

**Minutes
FOR
2013 Town of Dover Annual Town Meeting
And
Town School District Meeting**

The legal voters of the Town of Dover, Vermont, and the Town School District of Dover, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned that, pursuant to Title 17, V.S.A., Section 2655, they are to meet at the Dover Town Hall on Dover Common in said Dover, Vermont on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. to act upon the following articles to wit:

ARTICLES TO BE VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT (Include articles 1 & 2 only)

The polls will open for Australian ballot voting at 10:00 a.m. and remain open until 7:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 1: To choose all Dover town officers and Dover school district officers for the following positions required by law to be elected at the annual meeting:

Auditor 3-year term	none elected	
Auditor 3-year term (1 remaining)	none elected	
First Constable 1-year term	Mary Lou Raymo	237
Grand Juror 1-year term	Lawrence Feldstein	220
Library Trustee 5-year term	Hillary Twining	234
Lister 3-year term	Linda Sherman	240
Moderator - School 1-year term	Lawrence Feldstein	215
Moderator - Town 1-year term	Lawrence Feldstein	219
School Director 3-year term	Laura Sibilis	214
School Director 2-year term	Jonathan "Chip" Vicary	220
Second Constable 1-year term	Randy Johnson	249
Selectman 3-year term	William A "Buzzy" Buswell	121
	Joseph Mahon*	136
Selectman 2-year term	Victoria Capitani	222
Town Agent 1-year term	Nona Monis	207
Town Clerk 3-year term	Andy McLean	237
Town Treasurer 3-year term	Patty Westlake	247
Trustee of Public Funds 1-year term	Patty Westlake	245

* denotes elected

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters adopt the amendments of the articles listed below of the Dover Zoning Bylaw, which were approved by the Dover Board of Selectmen on December 4, 2012?

- Article 1: General Provisions
- Article 2: Definitions
- Article 3: Permits and Approvals
- Article 4: Establishment of Zoning Districts and Maps
- Article 5: Flood Hazard Area Regulations
- Article 6: General Regulations
- Article 7: Planned Unit Development (PUD)
- Article 8: Affordable Housing
- Article 9: Sensitive Wildlife Resource Overlay District
- Article 10: Transfer of Development Rights Overlay District
- Article 11: Administration and Enforcement

YES
NO

189
38

Not Official Till Approved

The Town Clerk opened the polls at 10:00 a.m. and introduced the Moderator, Lawrence Feldstein.

Mr. Feldstein introduced himself with a few appropriate words regarding the loss of our most recent and well-loved Moderator, Dick Kaufmann. Then the Moderator lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence before beginning Town Meeting.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Voters of Dover Town School District approve payment of the announced tuition rate of Burr and Burton Academy for sending towns, up to the amount of \$14,875.00 for the 2013/2014 school year for those students who are residents in the Dover School District and who attend Burr and Burton Academy for grades 9-12?

M: Don Albano

2nd: William "Buzzy" Buswell

D: Rich Werner explained some of the relevant facts and referred to a handout prepared by the School Board which was informational but took no position on the question. Parents of two children who attend Burr and Burton spoke in favor of the article and the school. No one spoke against the article.

V: Ayes have it.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town School District set the annual tuition rate, to approved independent schools, to be the same amount per pupil, over and above the Vermont State High School Average Announced Tuition, for students in grades 7-12, as voted to pay Burr and Burton Academy for pupils who are Dover residents?

M: Randy Capitani

2nd: Kristen Wallace

D: Mary Lou Raymo explained that the petition to warn this article was brought to address the fact that students would not benefit from the extra tuition money voted in Article 3 unless they attended Burr and Burton Academy. Much discussion ensued. Parents of two of the three students who attend approved independent schools other than Burr & Burton spoke asking for a "yes" vote as a matter of fairness. Many questions were focused on understanding the complex issue but there was no opposition expressed.

C: Sue Rand, call the question

V: Aye, question called.

V: Ayes have it, Article 4 passes.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town School District compensate the Officers as follows- Chairperson- \$2,000 per year; Members- \$1,000 per year, and mileage re-imbusement at the Federal re-imbusement rate for the month in which the mileage occurred?

M: Linda Holland

2nd: Jim Lynch

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town School District authorize any surplus from the 2012/2013 budget to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund?

M: Linda Holland

2nd: Cathy Kaufmann

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town School District authorize funding the Capital Vehicle Fund in the amount of \$10,550, with such funds come from the Capital Reserve Fund?

M: Sarah Shippee

2nd: Nona Monis

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town School District authorize Operational Expenses in the amount of \$2,809,618 as follows-

Part A. Shall the voters of the school district authorize the school board to expend \$2,622,005, which is a portion of the amount the school board has determined to be necessary?

M: Sue Rand

2nd: Sarah Shippee

D: Rich explains. Because of a certain percentage increase, the statute requires the budget be voted in two parts.

V: Aye.

Part B: If Part A is approved by the voters, shall the voters of the school district also authorize the school board to expend \$187,613, which is the remainder of the amount the school board has determined to be necessary?"

M: Randy Capitani

2nd: Sarah Shippee

D: Rich, the Board requests a friendly amendment because of our vote on Article 4 to increase amount by: 16,805. Increase 187,613 to 204,418.

A: Jim Lynch, amend as requested: \$187,613 amended to \$204,418.

2nd: Randy Capitani

V: Aye, motion amended.

V: Aye, motion passed as amended.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town School District authorize the School Directors to withdraw money from the Capital Reserve Fund to offset the Homestead tax rate?

M: Jeannie Feldstein

2nd: Sue Rand

D: Rich explains, asks for guidance. There appears to be a general consensus among voters that it would be reasonable for the Board to move \$150,000, reducing the tax rate increase from .20 to .10 while still maintaining a prudent reserve in the Capital Reserve Fund.

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 10: To informally discuss building renovations, to informally discuss exploring change in Supervisory Unions, and to discuss any other business that may legally come before the voters.

D: There is discussion about using Town funds as matching funds to leverage State money for a new/upgraded playground at the school. Rich, also, recognizes the School for its excellence. Discussion about becoming our own supervisory union.

School Meeting done

Representative, John Moran, arrives to address the house.

M: Bobby Edwards, motion to suspend Robert's Rules to allow Rep. Moran to address the house.

2nd: Jim Lynch

V: Aye.

John explains that he voted "no" on the recent increase in the property tax rate. However, the State is in need of revenue for roads and bridges. So, he supports the gas tax. But, does not support the proposed tax on break open tickets which would hurt Vets or the earned income tax credit. Also, he does not support any new gun control laws in Vermont.

Buzzy thanks John for voting "no" on the increase in the education tax rate. However, questions the wisdom of raising the gas tax. Raises the question with regard to Act 60/68, what is a "quality education" in Vermont? Why do we still have no definition of this black hole that continues to suck \$10,000,000 out of Dover every year?

John acknowledges Dover's leadership and innovation at the Dover School. Declares that he will not vote to take away the "Small Schools Grant", will not vote to take more money out of the Education Fund, will not support mandatory combining of schools.

Thomas Baltrus asks John about the Blue Ribbon Tax Study's recommendations and why they have not been implemented?

John agrees with the recommendations but cites a lack of will in the Legislature to do anything about them.

Laura Sibilia thanks John for his “no” vote on the tax increase and reminds him that there is no evidence that consolidation of schools either saves money or improves educational outcomes.

John agrees and warns that taking away the Small School Grant is a ploy to consolidate schools.

Randy Capitani urges John not to support legislation to de-fund approved independent schools. Also, asks John about his support of the living wage bill?

John explains that by not having a livable wage we are subsidizing employers who do not pay a living wage with entitlement programs for their employees.

Jim Lynch asked why increase in unemployment tax?

John explained that the fund was grossly underfunded for many years and now we’re paying the piper.

Representative Moran is thanked for his time and takes leave of the assembly.

Break for lunch

Reconvene, Linda Holland presents an award to Cathy and Mary Kaufmann on behalf of the Town of Dover for Dick Kaufmann, Cathy’s husband and Mary’s father and the Town Moderator for many years who passed away on August 6, 2012. He will be missed.

TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 11: Shall the voters accept the annual report of the auditors and other town officers?

M: Sarah Shippee

2nd: Linda Holland

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the voters compensate town officers as follows: Town Clerk \$46,674.26 annual salary, Town Treasurer \$46,549.10 annual salary, Selectboard Chairman \$2,500 annual stipend, Selectboard members \$2,000 annual stipend, Lister Chairman \$17.99/hr., Listers \$15.39-16.43/hr., all others - chairmen \$9.20/hr., members \$8.60/hr., and mileage based on the Federal reimbursement rate for the month in which the mileage occurred?

M: Ned McElroy

2nd: Jim Lynch

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$1,983,115.07 for the coming year?

M: Sarah Shippee

2nd: Jim Lynch

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the voters authorize highway fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$1,201,248.50 for the coming year?

M: Sue Rand

2nd: Sarah Shippee

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$400,000.00 for the Capital Paving Fund?

M: Sarah Shippee

2nd: Randy Capitani

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 16: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$200,000.00 for the Capital Equipment Fund?

M: Sue Rand

2nd: Vicki Capitani

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 17: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$100,000.00 for the Capital Building Improvement Fund?

M: Sarah Shippee

2nd: Randy Capitani

D: Sarah, do we need a commercial dishwasher for the town hall? Yes. Ian Schrauf, septic system checked? A commercial dishwasher is going to place a lot of stress on that little system.

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 18: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$65,000.00 for the Town of Dover Legal Defense Fund?

M: Sarah Shippee

2nd: Buzzy

D: William Buswell explains that the Buzzy Fund is for legal fees used in fighting Act 60/68. Buzzy introduces Laura Sibilia who has been working with the KSC Lobbying Group. The study commissioned by Dover and Wilmington last year highlighted several problems with education funding as it stands today: how do we know if we are getting equitable opportunity? We don't know what a "quality

education” is, and there is no measure of outcomes for the 10 million we raise and send to the State as there are for the dollars that we spend on our children. We are getting traction because folks in Montpelier don’t see what this money is being spent on either.

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 19: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$3,300 for the purpose of supporting Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) activities?

M: Sarah Shippee

2nd: Randy Capitani

D: Laura Sibilia, SeVEDS is a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, a regional effort funded by area towns based on population. Connie Wisse, how does this overlap our 1% Economic Development Fund? Should this come out of that budget? Laura, this is bigger picture stuff like workforce training etc. Randy Terk, this is different than what we do with our local option funds. This is broader.

V: Ayes have it.

ARTICLE 20: Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?

M: Jim Lynch

2nd: Sarah Shippee

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 21: Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to sell properties, which the Town has acquired by gift or through tax sales?

M: Randy Terk

2nd: Sarah Shippee

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 22: Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to set the tax rate sufficient to cover the approved expenses of the Town of Dover and the Town of Dover Highway for taxes due on August 15, 2013 and February 18, 2014?

M: Jim Lynch

2nd: Ned McElroy

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 23: Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

M: Sarah Shippee

2nd: Jim Lynch

V: Aye.

ARTICLE 24: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Buzzy thanks the road crew. Thanks town for support of Amy Werner in her recovery. Much applause. Bobby Edwards recognized in retiring. Alice Veraguth recognized Linda Sherman for the excellent job she did on the Town Report.

M: Jim Lynch, to adjourn

2nd: Sarah Shippee

V: Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Andy McLean,
Dover Town Clerk

Lawrence Feldstein,
Moderator

Not Official Till Approved