

**Town of *Dunstable* Selectboard**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 6, 2016**  
**Town Hall, Dunstable, MA 01827**

**Convened:** 6:35 pm

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

**Selectboard Reviewed & Signed the Following:**

- Vendor Warrants

**School Budget & Results of the Special Town Election**

The Board started off by discussing the special election and override vote. Dunstable passed both a no-override and an override contingent budget at Town Meeting, as did Groton, the difference being the override in Groton failed has now failed. This has some influence on Dunstable in the shared relationship of the GDRSD. As a result of the failure of the override in Groton the GDRSD has gone to a 1/12 budget as dictated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The School Committee will be having a meeting to vote on how to proceed. They have a choice to certify a budget equal to or less than that last certified.

The Board then went over the “Cuts Sheet” previously presented and distributed. There was some discussion of what items were restored by the passage of the override from the no-override budget. This discussion also related to how Groton structured their override and no override budget. They had municipal cuts in addition to the school assessment. The Board then turned to the issue of a Super Town Meeting. In that scenario the towns would go to a two-town meeting in the event that the school committee certifies a number larger than the Groton no-override assessment figure. The Board then discussed the logistics of a two-town meeting. If that becomes a reality the Board would like to know how the moderator is chosen, how the warrant is produced, the time and place of the meeting, required notification, secret ballot procedures, and the involvement of the Town Clerks.

The topic of discussion then turned to looking at the future and what the budget will look like in the year to come. There was a carry-forward cost of 4% in the GDRSD budget this year. The Board would like to see a better understanding of why and what that number represents. This includes knowing what the impacts are of the capital and technology plans. Further, it means knowing what the program will be going forward and how we get to a successful budget for all three parties.

**Elder Director Compensation & Job Description**

Ms. Hutton then briefly turned the Board to a question relating to the salary for the new Elder Director (Council on Aging). The Personnel Board has questions about how the Dunstable job description compares to the job descriptions in the other communities used in the analysis. The Board decided that while the Personnel Board grapples with the rate of this position in the wage and classification chart, it would be fair to compensate the new Director at \$14.89/hr. (the person’s current wage at the Library).

**Zoning Board of Appeals Update**

The Board then inquired about the status of the most recent Zoning Board of Appeals application. Ms. Hutton stated she would look into the matter and report back to the Board.

**Dog Licensing**

The Town Clerk provided the Board with a list of the dogs licensed in the town. The Board was looking for suggestions on the Dog Licensing list that was provided by the Clerk. Ms. Hutton agreed to meet with the Animal Control Officer and get some options for the Board.

*Approved and adopted on 7/27/16*

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Submitted by *Tracey Hutton*, Town Administrator

*Approved and adopted on 7/27/16*