

**Dover Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Dover Town Office
Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

These minutes are not official until approved by the Dover Select Board

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86800444071?pwd=RIU2WDQ0cDM3d3AwSGREeFNON2tnQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 0044 4071

Dial in: 929 205 6099

Password: 052648

Select Board present: Victoria Capitani, Scott Salway, Sarah Shippee

Select Board via zoom: Joe Mahon

Select Board absent: Dan Baliotti

Also present in person: Jeannette Eckert, Linda Sherman, Tabi Freedman, Randy Johnson, Mike Arbogast, Becky & Sam Morris, Susan Luchsinger, Mike Eldred, Robert Mola, Ed Dornburgh, Jake Roberts, Brian Suhadolc, Jim McDevitt, Tim Cunningham

Public present via zoom: Eric Durocher, Will Galway, Michelle Pinkham, Linda McCarthy

Regular Meeting Called to Order by Chair Capitani at 6:35pm

I. Public Comments:

Randy Johnson thanked the Board for its support over the years that he has been with the Town. Appreciate the good working relationship with all over the years.

Jake Roberts graduated from Vermont Police Academy and while there was elected president of his class. Congratulations Jake!

II. Police:

A. Swearing in of New Police Chief Mike Arbogast

- Chair Vicki Capitani read the appointment of Michael Arbogast on behalf of the Select board into the record
- Retiring Chief Randy Johnson administered the oath of office to Mike and presented him with his Chief's badge
- Congratulations to Mike and Thank you to Randy for his years of service to the Town

B. Opening Roads to Snow Mobile Traffic

- Same listing as last year consisting of 36 roads

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board unanimously gave permission for Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers to access the roads as presented for snowmobile traffic

III. New Business:

A. Consider Request for Assistance with Plowing to Cell Tower on Dover Hill Rd (\$2800)

Property owner Linda McCarthy

- Last year the bill was \$2500 for the season
- Quoted \$3300 for this year but got it reduced to \$2800
- This is the driveway off Dover Hill Rd that leads to the cell tower
- All emergency radio support has been moved to the new tower
- Steep incline which frequently needs sanding from icing
- Thought it couldn't hurt to ask the Town for assistance
- Cell company would plow *only* if it needed to reach the tower

Board comments:

- No money budgeted for this
- Will seek input from Emergency Mgmt. director Rich Werner

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- Will place this on another agenda
- B. Consider Adopting Vermont 250th Anniversary Resolution
- Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission was created by Governor Scott in 2020 to plan, encourage, develop, coordinate, and promote observances and activities to be held in Vermont in commemoration of the historic events associated with the American Revolution
 - Beginning in 2025 and ending in 2027, the VT250th commission encourages every Vermont community to take part with events and activities
 - Asking towns to adopt a resolution to establish a liaison or committee to volunteer with the VT250th commission on any and all activities for Dover
 - Will put this up on the website and Facebook page to engage participants interested in being committee members and will revisit

IV. Unfinished Business:

- A. Update on 4-hour Well Test Results (Jeannette Eckert)
- B. Consider RFP for Constant Discharge Test for New Supply Well
- The 4-hour pump test was conducted on October 30 on the new well
 - Test results show an absence of coliform, e.coli and regulated PFAS compounds - this is good news
 - Chloride levels are significantly lower than the existing supply well
 - Overall, the sampling shows an improvement when compared to existing supply well
 - Yield of 3.5 gallons per minute
 - An RFP was drafted by KAS to seek a hydrogeologist to conduct the State mandated 36-hour pump test
 - This test would encompass both the Bartlett and Fisher wells within the 500-foot monitoring area
 - Seeking the Board's approval to move forward with the RFP
 - Original estimate was in the \$20,000 range for this process
 - The Board was not previously aware that the test involves all three wells
 - Would like clarification from KAS on this issue and as to whether the cost estimate encompassed all three wells
 - Will approve releasing the RFP pending confirmation of the above
 - Jeannette will follow up with KAS

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board unanimously agreed to release the RFP for 36-hour continuous pump test for three effected wells pending the \$20,000 estimate is accurate for all three wells

****Note:** following up with KAS, it was confirmed that all three wells are involved and the estimate is inclusive of all. The Bartletts and Fishers do not have to allow access but the hydrogeologist could perform interference calculations if that should be the case. Lab costs would be additional but all costs should be factored in the RFP responses (\$20,000 to \$30,000 range)

- C. Consider Dates for Capital Budget Meeting and Overall Budget Review Mtg
- Friday December 15 at 2pm at Town Office

- V. Assessor:** Linda Sherman
- A. Update on Act 68 (H.480)

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- Linda read a release sent to Vt municipal government officials from VALA (VT Assessors and Listers Assoc.) dated 11/8/2023
- Act 68 as signed into law is an assault on local control of your grand list
- Grand List is the foundation of your local tax base
- Act 68 contains \$50,000 appropriation to conduct a study about removing the grand list from local control to that of the State level via a statewide reappraisal system run by Vt Dept of Taxes
- Section 4(b)1(a) implementation proposal to conduct reappraisals of municipal and statewide education grand lists
- Language passed within the House indicates pursuant to this subsection the property values set by the Commissioner shall be binding on the municipality and its grand list
- Having values set by the State is concerning, no local knowledge, no local control, no local oversight; unforeseen consequences are yet to be realized
- VALA is a stakeholder protecting local interests and Lister Assessor obligations
 - Language in the bill leaves the term “stakeholders” undefined
- Municipalities are major stakeholders; grand list is the foundation for budgets and tax rates
- Important to act now!
 - Review Act 68 Bill H 480
 - Discuss potential impacts with Listers or Assessors
 - Contact your Local rep to enact clear legislation
 - Contact VTax through property valuation review division(PV&R) requesting representation as a stakeholder
 - Contact VLCT asking for active representation
- Seek guidance on local concerns
- Band together to protect local control
- Protect the Grand List
- Risk of losing control of our Grand List
- PV&R implemented an RFP to do the study due Dec 2024
- Language in the bill to define the term relevant stakeholders
- Some contacts are Ted Brady of VLCT, Lisa Wright of VALA, Diane Judd of VMCTA (Vt Clerks and Treasurers Assoc.) who are all on the same page with this issue
- Met with Laura Sibilio to get her input and she shared concern on the stakeholders
- Brattleboro Rep Emilie Kornheiser’s wording was vague in the bill—needs to be more explicit
 - VALA letter is being sent asking that question
- Contact Linda with any questions and/or representatives
- Encourage residents to reach out to representatives

VI. Zoning: Tabi Freedman

A. Introduction to Updated FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Windham County

- Been going on for many years, starting in 1974 with hand drawn maps by whatever measurements were taken
 - Maps were scanned in 2007 but no changes were made
- Both the State and Country are going through updates
- Finally getting it accomplished
- New maps are being constructed

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- No defined numbers for Dover's elevation levels
- Map changes—proposed maps are in much more detail and taking some sections out of the flood zone
- Can make a difference if you are paying for flood insurance; ties into rates
- If making substantial improvements to your property in the flood zone: additional permits need to be supplied to FEMA for approval (more than 50% of assessed structure)
- Flood damage – needs to get filed with FEMA as well which is a bit easier
- If property is in flood zone: zoning would not be permitting normally for any indoor work as the area of the house is not changing but if it also is more than 50% of assessed value it needs to go thru FEMA
- All the information is available through the Zoning office with detailed maps as well as on FEMA sites
- John Campbell is our county wide flood plain contact
- Having this information available will be very good for homeowners to know
- Links to FEMA site will be put up on the Town website
- Preliminary maps - as they get finalized, there will be a public meeting with FEMA reps and County representatives

VII. Economic Development: Eric Durocher

- A. Signage Application for Chalet 239
- Standard sign application
 - Formerly known as Snow Creek
 - Zoning sign permit is approved

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board unanimously approved the sign application for Chalet 239

*Economic Development budget will be ready for review at the next meeting on Dec 19th

VIII. Local Liquor Control:

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board unanimously agreed to recess as Dover Select board and convene as local liquor control

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board unanimously approved the following pending receipt of the needed documents and fee:

- A. 1st Class License for Matilda LTD d/b/a Dots

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn as local liquor control and reconvene as Dover Select board

IX. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve the Minutes of November 21 & 29, 2023
On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board voted 3-0-1 to approve the minutes of November 21, 2023 (Shippee abstained)
On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of November 29, 2023

- B. Approve the Warrants of November 25, 2023 for \$295,545.90

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On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board voted 3-0-1 to approve the warrants of November 25, 2023 (Mahon abstained)

II. FYI:

- A. Dover Holiday Craft Fair December 9 from 9:30 to 3 at Dover Town Hall
 - Come out and support our community: 6th grade bake sale, lunch to benefit EDFD, pet food donations to benefit Windham County Humane Society, Santa will be there and of course local artists and crafters!
- B. Planning Commission meets December 11 at 6:30pm
- C. Trails and Rec Committee meets December 12 at 6:30pm
- D. Open Mic Night December 13 at 6pm

III. Liaison Reports: none

IV. Executive Session for Police Personnel (Mike Arbogast)

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board unanimously agreed to enter Executive Session for Police Personnel at 7:36pm

Present: Vicki Capitani, Sarah Shippee, Scott Salway, Joe Mahon, Randy Johnson, Mike Arbogast, Jeannette Eckert

By unanimous consent the Board moved out of Exec Session at 7:47pm

Decision: On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board unanimously agreed to increase pay for Officer Jake Roberts from \$22.50 to \$24.00/hour, Officer Sam Morris from \$30.14 to \$32.14/hour with promotion to Sargent and Detective Rebecca Morris from \$31.59 to \$33.59/hour, effective Dec 10, 2023

V. Adjournment at 7:48pm by Chair Capitani

Respectfully submitted by Jeannette Eckert

Public notices of these minutes have been posted at the following locations: Dover Town Clerk's Bulletin Board, Dover Town Meeting Bulletin Board, Dover School, Dover Free Library, East Dover Post Office, Town of Dover Website: www.doververmont.com