



Town of Dartmouth  
400 Slocum Road  
Dartmouth, MA 02747

Board of Selectmen

**Select Board Members Present:**

William J. Trimble-Chairperson  
Michael P. Watson-Vice Chairperson  
Lara H. Stone

Joseph Michaud  
Shawn McDonald

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The Chairman opened the meeting at 5:45 p.m. on August 9, 2010 in room 304.

Board members signed the **warrant(s)** for the following bills from various departments in the amounts of:

\$ 377,746.91	PR04	\$ 156,166.24	PD1105	\$ 104,650.10	D1106
\$ 478,898.13	S1106	\$ 1,857.99	T1106	\$ 374,139.87	PR05
\$ 1,309,930.40	PD1106	\$ 50,618.74	P1107	\$ 96,076.27	S1107
\$ 2,007,165.33	T1107				

The Chairman took the agenda out of order.

**5:45/Bond Issue.**

Greg Barnes, Director of Budget & Finance, briefed the Board on the Bond Anticipation Notes.

*After a motion was made by Vice-Chairperson Michael Watson and seconded by Selectwoman Lara Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve the sale of a \$4,260,000*

*1.50 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note of the Town dated August 26, 2010, and payable February 25, 2011 (the "Note"), to Beneficial Bank at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$21,257.40.*

## **New Business:**

### **Letter from the Town of Jamestown re: Proposed LNG.**

The Town Council of Jamestown, Rhode Island and the council-appointed Jamestown Committee on LNG Threat, cordially invites the elected representative of Dartmouth to a Congress of Councils on the morning of September 9, 2010.

The Executive Administrator will respond asking the Town Council of Jamestown, to keep the Dartmouth Select board informed on the proposed LNG.

### **Handicapped Parking Fines Memorandum of Understanding.**

We, the undersigned representatives of the respective bodies agree to the following in regard to Handicapped Parking Fines, and fiscal support of the Dartmouth Disability and Accessibility Committee (DDAC).

1. An article will be presented to the October, 2010 Annual Town Meeting to be sponsored by the Select Board and DDAC to increase the Handicapped Parking Fine from \$125 to \$250.
2. With the positive vote of Town Meeting members, the Town will implement the increased fine and track the collections of such fines.
3. In March, 2011, the Executive Administrator will make an estimate of available funds for FY 2012 based on the increased revenues from the \$125 increase in the Handicapped Parking Fine; said increased revenues shall serve as a budgeted amount or Schedule A for the DDAC for FY 12. The Finance Committee shall receive and make a recommendation on the amount.
4. In February of each subsequent fiscal year the Executive Administrator shall make a similar estimate for the next succeeding fiscal year as outlined in paragraph 3, as a budget amount for the DDAC.
5. DDAC's attainment of such funding each fiscal year is contingent on Town Meeting approving the amount recommended by the Executive Administrator and Finance Committee.
6. Funds for DDAC approved by Town Meeting shall be used by the DDAC in accordance with State and Town procedures.
7. On or before September 1, 2013, the Select Board, Finance Committee and DDAC shall decide whether to extend or not extend this Memorandum of Understanding and whether there should be any modifications to it and the Handicapped Parking Fine.

*After a motion was made by Selectwoman Lara Stone and seconded by Selectman Shawn McDonald, it was voted unanimously to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding for the Handicapped Parking Fines.*

## **Old Business:**

**Selectperson Lara Stone to give an update on the progress of the reprinting of the book “Secrets of Old Dartmouth”.**

Selectperson Lara Stone stated that the book “Secrets of Old Dartmouth” should be in the middle of reprinting.

### **School Committee’s Policy for Naming/Remaining of School Facilities.**

The Board discussed the Policy for Naming/Renaming of School Facilities.

*After a motion was made by Selectwoman Lara Stone and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Michael Watson, it was voted unanimously to have the Executive Administrator adapt this policy broadly connected to list out the Department Heads, Boards, or Committee Members.*

### **6:10/New Application of Samuel Palestine of Buns on the Run Too for a Common Victualler License.**

Samuel Palestine was present for the application.

*After a motion was made by Selectwoman Lara Stone and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Michael Watson, it was voted unanimously to approve the New Application of Samuel Palestine of Buns on the Run Too for a Common Victualler License.*

### **6:15/Application of Russells Mills Engine Co. for a One Day Beer & Wine License for September 12, 2010.**

Michael Woyciechouski was present for the application.

*After a motion was made by Vice-Chairperson Michael Watson and seconded by Selectwoman Lara Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve the Application of Russells Mills Engine Co. for a One Day Beer & Wine License for September 12, 2010.*

### **6:20/ Application of Paskamansett Engine Company for a One Day Beer & Wine License for August 21, 2010.**

Steven Sullivan was present for the application.

*After a motion was made by Selectman Joseph Michaud and seconded by Selectwoman Lara Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve the Application of Paskamansett Engine Company for a One Day Beer & Wine License for August 21, 2010.*

## **Minutes:**

### **Minutes of July 12, 2010 and July 26, 2010.**

*After a motion was made by Selectman Shawn McDonald and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Michael Watson, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of July 12, 2010.*

*After a motion was made by Vice-Chairperson Michael Watson and seconded by Selectperson Joseph Michaud, it was voted (4) four in favor and (1) one abstention (Selectperson Shawn McDonald) to approve the minutes of July 26, 2010.*

## **Announcements:**

The 2010 Art Drive Open Studio Tour will be held on August 14-15 through the Coastal Villages of Dartmouth and Westport.

Anyone interested in serving on the Dartmouth Historical Commission can send a letter of interest to the Dartmouth Select Board; an architectural background would be helpful but not required.

*After a motion was made by Selectman Joseph Michaud and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Michael Watson, it was voted unanimously to take a ten minute recess.*

Board Reconvened.

### **6:30/Hearing-Petition of NStar for 1 proposed pole location on Fenton St.**

The Chairman opened the hearing.

Ms. Howard was present for the Petition of NStar.

The Chairman closed the hearing.

*After a motion was made by Selectman Joseph Michaud and seconded by Selectman Shawn McDonald, it was voted unanimously to approve the Petition of NStar for 1 proposed pole location on Fenton St.*

## **6:35/Meeting with Finance Committee and School Committee.**

A Joint Workshop Meeting of the Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee was held on August 9, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in room 305.

At the beginning of the meeting several members of the Select Board discussed their concern that the Budget workshops were not televised.

This resulted in the adoption of a motion by the Select Board that all future budget workshops would be televised using a workshop setting.

The meeting focus was on finances, with Fiscal Year 2010 year end balances and Fiscal Year 2011 projections being reported by Finance Director Gregory Barnes and Executive Administrator David Cressman.

The update on recently-completed FY10 reported lower than expected local revenues from building permits and meals and excise taxes, offset by increased income from fines and beach stickers. The good news was that thrifty town departments turned back \$2.3 million in FY10 funds, and the town's year-end Free Cash should be certified at \$2.1 million, the Executive Administrator said.

The free cash estimate is slightly lower than the previous year, as is the turn-back total, Mr. Cressman noted.

Enterprise and trust funds all have positive balances, and the Health Insurance Trust Fund grew by \$1 million with increased town and employee contributions, he reported.

The other good news is that Town Meeting closed with \$104,581 in FY11 funds unspent, and higher than anticipated state aid and savings on an ambulance contract and liability insurance has raised the town's unspent balance to about \$236,000, which can be appropriated at a Fall Town Meeting, Mr. Cressman said.

The consensus of the Select Board and Finance Committee was that the unspent surplus should be left unspent and become Free Cash; then the debate turned to how pending capital improvement needs should be funded.

Bonding for the replacement of the HVAC system at Southworth Library, a half-million dollar project, is at the top of the capital improvement needs list to be addressed at a Fall Town Meeting.

Other high-priority items, totaling just over \$1 million, includes a Town Hall HVAC condenser (\$50,000), four police cruisers (\$156,000), two dump trucks for the DPW (\$190,000), road maintenance (\$160,000), math textbooks (\$470,000) and a finance system software upgrade (\$50,000).

Second-level capital priorities combined with list priority capital items totaled \$1.9 million, ranging from school boiler replacement to DPW road maintenance projects.

Select Board Chairman William Trimble noted there were no provisions for the bonding of the municipal wind turbine project in the projections, and wondered if an enterprise fund or dedicated stabilization fund should be established for major projects. Mr. Cressman explained the recent bond issue included \$200,000 to fund the wind turbine project.

"I would like to see the town put money aside (each year) to be used for capital needs," Mr. Trimble said. A capital needs stabilization fund should be set up and funded annually for big-ticket, long-range needs like the Padanaram Bridge replacement, he suggested.

Finance Committee Vice Chairman Greg Lynam agreed the town needs a comprehensive, long range capital needs list, and a plan for funding it. Mr. Barnes and Mr. Cressman both echoed the need for better capital improvements planning.

Mr. Barnes indicated that the town's dept service costs are currently declining, but noted the addition of a bond to finance the wind turbine project will have "a significant impact" on those annual costs.

Individual items on the priority lists once again raised the question of what capital needs should be considered for those lists. Mr. Trimble said he felt requests for basic needs such as textbooks and cruisers should be built into regular operating budgets.

For Fiscal Year 2012 and beyond, the capital improvement lists only get bigger and more expensive. School Department facilities needs are estimated at \$4.1 million, and the Padanaram Causeway replacement project is estimated between \$5.5 and \$7 million before state or federal assistance is considered.

Upgrading the aging collection of street lights purchased by the town, Town Hall compliance with American Disabilities Act requirements, and the replacement of Southworth Library windows also have to be addressed in coming years, it was noted.

The joint committee financial workshop debated over a proposed policy to cap the Stabilization Fund at 7.5 percent of the total town budget for any fiscal year.

The Stabilization Fund currently stands at \$5,003, 621, or 7.3 percent of the total budget. The State Department of Revenue "recommends" communities have about 10 percent of their annual budgets in stabilization and undersigned general funds; Dartmouth is "about 10.8 percent right now," Mr. Cressman reported, with an estimated \$2.4 million, 3.5 percent of the budget, currently in undesignated general funds.

The Select Board voted 4-1 to keep the Stabilization Funds at a minimum of 7.5 percent of the total budget and the undesignated fund balance at 2.5%.

Selectman Joseph Michaud cast the no vote, saying he thinks the fund should be built up more to help protect the town from the lingering economic decline and unexpected crises.

Mr. Lynam also warned against neglecting to build the Stabilization Fund. "We're not in good shape with our budgets, and we don't have any extra money. We have level funded our operating budgets for two years now," he noted.

Any one of a series of disaster could cripple the town's delicate financial balance, Lynam suggested. "We have to be able to absorb a large loss" or other emergency with the Stabilization Funds, he added.

The general consensus was that at least some of the current-year budget surplus will be deposited in the Stabilization Fund at the Fall Town Meeting.

The Capital Improvement Committee is expected to finalize their recommendation for Fall Town Meeting action at a meeting this week.

The Chairman polled the Board for a roll call vote to convene into Executive Session Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 39 Sec 23B: Selectman Michaud, yes; Selectwoman Stone, yes; Selectman Shawn McDonald, yes; Vice-Chairperson Watson, yes; Chairman Trimble, yes.

Attest:

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David G. Cressman, Executive Administrator

Transcribed by: Linda Torres

