

**Town of *Dunstable* Selectboard**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 11, 2016**  
**Town Hall, Dunstable, MA 01827**

**Convened:** 7:05 pm

**Present:** Kenneth J. Leva, chair, Daniel F. Devlin, Walter F. Alterisio, member(s); Tracey Hutton, Town Administrator

**Approval of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

The Board discussed the final version of the warrant noting articles that were eliminated and a few minor changes. From there, the Board discussed the matter of the school budget and community support for the proposed override of Prop 2 ½. The Board expressed concern about the schools aim to hire 40 new positions in one year as opposed to phasing in over time. It may be that management is underestimating the task. There was also discussion of whether all of the requested items in the schools budget are truly based on need or represent blind spending which leads down the rather of disaster. From there the Board turned to discussion of the municipal budget. The Board noted that the municipal budget is mostly on a normal track once free cash is considered. The Board discussed the matter of funding for municipal budgets and school budgets, noting that the current system allowed for by MGL is problematic in an era of unfunded mandates. Towns must have enough funds to afford to support basic public services. The Board then resolved to work with the School Committee to attempt to keep costs affordable and hopefully maintain both the school and the town on sound fiscal footing. From there the Board finished review of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

A motion was made by Mr. Devlin to approve the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and accompanying Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alterisio and passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Devlin at 7:25 am. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alterisio and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by



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

*Approved and adopted on 5/4/16*