

Town of Dorchester
State of New Hampshire
Annual Town Meeting Minutes

Meeting opened 10:00 by Moderator Joshua Trought

MODERATOR – Welcomed everyone, located the exits, explained the rules of procedure.

To the inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester in the County of Grafton in said state, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Dorchester on Tuesday, the 11th day of March 2014, polls to be open for voting on Article 1 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, and to close not earlier than 7 o'clock in the afternoon, with action on the remaining articles to be taken commencing at 10 o'clock in the forenoon on Saturday, March 15th, 2014.

1. To choose by nonpartisan ballot all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

MODERATOR read the election results

Moderator – Joshua Trought
Selectman – Maria Weick
Town Treasurer – Cheryl Legg
Tax Collector – Darlene Oaks
Town Clerk – Darlene Oaks
Supervisor of the Checklist – Shawn Russell
Auditor – Martha Walker
Planning Board – Bethann Weick
Cemetery Trustee – Bethann Weick
Trustee of the Trust Funds – Justine Majeski

2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thirty-seven thousand six hundred two dollars and zero cents (\$437,602.00), to defray Town charges.

Recommended by Select Board

JOHN FRANZ – motion to move Article 2 after Article 15
RON CHARRETTE – second
JOHN FRANZ – spoke
CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – responded
SELECTMAN ARTHUR BUDETTE - spoke
MICHAEL HOWE – motion to move the motion
SELECTMAN ARTHUR BURDETTE - second

MOTION FAILED

SELECTMEN ARTHUR BURDETTE – motion to move the question to the floor
CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK and VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – seconded simultaneously
CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – explained the overall financial picture of the town
MICHAEL LANDRY – spoke
CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – responded
MICHAEL LANDRY – spoke
BRIAN HOWE - responded
SELECTMENT ARTIE BURDETTE – spoke

ARTICLE 2 VOTE – PASSED unanimously

AMBER BARSALEAU – motion to restrict further consideration of Article 2
MODERATOR – will not allow a motion to reconsider to reconsider because no one voted no.
AMBER BARSALEAU – motion retracted

3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the capital reserve Town Building Fund, previously established in accordance with RSA 35:1, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$25,000 from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2013.

Recommended by Select Board

SELECTMEN ARTHUR BURDETTE – motion to put article on the floor for discussion

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – seconded

SELECTMEN ARTHUR BURDETTE – explanation of article

MICHAEL LANDRY – Asked if any consideration was given to offset the tax rate by using money from the fund balance.

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – Yes, we have considered that. Explained how that is only a one year lowering of tax rate, and then it goes back up the next year. Believes that by instead keeping the tax rate level, people can better plan

CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – Yes, it was a consideration.

BRIAN HOWE – Explained that DRA and GFOA both believe the fund balance should be used for one time capital improvement projects or to fund a trust fund, due to the fluctuation it would cause in the tax rate from year to year if it was used to offset the tax rate.

JAY LEGG – Motion to move the question

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK - second

MODERATOR – Is there a second? I saw a bunch of hands but I think Mike (Vice Chairman Michael Mock) was first.

MOTION PASSED

ARTICLE 3 VOTE – PASSED unanimously

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand eight hundred dollars (\$15,800) to be added to the capital reserve Bridge Fund, previously established in accordance with RSA 35:1, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$15,800 from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2013.

Recommended by Select Board

SELECTMEN ARTHUR BURDETTE – motion to move article to the floor

CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – second

CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – Explained the purpose of placing money in the Bridge Trust Fund, for future replacement of bridge on Province Road.

JOHH HESSION – motion to move the question

DAVID YETMAN – second

MOTION PASSED

ARTICLE 4 VOTE – PASSED unanimously

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to be added to the capital reserve Highway Equipment Maintenance Fund, previously established in accordance with RSA 35:1, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$4,000 from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2013.

Recommended by Select Board

CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – motion to move the article to the floor

SELECTMAN ARTHUR BURDETTE – second

CHAIRMAN HALLOCK – clarification the reserve fund is for the purchase of equipment, not for the maintenance of equipment

MICHAEL HOWE – motion to move the question

ED CARROLL – second

BRUCE PRATT JR – If we want to hear his question, how do we vote?

MODERATOR – No

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION FAILED

RON CHARRATTE – Article isn't written clearly, do we need to amend it?

SELECTMAN BURDETTE – explained and amended to:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to be added to the capital reserve Purchase of Highway Maintenance Equipment Fund, previously established in accordance with RSA 35:1, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$4,000 from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2013.

VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT – PASSED unanimously

RON STOKOWSI – motion to move the question

VICKI LECAIN – second

MOTION PASSED

ARTICLE 5 VOTE – PASSED AS AMENDED unanimously

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be used for new roofing on the Town Hall, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$15,000 from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2013.

Recommended by Select Board

CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – motion to move the article to the floor

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – second

SELECTMAN ARTHUR BURDETTE – spoke regarding both Article 6 and Article 7

JOHN FRANZ – will the projects go out to public bid

SELECTMAN ARTHUR BURDETTE – yes

BOB BROWN – motion to move the question

DAVID YETMAN – second

MOTION PASSED

ARTICLE 6 VOTE – PASSED unanimously

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to be used for new storm windows for the Town Hall, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$4,000 from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2013.

Recommended by Select Board

SELECTMAN ARTHUR BURDETTE – motion to move the article to the floor

CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – second

SCOTT GRACE – Why storm windows, why not replace windows

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – We are following energy audit conducted 3 years ago, and whatever we do has to meet with the approval of the Dorchester Historic District Commission anyway.

ARTICLE 7 VOTE – PASSED unanimously

8. To see if the Town will vote to allow Select Board to enter into a three (3) year contract with CAI Technologies for the purpose of producing digital parcel Maps for the Town, and to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand four hundred fifty-five dollars (\$7,455) for the first of three (3) annual payments, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$7,455 from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2013.

Recommended by Select Board

CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – motion to move the article to the floor

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK - second

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – explained the contract proposal from CAI Technologies

JAY LEGG – seems like duplication

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – what CNP, the Town's assessors do, and the tax maps, are two different things.

CHERYL LEGG – how much has been paid to this company

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – nothing yet, this is just a proposal from the company

BETH WEICK – How long will this be valid, and what happens at the end of the contract

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – at the end of the contract, we own the data

BRUCE PRATT JR. - How often are we supposed to be doing this?

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – Sam Green, with DRA, would like to see us to updates annually

BRIAN HOWE – Spoke in favor of the article

MARIA WEICK – How much will updates cost after the 3 year contract

SELECTMAN ARTHUR BURDETTE – High end, \$2900, but it depends on the number of changes, some years we won't have any changes.

ARTICLE 8 VOTE – PASSED unanimously

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the four thousand dollars (\$4,000) in the operating budget for the 2014 Revaluation payment to Commerford Neider & Perkins and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$10,000 from the Revaluation of Property Capital Reserve Fund balance as of December 31, 2013.

Recommended by Select Board

CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – motion to move the article to the floor

SELECTMAN ARTHUR BURDETTE – second

CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – explained this was the last year of the revaluation contract, and this is money put in the trust several years ago for this purpose, and we would like to use it now.

ARTICLE 9 VOTE – PASSED unanimously

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund previously established under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of acquiring and developing land for a Town Cemetery, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$1,000 from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2013.

Recommended by Select Board

CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – motion to move the article to the floor

SELECTMAN ARTHUR BURDETTE – second

BETH WEICK – explained the purpose of asking for this money

MICHAEL LANDRY – Asked why we aren't putting more into this fund

CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – there is already \$4000 in the fund, and at this time, since there is no immediate plan to purchase or develop cemetery land, there is no need to put more in at this time.

ARTICLE 10 VOTE – PASSED unanimously

11. To see if the Town will vote to deposit 5% of the Land Use Change Tax revenues collected each year pursuant to RSA 79-A into the Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5 III as authorized by RSA 79-A:25 II. These funds would be used to develop a natural resources inventory for the town as mandated by RSA 36-A:2; to increase public access to the town forest, for public education on conservation issues, and to conserve/protect the natural resources of the town.

By Petition

RYAN HARVEY – motion to move the article to the floor

JOHN MORRISSEY – second

RYAN HARVEY – explained the purpose and legality of this article

JOHN FRANZ – believes the money should go to the general fund

RYAN HARVEY – again explained the RSA allowing LUCT revenue to go to Conservation Commissions
MARIA WEICK – explained this is the Conservation Commissions attempt to do something for the town.
CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – explained that when the LUCT was first created, it was never intended to be a revenue for the Town.

ARTICLE 11 VOTE – PASSED (only 1 no vote)

12. To see if the Town will vote to urge:

- That the New Hampshire Sate Legislature join nearly 500 municipalities and 16 other states, including all other New England states, in calling upon Congress to move forward a constitutional amendment that:
 1. guarantees the right of our elected representatives and of the American people to safeguard fair elections through authority to regulate political spending, and
 2. clarifies that constitutional rights were established for the people, not corporations.
- That the New Hampshire US Congressional Delegation support such a constitutional amendment.
- That the New Hampshire State Legislature support such an amendment once it is approved by Congress and sent to the State for ratification.
- The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Dorchester's congressional delegation, and to Dorchester's state legislators, the New Hampshire Governor, and to the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents by the Select Board within 30 days of the vote.

By Petition

MARIA WEICK – motion to move the article to the floor
RYAN HARVEY – second
MARIA WEICK – explained the article

ARTICLE 12 VOTE – PASSED (only 1 no vote)

RECESSED at 11:42 am RECONVENED at 11:50 am

13. To see if the Town will vote to enjoin the enforcement of the provisions of the Town of Dorchester Health Regulations adopted by the Select Board of the Town of May 23, 2013 and enacted on June 1, 2013, until said regulations have been presented, public comment received and recorded at the Annual Town Meeting in March 2015.

By Petition

MICHAEL LANDY – motion to move the article to the floor
JOHN FRANZ – second
MICHAEL LANDRY – spoke to the article
CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – point of order
MICHAEL LANDRY – spoke
JOHN FRANZ – spoke

CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – Every ordinance, every regulation, that the Board of Selectmen enacts in this town must go through the town. Except this one. The State does not require a health regulation to go through the same process as others.

SELECTMAN ARTHUR BURDETTE – spoke

MICHAEL LANDRY – spoke

SELECTMEN ARTHUR BURDETTE – responded

SELECTMEN ARTHUR BURDETTE – motion to move the question

RON STOKOWSKI – second

ARTICLE 13 VOTE – DEFEATED (overwhelmingly)

14. To see if the Town will vote to prohibit the expenditure of funds from Account #4312 – Highways & Streets for any purchase, lease, rental, repair or capital improvement or project in excess of \$5,000.00 without a legally warned public hearing and a minimum of three responsible bids or quotations.

By Petition

MICHAEL LANDRY – motion to move the article to the floor
JOHN FRANZ – second
MICHAEL LANDRY – spoke
VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – responded
BRIAN HOWE – spoke
DEAN STOCKWELL – spoke
JOHN FRANZ – spoke
SELECTMAN ARTHUR BURDETTE – spoke

ARTICLE 14 VOTE – DEFEATED (overwhelmingly)

15. To see if the Town will vote to make the office of Road Agent an elected position with a term of three years. Upon passage of this article, the change will take effect with the March 2015 election. By Official ballot.

By Petition

MICHAEL LANDRY – motion to move the article to the floor
LINDA LANDRY – second
MICHAEL LANDRY – spoke
VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – responded
BOB BROWN – motion to amend the article to a voted position for one year.
LINDA LANDRY – seconded the motion

To see if the Town will vote to make the office of Road Agent an elected position with a term of one year. Upon passage of this article, the change will take effect with the March 2015 election. By Official ballot.

SELECTMEN ARTHUR BURDETTE – spoke
VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT – DEFEATED – ARTICLE REMAINS AS WRITTEN

Proceed with debate on the article as written
MARIA WEICK – spoke
MICHAEL LANDRY – spoke
VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MOCK – spoke
MICHAEL LANDRY – spoke
CHAIRMAN SHERMAN HALLOCK – responded
JOHN MORRISSEY – motion to move the question
CHERYL LEGG – second
VOTE ON THE MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION – PASSED
JACK POTTS – spoke
JOHN MORRISSEY – point of order

VOTE ON ARTICLE 15 BY PAPER BALLOT - YES – 19, NO – 54 ARTICLE 15 IS DEFEATED

16. To act upon any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

MODERATOR spoke of the long years of service given by Brian & Brenda Howe.

CLAUDETTE HEBERT – motion to adjourn the meeting
JOHN HESSION – second
MEETING ADJOURNED at 1:12 pm

*Holly Baker, Admin Asst
Town of Dorchester*