

Town of *Dunstable* Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2018
Town Hall, Dunstable, MA 01827

Convened: 6:30 pm

Present: Leah D. Basbanes, chair, Ronald J. Mikol, vice chair, James E. Tully, member; Mark Haddad, Interim Town Administrator; James W. Dow, Chief of Police; Brian Rich, Fire Chief; Bob Kennedy; Alan Chaney, Conservation Commission; Paul Dalida, Mike Martin, Roads Commission; Phil DeNyse, Parks Commission; Joan Simmons, Community Preservation Committee

Selectboard Reviewed & Signed the Following:

- Vendor & Payroll Warrants

Open Forum

Ms. Basbanes explained the purpose of the public forum and went over the Boards agenda which included Discussion of Highway & Public Road Safety for Pedestrians, Discussion with Pepperell over Industrial Landfill Proposal, Vote to Authorize Chair to Accept a Deed, Follow Up on OPEB Study Results, Impact of OSHA Rules Newly Applicable to all Municipal Employees, Stormwater Update, Follow Up Discussion on Town Hall & Other Flags, Decision on Police Staffing, and an Executive Session.

Highway & Public Road Safety for Pedestrians

In the last few years there have been increasing concerns for the safe passage of pedestrian foot traffic on roads in the town in the absence of public sidewalks and safe pathways. Mr. Kennedy spoke to the Board about ways to promote safety. One of his recommendations would be to cut brush back along the roads. He also felt that painting the speed limits on the roads might also be helpful. Mr. Kennedy noted that the Town of Stow has a road similar to High Street and on that road he counted five areas where the speed limit was painted on the road. So it appears that it can be done. In his opinion it would not be that costly. Mr. Martin noted that paint on the streets is not preferable, further it is not in the Highway Departments budget. Plus, if the speed limit sign isn't seen, the Police Department is perfectly capable of issuing citations. Mr. Kennedy noted that when you have a stop sign, you also very often have a painted stop line. He then outlined several anecdotes of situations he's observed as a pedestrian in town. Mr. Martin stated he is not formally against the proposal, but that it is not in the budget for Highway. If the funds were to be allocated, that would be different. Mr. Kennedy felt that the cost of painting the speed limits on the road wouldn't be that expensive. Mr. Martin responded that it would likely cost about \$400 per painted stencil speed limit. Mr. Kennedy volunteered to talk to Stow about the costs they've encountered and see if they were that high. The Board noted that there would be some other questions to address such as how far apart they would need to be among others. The Board then turned to the Chief Dow. Chief Dow wasn't aware of any data that would support one way or the other. It might be helpful, but to what level, he was unaware. It was suggested that the Roads Commission consider what the practicality and costs would be and a determination be made at that stage of whether to move forward with it and putting the funds into the Highway Departments budget. Mr. Martin was willing to do so.

Discussion of Pepperell Industrial Landfill Proposal

The Board started off by explaining that it had hoped to have someone from Pepperell to discuss the proposal. Unfortunately, it appears that the representative so invited could not make it. The Board then discussed the meeting that Pepperell had the night before about the project. There are some potential environmental implications that are concerning. The most direct impact to Dunstable would be the use of Rt. 113 as a route for heavy equipment bringing landfill to the site. It would be 8 to 10 trucks running several hours a day for about 10 years to complete this. This would have a substantial impact on the town's roads. There could be as many as 20 trips a day. Further, once the Rt. 113 Project is started it would be even worse. The issue remains in beginning stages. Mr. Dalida noted he's seen a lot of wild figures and even conservatively, what is being

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proposed is concerning. This prompted some discussion of the exact route that would be used and whether they could go through Nashua instead. Mr. Dalida then went over some of the various impacts and the requirements of the Commonwealth for road standards and load bearing. A lot will depend on the materials being hauled and the equipment being used. Mr. Dalida stated that no matter what, this proposal if it goes through would see damage to town roads. He outlined ways to try and attempt to deal with the transit. These might include more stops signs and lower speed limits. There are options to try and address the issue. Ms. Simmons asked how this works with Pepperell. The Board explained that the owner of the property is looking to have the fill brought in. This property was a gravel pit, and the gravel company argues that it has an obligation to restore the land by filling it in and this is the way to do it. The fill would have to meet certain standards and this site cannot be developed into a toxic site. Ms. Simmons asked if this project is approved or not. It is not at this time.

Mr. DeNyse then had some questions about how to attempt to control this and whether a weigh station would be an option. Mr. Haddad stated that a weigh station is an intriguing idea. Mr. Dalida addressed the cost of putting one in as well as the costs of any other solutions like speed limits and stop signs. Chief Dow noted that the gravel operations that Dunstable used to have destroyed roads and the trucks routinely violated speed limits. Mr. Dalida then spoke about the limits that the Commonwealth imposes, about 99,000 pounds as a maximum, and whether the town could adopt in some key places limits of 80,000 pounds. The Rt. 113 Project would be annoying to them and that might buy the town some reprieve for part of the 10-year time span. It was noted that the path through Nashua would go through less residential areas and the speed limits would be higher. The Board noted that clearly the town needs to be active on this and the first step seems to be to address the weight limit. It was noted that Rt. 113 is Commonwealth labeled, but town owned. Mr. Martin noted that it is indeed a Commonwealth labeled road, but while town owned, the Commonwealth does help fund the road as demonstrated by the Rt. 113 Project. Mr. Dalida felt that the town could use speed limits and weight limits to great effect to discourage use of a route through Dunstable. The town, unfortunately, cannot keep the trucks off the roads entirely. He then elaborated on how the weight limit could be adopted and likely done at 80,000 pounds. Mr. Haddad then went over how stop signs could be deployed by the Roads Commission. The Board determined to continue to monitor this and agreed that this item should be on the agenda for the Board's meeting scheduled for September 4th, 2018.

Vote to Authorize the Chair to Accept a Deed & Execute Closing Documents

The Board started off by noting that this matter involves the acceptance of the property found at 108 & 114 Pleasant Street which is being donated by David Simmons for the purpose of someday hosting a public safety building as well as some water infrastructure improvements. The donation was accepted, and the Board empowered to act upon the donation, by approval of Articles 7, 8, and 9 on the Warrant of the Special Town Meeting held on November 7th, 2017. The Board determined that the draft documents should be given to the Board prior to being signed as the Board had some concerns regarding authorizing the signing of documents that the Board has not seen either in draft or final form. Mr. Haddad suggested trying to get the documents ready for the Board's review on August 28th, 2018. It was determined to have Town Counsel have the documents ready for that meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Tully to reschedule this matter until August 28th, 2018. This motion was seconded by Mr. Mikol and passed without objection.

Appointments

The Recreation Commission has requested the appointment of Jeff Hastings to fill its long standing vacancy. The Board seeing no reason not to proceed with the appointment determined to do so.

Jeff Hastings is appointed as a member of the Recreation Commission Expires June 30th, 2023
Motion by Mr. Mikol, seconded by Mr. Tully, and passed unanimously

Follow Up on OPEB Study Results

The Board started off by asking Mr. Nelson what the position of the Advisory Board is on this topic. Mr. Nelson reported that it is the consensus of the Advisory Board that the town cannot afford to offer OPEB at

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this time. The Board noted that the town has never had OPEB and the town has never had the revenue to support it. Further, towns that have adopted OPEB appear to have significant unfunded liabilities. Mr. Haddad suggested that at least some kind of plan should be in place because eventually it could be a requirement. Mr. Nelson suggested that the plan be that Dunstable not provide this going forward unless otherwise required by the Commonwealth. There was then discussion as to how this topic even came up in the first place. The Board noted it was a request by the Personnel Board that the town consider the matter and commission the study.

Upcoming Bicyclist Event

The Board asked the Chiefs whether they have been consulted by the events coordinators and noted that there are about 150 bicyclists expected in town. Chief Dow noted that they do contact his office and usually are very good about taking into consideration any recommendations by the department. Chief Rich agreed stating that every time he's asked for route changes they've been willing to do so.

Cable Agreement with Charter/Spectrum

The Commonwealth has sent a notice that the license with Charter will be expiring in by 2021. The town will need to setup a Cable Committee. Mr. Haddad suggested advertising for members for a Cable Committee. It was agreed to do so and Mr. Voelker agreed to put together the advertisement.

91 River Street

Chief Rich inquired with the Board as to where things stand with the property. The Board reported that things are currently waiting on National Grid and other utilities. Mr. Martin, in his capacity as Tree Warden, inquired about whether wood and chips could be deposited on the property. The Board was unwilling to make a commitment at this stage and suggested this topic be scheduled as its own agenda item at one of the Board's agenda for September 28th, 2018.

Next Meeting

The Board's next meeting was scheduled for August 28th, 2018. Mr. Haddad made some suggestions to the Board about what topics should be scheduled for this morning business meeting. These suggestions primarily related to discussion of the Town Administrators position as well as other structural changes. It was also noted that the Boards next regularly scheduled evening meeting will be September 4th, 2018.

Minutes

The Board considered its minutes from its meetings held on August 7th and August 14th, 2018. Seeing no reason not to approve the minutes the Board determined to do so.

A motion was made by Mr. Mikol to approve the minutes of August 7th, 2018 as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tully and passed without objection.

A motion was made by Mr. Mikol to approve the minutes of August 14th, 2018 as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tully and passed without objection.

Warrants & Mail

Ms. Basbanes reported on the warrants she has signed. This included highlighting the sums spent, including some of the larger payments made to vendors as well as brief discussion of the payroll. The Board then reviewed its mail.

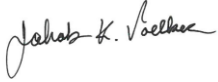
Ronald J. Mikol made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purposes of complying with or acting under the authority of the Public Records Law (MGL Chapter 66) in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A §21(a)7, and with the intention not to return to ordinary session afterwards. The motion was seconded by James E. Tully. The motion was adopted without objection by Leah D. Basbanes, Ronald J. Mikol, and James E. Tully.

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The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:05 pm

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Mikol at 8:12 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tully and passed without objection.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jakob K. Voelker".

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

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