

Town of *Dunstable* Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2016
Town Hall, Dunstable, MA 01827

Convened: 3:00 pm

Present: Walter F. Alterisio, Leah D. Basbanes, member(s); Tracey Hutton, Town Administrator

Selectboard Reviewed & Signed the Following:

- Special Town Meeting Warrant
- Special Town Election Warrant

Authorization of the Special Town Meeting & Election Warrants

The Board reviewed and signed the warrants for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for June 14th, 2016 and the Special Town Election scheduled for June 30th, 2016. There are four articles on the town meeting warrant. The first article regards the salaries of elected officials, particularly relating to the Town Clerk. The second article regards the snow and ice deficit. The Board inquired into this particular article. Ms. Hutton explained that because of this mild winter we have a surplus in snow and ice. DOR is allowing towns to use such surpluses to pay off the snow and ice deficits being carried from the harsh winter from the year prior to this. Unfortunately, these funds may not be used for anything else. However, the removal of this deficit will be beneficial to the town for FY17 and FY18 in the long run. There was some discussion regarding FEMA and the Auditors report for the town this year which resulted in some clarifications by Ms. Hutton as to what the precise impact this article will have. The third article is the adoption of the operating budget for FY17 and the fourth article deals with the use of free cash. The fifth article is housekeeping relating to several conservation restrictions. The warrant for the special election deals with two questions one regarding an override for the sum of \$475,000 and the other relating to a debt exclusion for the amounts to pay the bond issued for renovation of the Greater Lowell Technical High School.

There was some discussion regarding the override number with the Board noting that the Lowell Sun has incorrectly reported the number. Ms. Hutton updated the Board on her answers to the Lowell Sun's subsidiary the Nashoba Valley Voice's inquires with her office regarding the override. She has previously provided them with the correct information regarding the override figure and is unsure as to why that figure was misreported. From there Ms. Hutton turned the discussion to the possible cuts that could be made in the municipal budget. The Board noted that the town would start with the previously proposed budget from the Annual Town Meeting and cut back from there. Ms. Hutton confirmed that would be the case and reported that she has already begun talks with various department heads to determine possible budget cut backs. Some departments are already at the minimum operating figures and cannot be cut back any further. A few departments that are already close to the minimum have been willing to make small cuts wherever possible. Ms. Hutton stated that while these alone won't resolve the situation, they will likely add up overall. Some of the larger departments like Police, Fire, and Highway will likely be impacted harder by any budget cuts. Additionally the Library will also be affected, likely having to reduce or eliminate hours. From there the Board concluded the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Alterisio at 3:50 pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Basbanes and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by



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

Approved and adopted on 6/15/16