically difficult
 - All Zoom meetings
 - Only the Board in person at Town Office, all others Zoom
 - Purchase additional equipment/hardware for Town Hall which still does not have the desired connectivity
 - Would have to install fiber to make that work at a large expense

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- What we have does not support what we need in that environment
 - Will do a test run next week at Town Office using a large screen TV monitor
 - With the potential to have the Board meet in person and be able to accommodate all others as Zoom participants on Nov 17
 - If a presenter/public feels the need to be in person, the space does allow for 6 additional persons
 - Board members may still attend via Zoom
- C. Revisit Re-Organization of Planning Commission (Tabi Freedman)
- Nicolas Wallaert offered a resignation letter back in 2017
 - Tim Chock has also tendered his resignation but is willing to assist in the transition
 - Kevin Stine, Brendon McGrail are interested to remain on the Commission
 - There is one other person who has interest in it
 - Will work on an ad moving forward---looked to WRC to get some feedback on qualifications
 - Town Plan and Ordinances need updating and a three-person commission should be in place

Comments:

- Believe we should advertise and get it on the website
 - Applicants should submit a letter of interest with some background
 - Revisit at a December meeting
 - In the past very little participation from public during PC meetings; hopefully this will reinvigorate the commission
 - It would be helpful to have a list of responsibilities/duties for each Board/Commission to make the public aware of what each body does
- D. Sign Retainer Agreement for PFAS Lawsuit
- Sam Wade of National Rural Water (retired) & Hank Naughton from Napoli Shkolnik PLLC—a national law firm—in response to PFAS contamination at Library/Daycare well
- Lawsuit is against the manufacturers of PFAS chemicals; not against any local company who may have used those compounds
 - No cost to the town to participate in the suit
 - Approximately 500 plaintiffs in the suit
 - High profile case
 - Since 2000 about a dozen manufacturers of these chemicals used in fire fighting equipment, cleaning products etc. did not make the public aware of the cancer-causing elements in the ingredients
 - Many wells have become contaminated as a result
 - Napoli Shkolnik has the resources & experience to accommodate small and large water systems
 - The firm represented many of the 9-11 responders
 - National Rural Water has retained the firm in this litigation
 - Full time scientific testing firm on retainer
 - Media resources available
 - Goal is to help remediate and clean up water sources no matter the size
 - Advise the Town to keep track of expenses in the testing/investigation process
 - Being a small water source will not impact you negatively

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Comments:

- Our well services two buildings which is a very small system; there are no rate payers
- The attorney fee noted in two places on the agreement are different %--25% and 30%
 - Would prefer to see 25% in both instances
- No fee is paid unless the lawsuit is in our favor; are the disbursements handled the same way only if we are successful? *That is correct*
- Town Attorney was consulted on the agreement
 - Any interest on financing for borrowing would be at the Town's expense at 12% which is steep
 - *Don't anticipate any borrowing—would be willing to cap that at 6%*
- If more sites are found they can be included in the suit
- We are a very small player and this may take years to resolve
- There are state lawsuits in the works in which we may also participate
- We are in the early stages of testing/site investigation
- A clean copy of the agreement would be appreciated to revisit at next meeting

III. Highway: Travis Briggs

A. Discuss Road Crew Hiring Process

- Travis interviewed three applicants who answered the ad; one asked to be removed from consideration
- One has some grader experience & CDL and one would be willing to train for CDL
- Travis will meet with Scott as liaison and review the applicants
- Travis did consult Bob for his recommendations
- Ads were placed in the paper and on the website
- Would like to get someone in for the winter
- Will bring a candidate forward at next meeting

IV. New Business:

A. Consider Options for Conducting Town Meeting (**Andy McLean**)

- VLCT has put out some guidelines on this topic
- State is allowing Select boards to decide to vote at Town meeting by Australian ballot
- Typically, we vote our officers by Australian ballot along with all the articles
- Potentially can vote on the articles by absentee ballot or come to the polling place to vote
- Not in favor of it, people would not get to talk about/explain the articles or ask questions or amend articles
- Obviously, this is in response to Covid
- Depends on the guidance available on March 2
 - Possibly renting out a bigger space to accommodate more distancing
 - Meeting outside
- Mailing out absentee ballots is not really an option; folks would have to request one
- Australian Ballots would need to be ready to go by mid-January
 - Printing ballots and using tabulator—end of December deadline; couple thousand dollars cost potential
 - Lot of logistical concerns
 - Informational meeting would have to take place prior to Town Meeting
- Mt Snow is willing to accommodate; multiple rooms at Mt Snow
 - Guidance at the moment allows 75 people at safe capacity
- Whatever we can do to keep it in person is preferable

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- Town Hall holds up to 100
- AV system – is that available from Mt Snow? Will have to look into it
- Give it some more thought and revisit at future meeting

V. Economic Development:

A. Tracy Bartels - Mount Snow: Updates

- Announced delay to opening—will not be Nov 14th
- Weather is not permissible for snow making
- Not that unusual to delay; average opening day in the last 26 years was Nov 21
- Snow making & mountain operations are ready to go
- Goal is to provide safety for staff and patrons as well as community
- Successful season from start to finish is also a goal
- Thanks to the Town for implementing safety precautions
- Reservation system went live last week—need reservation to go skiing
- Day ticket holders will go on sale Dec 8th
- We will open as soon as weather permits
- Ski area operation guidelines came out last week
- State of VT cross travel guidance came out today but it doesn't preclude making reservations for future; guests must comply and attest to them
- New requirements are being added daily
- Do your best snow dance and wishes for colder weather
- Hopefully Mt Snow will open soon for everyone to enjoy

B. Meg Staloff - Wilmington Works: Eat, Sleep, Shop Local Program Updates and New Funding Request of \$4,000

- Continue program that ran in the summer
- Will run from Dec 1 to 24
- Requesting if Dover wants to participate at \$4000
- Wilmington is going to fund the program regardless of whether Dover does
 - Would increase the ads and promote Dover's inclusion
 - Increase coupons to 1500 instead of 800
- Participation fee from businesses is paid on a sliding scale & they have been made aware of it
- Heard from several businesses that they are interested in continuing the program
- More coupons were redeemed in Wilmington but not as transparent as it seems; could have come from purchases in Dover
- May take more than one shot to see a return on this
- Have seen what the program has done in Wilmington and would like to see that happen in Dover
- Could have done a better job of tracking the receipts and will endeavor to improve that process with a spreadsheet
- \$25.00 sales minimum—could that be scaled down depending on the business average daily sale?
- If we have to go into shut down situation again, will have to be creative with the process; perhaps digital coupons; adjustments would have to be made
- Just participating promotes businesses

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On a motion by Joe Mahon, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously agreed to fund the eat, sleep, shop winter 2020 program in the amount of \$4000

Joe Mahon and Dan Baliotti agreed to amend the motion to state *up to* \$4000

On a motion by Joe Mahon, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board voted 4-0-1 to fund the eat, sleep, shop winter 2020 program in the amount of up to \$4000 (Capitani abstained)

C. General ED Updates

- Cross State travel schedule—meeting later this week with inns and lodges
- District Manager from Walgreens responded, recently hired technician and pharmacist; hosting a statewide virtual job fair; trying to alleviate some of the problems
- RFP for website will be out this week for a month
- Outline for Trails Committee--will have that for next week
- Stay and Play program is officially launched; ads will be going up on Facebook pages
- One Bogle Road-- will be moving forward with an agreement with property owner for trail
- Revolving loan program thru BDCC is progressing

VI. Liquor Control:

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board recessed and convened as local Liquor Control

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously approved the following:

A. 3rd Class License for Brett John's Inc d/b/a West Dover Joe's

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Victoria Capitani, the Board adjourned as local Liquor Control and reconvened as Dover Select board

VII. Consent Agenda:

A. Approve the Minutes of Oct 20, 2020

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board voted 4-0-1 to approve the minutes of Oct 20, 2020 (Mahon abstained)

B. Approve the Warrants of Oct 31, 2020 for \$144,274.36

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board voted 4-0-1 to approve the warrants of Oct 31, 2020 (Baliotti abstained)

VIII. FYI:

A. DVCUD Draft Annual Report & Public Hearing for Comments, November 11

B. Budget Review Special Meeting, Nov 20 at 10am

C. Thank You Notes from SEVCA & Winston Prouty for Appropriations

IX. Liaison Reports: Resiliency Grant—WRC is putting it out to bid & will update as it moves further

X. Executive Session as needed: none

XI. Adjournment at 8:06pm

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