

**Dover Select Board
Special Board Meeting Minutes
Dover Town Hall
February 27, 2018**

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

The Dover Select Board is conducting a Pre-Town Meeting at the Dover Town Hall on Tuesday, February 27th at 7PM in preparation for the Annual Town Meeting on March 6th.

Select Board Members Present: Josh Cohen, Victoria Capitani, Joe Mahon, Dan Baliotti, Sarah Shippee

School Board Members Present: Rich Werner, Jollene Mahon, Johnny Cleanthes

School Board Members Absent: Laura Sibilia, Kerry MacDonald-Cady

Also Present: Office Manager, Jeannette Eckert

Public: Candis Muuss, Lauren Harkawik, Randy Johnson, Bob Holland, Adam Levine, Steve Neratko, Marco Tallini, Andy McLean, Randy Capitani, Jim Desrochers, Marc Schauber, Royal Wilson, Ken Black, Eric Rosenbaum, Barbara Hyde, Linda Sherman, Dayle Sherman, Mike Garber

The Meeting was called to order by Select board chair Josh Cohen at 7pm

I. Review Town Meeting Warning

Rich Werner suggested to insert an Article 17a. to *transact any other business* as it was inadvertently left out of Town Meeting portion of the warning

There is one contested race for Select Board between Candis Muuss and Dan Baliotti. Each candidate was given time to speak:

Dan Baliotti has lived in the area for 15 years, commends the town meeting style of government where people have a say. Took steps to include West Dover on directional signage along Route 9; also contacted the State regarding the pothole situation on Route 100—rec'd some satisfaction on both counts; petitions are being circulated regarding pothole situation; letters from the Select board are being sent as well; believe 'in person' advocacy is the best way to accomplish this and with Select board approval will offer to hand deliver the letters/petitions; along with the Select board will look at matters in the best benefit of the taxpayers

Candis Muuss has been a resident in Dover for 6 years; calls this town home; would like to do her part to keep it running the way it is now; will bring ideas to the table; this is a winter community but can also be a summer community; believe it is up to the Town to help local businesses & create festivals & shows to draw crowds from out of state; first election in Dover but has been involved in politics in NY

Sarah Shippee is running unopposed. Appointed to Randy Terk's position and has been on the board now for 6 months; getting her feet wet, enjoying it and hopes to continue

Linda Sherman inquired as to what kind of training is available to Select Board members...

There is a yearly Select Board Institute in the spring organized by VLCT; VLCT also puts out a weekly Legislative report and monthly newsletters as well as Select board guidebooks

Town Meeting

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)
First Constable	1-year term (currently vacant—no one running)
Grand Juror	1-year term (Andy McLean)
Library Trustee	5-year term (Ed Brookman)
Library Trustee	5-year term (3 years remaining) (Cynthia Cohen)
Library Trustee	5-year term (4 years remaining) (Nancie McLean)
Moderator - School	1-year term (Sarah Shippee)
Moderator - Town	1-year term (Rich Werner)
School Director	3-year term (Johnny Cleanthes)
School Director	2-year term (Jollene Mahon)
Select Board Member	3-year term (Dan Baliotti & Candis Muuss)
Select Board Member	2-year term (Sarah Shippee)
Town Agent	1-year term (Linda Holland)
Trustee of Public Funds	1-year term (Marco Tallini)

Andy McLean thanked Candis & Dan for running in the race for a 3-year term as Select Board member

Josh Cohen continued the discussion of the remainder of the Town portion of the warning

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

- No comments or questions

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?

- No comments or questions

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

- No comments or questions

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

- No comments or questions

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

- No comments or questions

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

- No comments or questions

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

- No comments or questions

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

- No comments or questions

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

- No comments or questions

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

- Royal Wilson asked what statute 24 VSA referred to. *Will look up exact reference and provide at Town Meeting. The wording was selected by the petitioner—a first time petition*
- *Motion could be amended at Town meeting to increase the amount requested*

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?

- *Another first-time petition—hopefully representatives from all of these groups will be present at Town Meeting to answer any questions*

- *Usually incorporated into the budget after the first affirmative vote at Town Meeting*

ARTICLE 13: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$15,000 for Support and Services at Home (SASH) to provide services to the residents of the Town?

- *Again, a first-time petition*

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?

- Royal Wilson: Does that apply to the 1% economic development funds?
No, those are not incorporated in this

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

- *This is an annual article—typically voted in the affirmative*

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?

- Linda Sherman asked what the rationale was behind this change from 6 months in between due dates to 5 months
- Treasurer Marco Tallini feels there is a time crunch at the fiscal year end: setting tax rate; preparing for audit; obtaining Grand List etc. Will still have bills ready to go out at about the same time in July, perhaps a week later. This will give folks more time to make that first payment which is the larger of the two. If it falls on a weekend, would go to the next business day

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

- Ken Black: Articles 4-8, the big-ticket items...in general, how do they compare with last year's numbers?
- Vicki Capitani: less than 1% up in overall budget

Article 17a. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting

Josh Cohen inquired if there was any other business regarding the Town portion. Hearing none, Rich Werner took over leading the discussion for the School portion of the warning

SCHOOL DISTRICT

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town School District expend \$25,000 to add transportation to Brattleboro High School? (Please see attached yellow fact sheet)

- *Used to run it through Laidlaw Transportation at a cost of \$68,000/year*
- *Expect 40 students to be attending Brattleboro schools in 2018-19*

- Randy Capitani: a year out from merging with River Valley School District, will it have to be voted on again once merged?
- *For one year only; utilizing a bus we already own; for salary and gas, upkeep on vehicle. RVSD has not discussed transportation yet*
- *Trying this will provide information to new school district. May provide opportunity for students to attend other schools*
- Randy Capitani: What are the breakdowns in number of students attending certain schools? *Will provide at Town Meeting*
- *Affects the tax rate by about 2 cents*

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

- Dayle Sherman: Does the Moover hold 45 students? *Will have a Moover rep at Town Meeting to answer*
- *May change time of routes for Elementary School. Principal has been on board with all Articles*
- *Asked for contribution when the Brattleboro transportation was ended*
- *Some Career Center students may ride the bus; not specific to Dover students; parents were a bit leery of stopping at the transportation center*
- *Acts as a late bus out of Brattleboro also; Twin Valley students also use it too; Moover is vital as well—services students in many different ways*
- *Randy Schoonmaker or a rep will be present at Town Meeting to answer questions*

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town School District expend \$30,000 to increase the pre-school to a full day program? (Please see attached green fact sheet)

- *This would only be for one year until RVSD takes effect. Kids who are at least 4 years old by Sept 1st (Team Moose)*
- *New program would allow for adequate instruction time; more time to develop social/emotional curriculum; more convenience for parents who work all day*
- *Younger pre-K will maintain current schedule of three days per week (Team Deer)*
- Dayle Sherman: If there is a bus route change would that affect the Pre-K start time? Propose to dismiss at 11:20 on Fridays—how does that impact winter sports which dismiss early on Thursdays? *Don't believe it will impact either but will look into it*
- *Is Wardsboro doing the same thing? Unsure how it works in Wardsboro*
- *# of Deer moving up to Moose? Will gather that information*
- *Tuition is paid when a child from another town attends Dover School Pre-K—income of \$3100 per student*

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? (see page 120 in Town Report)

- *Dollar amount is equal to Burr and Burton's tuition rate*
- *Incorporated in the budget; voted on every year—State mandated*
- *Added independent schools to the warning in 2012, not just Burr & Burton*
- *Required to pay whatever the public high school rate is*
- *Will gather the numbers on how many students have taken advantage of the tuition rate for independent schools*

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?

- No comments or questions

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

- *Voted on since Act 60 was enacted*

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.

- *Budget is going down; # of students went down; spending per pupil goes up*
- *Budget begins on page 104 of Town report*
- *Legislators will be present at Town meeting to offer more information*

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?

- *On the warning almost since Act 60—combat it with a reserve fund to offset tax rate—at the time, the reserve fund was roughly \$990,000--this number equals 1/3—did not want to withdraw any more than that at one time*
- *Try to bring tax rate down to \$1.50—currently is \$1.62 going with this budget*
- *Randy Capitani: Any other items in this building that reserve money should be spent on before the school districts combine? How is the condition of the building?*

- \$312,080 in Capital reserve fund but more is available. Building is in good shape
- Strong reserves are important—served us well after Irene

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.

- Will have a school related survey available at Town Meeting

II. Discuss/Sign Joint Board Letter

Last week Josh Cohen asked both boards to jointly sign a letter to send to Senators Sanders, Lahey & Rep. Welch in reaction to the Florida school shooting. He composed a letter and read it into the record publicly condemning the shootings at a Parkland, Florida school and demanding action

School board would like to wait until they have a full board to vote—hold until next week at Town Meeting. Josh Cohen will abstain from the vote as it was his suggestion

Linda Sherman asked if the Board was signing this letter on behalf of the townspeople, since they represent the Town of Dover; should not this come to the floor for a vote?
Could do a straw poll at Town meeting

Rich Werner: Both boards will often times sign off on letters on behalf of the voters without a specific vote from the voters. We do what's in the best interest of the Town that's why you elected us. If you have an issue with that, you should bring it up

Randy Capitani: Good letter, important to make Legislators aware that we are watching this issue; commend your appropriate response; something should be done. Hope the School board is looking at what you are doing for security.

Rich Werner: School security plan is in place at the Dover School which took about 2 years to complete; a consultant reviewed all districts' emergency plans; our plan was reviewed with praise; 150 pages; school is now locked & secure; discussed with students & teachers; have had several incidents, not active shooters but threats, people taking children out of school

Linda Sherman: Attended *Coffee with a Cop* and was a great idea; hope it continues and will be better attended in future; asked about questions that may have come up in regard to the school shooting. Is there a resource officer at the school? Has that ever been entertained?

Rich Werner: Usually in place at the High School level; attended school resource officer training 15-20 years ago; full time position

Randy Johnson: Fairhaven School incident was stopped; surveys will be conducted at schools with an administrator on threat assessment—to be sent to the State. This will be happening at the Dover School

Laura Sibilila and John Gannon are holding a forum on school safety at Twin Valley Elementary School—March 26th—more info at Town meeting

Josh Cohen: Randy Johnson is at morning sing every Friday—there is definitely a presence there

Marc Schauber commended the letter; I'm sure it was a hard thing to write and agree with all that was said

Mike Garber: Instinct was to want to hear it; It was worded perfectly, and it should be shared at Town Meeting, so folks can all understand the meaning behind it

Dan Baliotti: Rec'd a phone call that Green Mountain Power was shutting off his electricity in 45 minutes. GMP will never give a phone call about turning off power—this is a scam to be aware of

III. Adjournment at 8:16pm

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