

Town of Dorchester
State of New Hampshire
Annual Town Meeting Minutes

Meeting opened at 10:01 by Moderator Joshua Trought

The Moderator welcomed everyone, located the exits, and 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 10th day of March 2015, polls to be open for voting on Articles 1 through 6 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, and to close no 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 14th, 2015.

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

Moderator read the election results

Selectmen - Steve Bjerklie
Treasurer - Cheryl Legg
Tax Collector - Darlene Oaks
Town Clerk - Darlene Oaks
Trustee of the Trust Fund - Amber Barsaleau and Cookie Hebert
Auditor - Vicki Lecain
Planning Board - Michael Woodard
Cemetery Trustee - Cristin Green
Supervisor of the Checklist 4 years - Adrienne Morrison
Supervisor of the Checklist 2 years - Cristin Green

2. Are you in favor of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Land Use Regulation Ordinance as follows: delete the list of specifically prohibited uses and replace it with a provision that any use not specifically permitted is prohibited.

Recommended by Planning Board (4 – 1)

Passed

3. Are you in favor of Amendment # 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Land Use Regulation Ordinance as follows: delete all references in Article V(A) to the automatic merger of nonconforming lots, as such automatic mergers are now prohibited by state law.

Recommended by Planning Board
Passed

4. Are you in favor of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Land Use Regulation Ordinance as follows: amend the criteria for a variance by referring directly to the state law which establishes the criteria.

Recommended by Planning Board
Passed

5. Are you in favor of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Land Use Regulation Ordinance as follows: delete the provision which allows the Zoning Board to require economic or environmental impact statements, bonds, and impact fees as a condition of variances or special exceptions, as the Board is not empowered to require such things under state law.

Recommended by Planning Board
Passed

6. Are you in favor of Amendment #5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Land Use Regulation Ordinance as follows: delete the section which allows the Zoning Board to overrule a decision by the Permit Officer or the Board of Selectmen that no variance or special exception is needed for a proposed use, as the Zoning Board is not empowered to this under state law.

Recommended by Planning Board
Passed

Moderator read the Town Warrant

Moderator read Article 7

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand four hundred fifty five dollars (\$7,455) for the second of three (3) annual payments to CAI Technologies for the purpose of producing digital parcel maps for the Town, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$7,455 from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2014.

Recommended by Select Board

Artie Burdette made a motion to move article 7 to the floor with a second by Sherman Hallock. Artie Burdette spoke. Betty Ann Trought spoke. Artie Burdette made a motion to move the question with a second from Sherman Hallock.

**Article 7 passed unanimously by voice vote.
Moderator read Article 8**

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) 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 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2014.

Recommended by Select Board

**Betty Ann Trought made a motion to move article 8 to the floor with a second by Beth Weick. Betty Ann Trought spoke. Betty Ann made a motion to move the question with a second by Sherman Hallock.
Article 8 passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Moderator read Article 9

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) 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 five thousand dollars (\$5,000) from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2014. Further, to appoint the Select Board to be the agent to expend from this fund.

Recommended by Select Board (2-1)

Artie Burdette made a motion to move article 9 to the floor with a second by Maria Weick. Artie Burdette spoke. Dave Morrill spoke. Cookie Hebert spoke. Bob Green made a motion and provided a written Amendment to Article 9 to read: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) 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 fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2014. Further to appoint the Select Board to be the agent to expend from this fund. Second by Artie Burdette. Discussion of Amendment ensued. Mike Landry spoke. Dave Morrill spoke. Ron Charette spoke. Artie Burdette spoke. Betty Trought spoke. Artie Burdette spoke. John Franz spoke. Sherman spoke.

Cookie Hebert spoke. Maria Weick spoke. Dave Yetman made a motion to move the Amendment to the floor with a second by Betty Ann. Amendment to Article 9 passed by card vote 30 to 7. Cookie Hebert made a motion to move the question with a 2/3 vote question moved unanimously. Moderator explained we will be voting on Article 9 as amended.

Article 9 passed 30 to 7 by card vote.

Moderator read Article 10

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,400 (ten thousand four hundred dollars) for the compensation of the Town Clerk. This reflects an hourly rate of \$20 (twenty dollars) an hour and would be in lieu of all statutory fees. This will allow the Town Clerk to expand her hours to Monday 8AM - 2PM, Wednesday 2PM- 6PM and the last Saturday of the month from 8AM - 11AM. A change of 5 to 10 hours a week plus an expanded hour on the last Saturday. This amount excludes mileage.

By Petition

Darlene Oaks made a motion to move Article 10 to the floor with a second by Cheryl Legg. Darlene spoke, announced that it was no longer necessary to pursue please vote no. Dave Morrill spoke. Gavin Veasey spoke. Darlene Oaks spoke. Adrienne Morrison spoke. Darlene spoke. Betty Ann made a motion to move the question with a second by Dave Morrill, motion passed unanimously. Article 10 failed unanimously by voice vote.

Moderator read Article 11

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thirty four thousand ninety five dollars and two cents (434,095.02), to defray town charges.

Recommended by Select Board

Dave Morrill made a motion to move Article 11 to the floor with a second by Artie Burdett. Sherman Hallock spoke to the Article. John Franz made a motion to amend Article 11 and handed Moderator a written copy. Motion was seconded by Pat Franz.

Moderator read proposed Article with Amendment. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thirty four thousand ninety five dollars and two cents (\$434,095.02) to defray town charges, and to list the full Receipt and Payment details in future town reports, as had been past practice for 76 plus years prior to 2013.

John Franz spoke to the Amended Article. Discussion of Amendment ensued. Sherman Hallock spoke. Maria Weick spoke. Betty Ann Trought spoke. Dave Morrill spoke. Cris Green spoke. John Franz spoke. Jack Potts spoke. Diana Burdett spoke. John Franz spoke. Cheryl Legg spoke. Adrienne Morrison spoke. Gavin Veasey spoke. Sherman Hallock spoke.

Betty Ann Trought made a motion to move the question with a second by Cheryl Legg. Moderator called for a card vote with $\frac{2}{3}$ being reached by 30 yes votes,

question passed. Moderator called for a card vote on the Amendment to Article 11. Amendment failed (12 yes and 27 no votes). Moderator announced we will be voting on Article 11 as originally written. Dave Morrill spoke. Artie Burdett spoke. Dave Morrill made a motion to call the question with a second from Michael Woodard. Moderator called for a card vote, Article 11 passed (39 yes, 0 no).

Moderator read Article 12

12. For the Town to adopt a Community Bill of Rights Ordinance to protect the people's right of local community self-government. This would protect our Town from corporations working to use our land for industrial projects, such as Wind Farms. By placing the approval of these projects in the hands of the local self-government instead of the procedure in place currently. Whereas these projects only need approval of the state. The Ordinance would also protect the people's health and safety as well as the health and safety of local environment.

By Petition

Adrienne Morrison made a motion to move Article 12 to the floor with a second by Ryan Harvey. Adrienne spoke to Article with a reminder from Moderator of a 10 minute time limit. Sherman Hallock spoke. John Franz spoke. Jessica Pratt spoke. Adrienne Morrison spoke. Maria Weick spoke. Jessica Pratt spoke. Adrienne Morrison spoke. Artie Burdett spoke. Maria Weick spoke. Cheryl Legg spoke. Ryan Harvey spoke. Mike Landry spoke. Gavin Veasey spoke. Bill Trought spoke. Pat Franz spoke. Bob Green spoke. Bill Trought spoke. Dave Morrill made a motion to move the question with a second by Cheryl Legg. Moderator called for voice vote to move question passed unanimously. Moderator called for a card vote, Article 12 failed (3 yes 36 no).

Moderator read Article 13

13. To see if the Town will vote to support or oppose the siting of an industrial wind facility in the Town of Dorchester. All those in support of the siting of an industrial wind facility in the Town of Dorchester vote aye. All those opposed to the siting of an industrial wind facility in the Town of Dorchester vote nay. This Article is nonbinding and meant to be advisory to the Select Board.

John Franz made a motion to move the question to the floor with a second by Jessica Pratt. Maria spoke to the article. John Franz spoke. Mike Landry spoke. Adrienne Morrison spoke. Beth Weick spoke. Dave Morrill made a motion to move the question with a second by Jack Potts. Moderator called for a card vote, Article 13 opposed (3 support 36 opposed).

Moderator read Article 14

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

Dean Stockwell made motion to move the question to the floor with a second by Artie Burdett. Dean Stockwell thanked everyone for their support of Article 9 which will allow the purchase of a newer truck. Shawn Russell presented the Vials of Life program and offered them to anyone who was interested. The vials are provided by the Mascoma Valley Health Initiative and will be available at the Town Office. Adrienne Morrison asked why there were no town reports available at Town Meeting. Sherman Hallock responded that they had 100 printed and will have more printed for next year. Sherman Hallock also shared that all amendments to land use boards have to be on town ballot. The town e-mail address will be changing from townofdorchester.net to townofdorchester.org both will be kept for one year. The town is looking for outside sources of revenue to help keep taxes down. Sherman wanted to congratulate the newly elected officials and recognized Artie Burdett for his years on the Select board.

Cookie Hebert made a motion to adjourn at 12:20pm with a second by Mike Woodard. Passed unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Darlene Oaks
Town Clerk / Tax Collector
Elizabeth Houghton
Deputy Town Clerk / Tax Collector**