

**Minutes (unofficial until approved)**  
**FOR**  
**2014 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 4, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. to act upon the following articles to wit:

**ARTICLE TO BE VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT (Include article 1 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 (2 year remaining)		none elected
First Constable 1-year term	Mary Lou Raymo	200
Grand Juror 1-year term	Lawrence Feldstein	179
Library Trustee 5-year term	Meredith Anton	198
Lister 3-year term	Alice L. Veraguth	188
Moderator - School 1-year term	Lawrence Feldstein	179
Moderator - Town 1-year term	Lawrence Feldstein	184
School Director 3-year term	Richard J. Werner	174
School Director 2-year term	Jollene Mahon	191
Second Constable 1-year term	Randy Johnson	202
Selectman 3-year term	Linda L. Holland	188
Selectman 2-year term	William A. "Buzzy" Buswell	83
	Randy Terk	127
Town Agent 1-year term		none elected
Trustee of Public Funds 1-year term	Patricia Westlake	201

Moderator, Larry Feldstein calls the meeting to order and, invites Cullen O'Hern and Wesley Capitani to lead the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

Selectman, Randy Terk, introduces new Town Administrator, Carlo Pilgrim. Randy recognizes Bobby Edwards, retired police chief, with a plaque for his years of service.

Unanimous consent to allow Senator Peter Galbraith and Representative John Moran to speak to the assembly.

Senator Galbraith addresses the voters. School funding should not be solely based on property tax. Communities need more incentive re budget decisions. Universal healthcare won't increase spending on healthcare.

Larry Feldstein asks, how to fully fund universal healthcare?

Peter, payroll tax would be 11 % higher to 25% or sales tax would rise to 19%.

Buzzy Buswell, State-wide program for wi fi - why hasn't Dover been reimbursed? Why haven't you got back to us on this from 2 years ago?

Peter, chances are 0 for Dover being reimbursed.

Buzzy, money out of education fund for things other than education is a travesty. What is a "quality education".

Peter, education funding should not be so reliant on property tax.

Randy Capitani, with the payroll tax for health care and a minimum wage increase we are overburdening businesses.

Peter, New England-wide minimum wage. Saving taxpayer money by cutting down on welfare systems. Will be an economic stimulus because poorer folks spend locally.

Bob Edwards, social welfare programs - what are we doing to save here?

Peter, reading program for adults makes them contributors.

Randy Terk, overall tax burden is very high. People will leave the State. Kids are already leaving. Concerned about economic viability.

Peter, the property tax is the one that is growing. Low tax states don't have the education or health indicators that we do.

Kristine Fayette, what do you think of current top-down education governance proposals in light of your comments re: the importance of our current excellent quality of education and quality of life?

Peter, I will approach this with extreme caution.

Dave Cerchio, there is no proof that an increase in minimum wage will not increase inflation. I'm reminded of the story of the old socialist who couldn't sleep at night because he was sure that someone somewhere was not being taxed enough. General laughter.

Peter, I think, that was a comment not a question.

Connie Wisse, what is a "quality education" in regard to act 68. Some receiving towns are spending on things that may not be considered part of a "quality education".

Peter, I'll pass that on.

Laura Sibilia, there is a great deal of confusion about education funding. The voters should know that you have been an advocate for local control re: Seveds.

Judy Jones, page 109 of the Town Report has a tax graph. Where can I get an accounting for the 10 million dollars over and above the spending on Dover's kids sent to the State for education funding?

Peter, look in the budgets of individual receiving towns. We need to rethink property tax funding of education.

Moderator, Larry Feldstein, thanks Senator Galbraith for addressing the meeting.

Representative, John Moran, introduced by the Moderator.

John Moran, in 1968 minimum wage was \$11 per hour when adjusted for inflation. Today we have tremendous economic inequality. Looking at minimum wage bill in committee also paid sick time bill. This is the way out of the dilemma of subsidizing minimum wage businesses with social programs. Education consists in: performance, governance and funding. Regarding performance, we get a great product for the money especially in Dover. Governance and funding linked in Montpelier, but, they shouldn't be. Two separate issues. Why not bottom-up model of governance? Why not ask Dover what we need. Most proposals now are top-down doing away with local control.

Randy Terk, socialism is "take from the rich give to the poor." Businesses don't have money to pay increased minimum wage. How many of these folks (who would benefit from increased minimum wage) pay income tax? Not many. Where will our kids work in Vermont? My daughter is a teacher in Vermont but where will others find employment? Reminds one of the saying, "we dare you to make a living in Vermont."

John, I'm a responsible capitalist not a socialist. Henry Ford raised workers' pay so that they could buy his cars. Minimum wage increase goes to folks who spend it. Tax wise, you decrease spending on subsidizing Walmart and McDonalds with social programs.

Laura, do you support raising minimum wage in Vermont alone without the other New England states?

John, yes, we can't wait.

Laura, not with Vermont leading, we must do it with other states. Minimum wage should go up, though.

Kristen Wallace, we'll go out of business if you raise minimum wage.

Herb Childs, I lived in Detroit in 1921 when Ford gave his workers the raise you speak of. It worked then but, not in this instance. Have you ever run a business?

John, yes. We already pay most folks more than minimum wage.

Linda Baxter, minimum wage concerns. Most folks earning minimum wage are teenagers.

John, most folks are not teenagers on minimum wage. They're trying to raise families.

Phil Bowen, thank you, Peter and John. I've worked in this valley for many years and raised a family, loading lifts and cleaning restaurants. Pay people something they can live on. You all (those speaking against raising the minimum wage) should be ashamed of yourselves in your little castles. General applause.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the Town School District authorize the expenditure of \$45,200 over the next year to implement the International Baccalaureate program (please see school board report in Town report) at the Dover School, with \$31,500 to be in the operating budget annually to sustain the program?

Motion: William A. "Buzzy" Buswell

2<sup>nd</sup>: Joan Black

Discussion: Rich Werner calls attention to the green handout prepared by the School Board explaining the International Baccalaureate Program, an academic excellence program to keep Dover one of the top performing schools in the State.

Geri Golet, applaud work of the board. Good program. Principal and teachers in favor? Yes. Schools using outcomes? Yes.

Christine Fayette, what is it? Integrating system? Yes.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the Town School District authorize the expenditure of \$20,000 to hire a consultant to work with the Board and Building Committee for ideas, recommendations, proposals and cost estimates to enhance, enlarge and better utilize the school building as a school and community resource?

Motion: Randy Terk

2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Rubin

Discussion: Richie, this article will simply sustain bond payment level spending for improvements to building. Formed a building committee to recommend a consultant.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall the Town School District set the annual tuition rate to approved independent schools as required by Title 16, Section 824(c), for students in grades seven through twelve, at \$15,400 for the 2014/2015 school year?

Motion: Mary Lou Raymo

2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Baltrus

Discussion: Richie, explains same thing we have been doing for approved independent schools.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall the Town School District compensate the Officers as follows- Chairperson- \$2,500 per year; Members- \$2,000 per year, and mileage reimbursement at the Federal reimbursement rate for the month in which the mileage occurred?

Motion: Buzzy

2<sup>nd</sup>: Geri Golet

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 6:** Shall the Town School District authorize any surplus from the 2013/2014 budget to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund?

Motion: Geri

2<sup>nd</sup>: Patty Westlake

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

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

Motion: Sue Rand

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ned McElroy

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 8:** Shall the Town School District authorize funding of the Capital Building fund in the amount of \$20,018, with such funds coming from the Capital Reserve Fund?

Motion: Linda Holland

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sara Shippee

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 9:** Shall the Town School District authorize Operational Expenses in the amount of \$2,701,503 for the operational budget for the 2014/2015 school year?

Motion: Bob Rubin

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sue Rand

Discussion: Richie, see budget on page 92. Also, see Charlotte Bond/Kathy Kaufman over-under \$500 informational handout outlining each budget line item that rose or fell by more than \$500.

Tamara Allen, school supplies required to be supplied by parents and donation programs can be a burden.

Rich, we'll look into that and get back to you.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 10:** Shall the Town School District authorize the School Directors to withdraw money from the Capital Reserve Fund to offset the Homestead tax rate, but not more than \$330,000?

Motion: Geri Golet

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sara Shippee

Discussion: Richie, page 110, 111. This is the usual article we use to stabilize the tax rate.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 11:** To informally discuss options for moving the Town School District Meeting to a different time and or date in conjunction with the Select Board.

Motion: Sue Rand

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sara Shippee

Discussion: Richie, Select Board concerned about attendance at Town Meeting and approached the School Board. We have some thoughts and are going to move forward on them, but not thinking of moving Town Meeting at this point.

Sue Rand and Lisa Coneeny request Town Report on website prior to Town Meeting.

Rich asks the meeting for a straw poll on whether or not the Town Reports should be mailed to voters again. Straw poll results: no one wants town report mailed. At least half of the room in favor of card invite mailed to voters.

**ARTICLE 12:** To hear a brief report of the joint efforts of the Select Board and School Board on the lobbying efforts to prevent "bad things" from happening to the School and Town.

Motion: Geri

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sara

Discussion: Laura Sibia, Dover authorized \$115,000 and spent \$89,000 on our lobbyist. Dover's lobbying efforts saved the small schools grants. If not, it would have cost us a teacher in Dover. Lobbyist has put pressure on legislators with the goals of protecting Dover School and Dover tax payers. This year looking at a ground swell of interest in actually doing something on education funding.

Buzzy, your figures are from June 15th not including \$50,000 this year or \$35,000 for the study. We have spent this money and done nothing. We've saved \$78,000 but spent way more than that. We should look into legal action instead.

Laura, my numbers are right. I don't know if we should go forward with the lobbyist but it has been beneficial for Dover thus far.

Randy Terk, to have an effect in Montpelier you have to be there. You have to hire someone. Select Board and School Board feel money is well spent.

Connie Wisse, did our lobbyist's efforts contribute to the change in mood in Montpelier? Laura, yes.

**ARTICLE 13:** To discuss any other items that the voters would like to discuss, and to conduct any other business that may legally come before the voters.

Discussion: John Cleanthes, would like to recognize new playground donation by June Butler of \$25,000. And, the Dover School Club's efforts as well.

**ARTICLE 14:** Shall the voters accept the annual report of the auditors and other town officers?

Motion: Rich Werner

2<sup>nd</sup>: Cliff Turpin

Discussion: Vicki, spiral binding on Town Report a big hit.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 15:** Shall the voters compensate town officers as follows: Town Clerk \$48,074.49 annual salary, Town Treasurer \$47,945.57 annual salary, Selectboard Chairman \$2,500 annual stipend, Selectboard members \$2,000 annual stipend, Lister Chairman \$18.34/hr., Listers \$15.39-17.34/hr., all others - chairmen \$9.20/hr., members \$8.73/hr., and mileage based on the Federal reimbursement rate for the month in which the mileage occurred?

Motion: Patty Westlake

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sue Rand

Discussion: Numbers from Warning as signed, recorded and published confirmed.  
Patty Westlake, Auditors under paid. Two vacant positions.

Amend: Patty Westlake, amend to include auditors at \$15.50 per hour.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Adam Levine

Discussion: Larry hours? Approximately 180 per year.

Vote amendment: Aye, unanimous.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 16:** Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$2,128,539.87 for the coming year?

Motion: Bobby Edwards

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sara Shippee

Amend: Randy Terk, amend article to: "Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$2,131,965.86 for the coming year?" this to cover Seveds appropriation of \$3,372.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Baltrus

Vote amendment: Aye, unanimous.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 17:** Shall the voters authorize highway fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$1,245,163.97 for the coming year?

Motion: Sara

2<sup>nd</sup>: Buzzy

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 18:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$450,000.00 for the Capital Paving Fund?

Motion: Ned McElroy

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sue Rand

Discussion: Randy up \$50,000 to fully fund our paving plan.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 19:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$200,000.00 for the Capital Equipment Fund?

Motion: Buzzy

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sarah

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 20:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$100,000.00 for the Capital Building Improvement Fund?

Motion: Sarah

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ian Schrauf

Discussion: Randy, includes money for planning town office renovations.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 21:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$65,000.00 for the Town of Dover Legal Defense Fund?

Motion: Buzz

2<sup>nd</sup>: Bobby Edwards

Discussion: Buzzy, Laura's numbers are wrong. More than \$89,000 was spent. Let's look at other options, legal options. Lobbyist will not work.

Vote: Ayes have it.

**ARTICLE 22:** Shall the voters exempt the property of the East Dover Volunteer Fire Co., Inc. from property taxes for 5 years in accordance with V.S.A. Title 32 Se. 3840?

Motion: Richie

2<sup>nd</sup>: Connie

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 23:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?

Motion: Buzz

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sue Rand

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 24:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to sell properties, which the Town has acquired by gift or through tax sales?

Motion: Sara

2<sup>nd</sup>: Patty

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 25:** 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, 2014 and February 18, 2015?

Motion: Vicki

2<sup>nd</sup>: Buzzy

Amend: Mary Lou Raymo, amend February 18<sup>th</sup> to February 15<sup>th</sup>.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Linda Holland

Vote amendment: Aye, unanimous.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 26:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

Motion: Buzzy

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sarah

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

**ARTICLE 27:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Discussion: Buzzy, commends highway department.

Adjourn: Buzzy

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sara

Vote: Aye, unanimous.