

**Town of Dover
Special Town Meeting Minutes
Dover Town Office
October 27, 2017**

Present: Victoria Capitani, Randy Capitani, Tom Baltrus, Rich Werner, Lauren Harkawik, Kristen Benoit, Jeannette Eckert, Kevin Stine, Sarah Shippee, Marco Tallini, Peter Miles
11 people present; 9 are registered Dover voters

Town Moderator Rich Werner calls the meeting to order at 9am & reads the warning as follows:

Article 1.

Shall the Town of Dover terminate membership in the Windham Solid Waste Management District effective July 1, 2018 and approve the terms and conditions in the Termination Agreement with the Windham Solid Waste Management District?

Terms & Conditions, as applicable:

- A) Its share of any financial obligations incurred by the District up to the point of termination, including its obligations subject to annual appropriation up to the effective date of withdrawal;
- B) Its share of all existing indebtedness incurred by the District and obligations under long-term contracts, time its termination becomes effective, including its share of the debt or obligations incurred by the District for the remaining bonding term or contract term; and
- C) Any direct, incidental, and consequential costs resulting from its withdrawal, including fixed operational and costs of redesigning, relocating, or rebuilding a facility.

Article 2.

To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Moderator Werner requests a motion to move the question
Motion by Victoria Capitani, second by Sarah Shippee

Discussion:

Victoria Capitani: The reason for this town meeting today came about due to the potential for Dover's assessment by WSWM to be based on the Grand List rather than population; this would have resulted in a much higher assessment; current assessment is \$12,977.37; at that time WSWM stopped taking recyclables—wanted to see what the value was to stay in the district; notice of this meeting had to go out by Oct 31st if we wanted to terminate by next July; a small window but since then more information has come in; withdrawal costs are estimated at \$4,296.58; would have to do all the SWIP which includes outreach & hazardous waste collection which is quite expensive; new solar array coming online at WSWM which could bring funds into the district; believe the Board is suggesting that we should vote this down & stay in the district

Tom Baltrus: One of the realities that came to light when deciding whether to withdraw from the district is we still have to be in compliance with State statutes with outreach, education programs, mailings, HW collections, potential costs of these along with training and personnel; feel it is better to leave these to the district & pay the annual dues; solar array may affect our assessment dues with an influx of revenue to the district; feel we need to watch this every year but let WSWM continue to do what they do

Randy Capitani: What does it cost to be a member of the district? Can you ballpark the costs to leave the district & do all these things on our own?

Vicki Capitani: This year our dues are \$12,977.37; we now pay for recycling on our own which is going to bust our budget but WSWM doesn't do recycling anymore anyway; fee to withdraw is \$4,396.58; district is considering new fees to rejoin which has not been voted on but range from \$4000-\$5000; could potentially share the cost of HW collections with Whitingham but the last one in Dover cost \$9000—collections need to be done twice a year now but going up to 4 times a year; looks to be a lot more money to withdraw than to stay; hoping dues will go down once the solar array is in place; we can go through this withdrawal process every year; window of opportunity is by Oct 31st

Kevin Stine: Does the town have an estimate on how much it would cost to do the SWIP plan?

Vicki Capitani: Not really, just feel it would be more

Tom Baltrus: Issue that really started this was when the district stopped recycling; Dover began single stream recycling; compliance issues and other laws with changes that the State may impose are unknown; they don't cheapen things in Montpelier they always find things that are more expensive to do; what is the impact if we are in a stand-alone mode? perhaps we would be better served by the district

Peter Miles: Everything you are saying makes sense to me to stay in the district; when WSWM stopped the recycling, how much more did the town have to pay?

Vicki Capitani: We are using TTT; last year budgeted \$14,000 for recycling thinking WSWM would still be our recycling avenue; currently we are at \$4700 for recycling fees which is about 33% of our budget so we will go over the line on that item; all recycling goes together single stream: paper, plastic, cardboard etc.

Tom Baltrus: Assessment did go down from last year—was in the \$15,000 range

Marco Tallini: Seems more people are recycling because it has become easier; will have less trash; if you can put a dollar value on that...

Vicki Capitani: As we educate more people on single stream recycling, the more we will benefit

Moderator Werner reads Article 1 after receiving consensus from those present to vote on the article

Yes votes: 0

No votes: 9

Nays have it; Article 1 does not pass

Moderator Werner asks if there is any other business; hearing none, entertains a motion to adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Randy Capitani, second by Tom Baltrus

Meeting adjourned at 9:14am

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