

Town of *Dunstable* Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2015
Town Hall, Dunstable, MA 01827

Convened: 5:35 pm

Present: Kenneth J. Leva, chair, Walter F. Alterisio, Daniel F. Devlin, members; Tracey Hutton, Town Administrator; Robert Nelson, Town Moderator

Discussion with the Moderator Concerning the Special Town Meeting

The Board started off by discussing the motions for the town meeting. This included who would make the motions for each of the articles. Mr. Nelson had a few questions regarding the votes. Ms. Hutton answered some of them including the question of stabilization, which she noted would take a 2/3rds vote. There was an additional question regarding the earmark of stabilization funds and how those could be spent. The Board elaborated on why this was done but noted that further consultation would be required with Town Counsel. Discussion then turned to questions regarding the course of action with the water articles. Ms. Hutton outlined the reasons behind why Advisory and the Board determined to handle the articles. This included how Advisory made recommendations concerning the stabilization fund earmark for water and how they were also particular and very specific in the language that was selected for the water articles. Mr. Nelson made some points about the difference between emergency reaction and the normal town meeting process. The Board emphasized that the stabilization won't be a slush fund.

Discussion then turned to the elevator article. Ms. Hutton updated the Board on the new quote for fixing the elevator floor, which she was able to get from a different vendor than the town usually uses. The number is almost half the amount originally quoted so that should help considerably. The Board was pleased to hear this news. The discussion then returned to the hydropneumatic tank and the water contingency. Ms. Hutton elaborated on the cushion blocks and how these would help keep the water system functional until the tanks can be put online. The cushion blocks won't keep the pressure where it normally is, but it will help keep the system running long enough for the tanks to be brought online. The Board noted that what these articles do is represent the funding of a contingency, and this is not a long-term solution for the water system. This plan takes in to mind the town's best guess at what will happen and how to respond to it. Additionally, having the plan in place is a requirement of the DEP.

From there the Board inquired with Ms. Hutton about whether the Fire Chief is ready to present his article. Ms. Hutton responded that he is and he will be armed with a power point presentation. She also noted that the Advisory Board would have some power point materials as well. There was some discussion about the article relating to a hydrant and two shut offs. This is not a part of the water system per se, just for the contingency and will not be used otherwise. The Board expressed some concern about how to explain this to the public exactly and discussed this with Mr. Nelson. Ms. Hutton explained that there was some debate about how to approach the possibility of failure and what contingency plan to go with. Ultimately this plan is what was chosen. Discussion then turned towards explaining how some of the articles relate to reimbursements for work already done. Mr. Nelson spoke with the Board about how to explain this. This included questions as to why the money was spent, and if they had the ability to spend it, then why do they need reimbursement? Ms. Hutton explained that some of these were situations where the town had no choice, such as with the Fire Dept. where the ability to communicate effectively with other emergency response and dispatch is critical. Mr. Nelson agreed that this was something that couldn't really be avoided.

There were then questions regarding the unpaid bills. Ms. Hutton responded by explaining the background for each of the bills. These are relatively small bills that came in late and by MGL couldn't be paid without a town meeting vote. Mr. Nelson then inquired about if there were funds left in an article for water for the design of the water system. The Board responded that there was \$27,000 left and those funds were used by the Water Commission for a re-design. From there the Board asked Mr. Nelson to allow the Town Administrator and the Boards administrative assistant to sit with them since both live out of town and would otherwise be required to

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sit separately from the Board. Mr. Nelson agreed to permit it which is within his authority as Moderator. Hearing no further discussion and no further questions in regards to the meeting the Board adjourned.

A motion to adjourn at 6:05pm was made by Mr. Alterisio and seconded by Mr. Devlin. The motion passed without objection.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jakob K. Hamm', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jakob K. Hamm
Admin. Assistant to the Selectboard & Town Administrator

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