

Town of *Dunstable* Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2018
Town Hall, Dunstable, MA 01827

Convened: 6:15 pm

Present: Walter F. Alterisio, chair, Leah D. Basbanes, vice chair, Ronald J. Mikol, member; Tracey Hutton, Town Administrator; Brian Falk, Town Counsel; Dana Metzler, Town Moderator

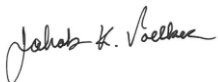
Discussion of Town Meeting Procedures

Ms. Hutton started off by explaining differences with last year. The main differences are primarily with the motions. This included some assignment of who will do which motions for the Boards. The Board agreed to divvy up the motions that fall under the Boards purview. Ms. Hutton then noted that each motion page includes the article on the top, the motion underneath, and a space for signature. Each motion page must be returned to the Town Clerk. Discussion then shifted to a possible motion to take articles out of order and the potential for limiting the Town Meeting time to 10 pm or 11 pm with a second night to be scheduled. It was determined that in the event of a second night, that a motion to continue the town meeting until May 17th, 2018 would be made. The Board then suggested using the 10 pm time to assess where things stand and whether or not a second night will be necessary and going until 11 pm if need be. Mr. Metzler then spoke briefly about his thoughts on moving the motions. He suggested principally the moving of some of the “heavy” articles forward. As Town Moderator he has some authority and latitude on movement which he indicated that he intended to use. The Board felt that the first 12 articles would be pretty easy to get done as they are mostly Free Cash.

Mr. Metzler then returned discussion to contingencies for if a second night is necessary. Mr. Falk went over the procedures and what would need to be done if such an action becomes necessary. There was then some discussion of how to handle Ms. Hutton’s absence on any second night. Ms. Hutton explained that she wouldn’t be able to attend on the proposed May 17th date. Discussion shifted to a question about a possible secret ballot motion. Mr. Falk addressed that question noting that it doesn’t necessarily have to be allowed, but if enough citizens want it, that must be considered. The agreement was to get at least to Article 12 prior to allowing any articles to be taken out of order. The Board then took a moment to consider its next meeting which is scheduled for May 15th, 2018. Given the fact that the Annual Town Election is the same day, the Board determined it would be careful as to what would go on the agenda for that evening. There was then some brief discussion of the Annual Town Report. The Board noted its satisfaction with the dedication page, which included dedications to the late David Sweet and Robert Irzyk. Satisfied that the procedure was understood the Board determined to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Basbanes at 6:40 pm. The motion was second by Mr. Mikol and passed without objection.

Respectfully submitted by



Jakob K. Voelker, Admin. Assistant to the Selectboard & Town Administrator

Approved and adopted on 6/12/18