

**Town of Dorchester
State of New Hampshire
Annual Town Meeting Minutes**

Meeting opened at 10:01am by Moderator Joshua Trought.

The Moderator welcomed everyone. The Moderator located the exits and explained the rules of procedure. There were 4 attendees who were not residents or registered voters.

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 8th day of March 2016, polls to be open for voting on Articles 1 through 5 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 12th, 2016.

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

Moderator read the election results

Selectman - Larry Walker Jr.

Moderator - Josh Trought

Treasurer - Artie Burdette

Town Clerk - Darlene Oaks

Tax Collector - Darlene Oaks

Trustee of the Trust Funds - Nancy Veasey

Planning Board - Cristin Green (2 years) Robert Green and William Trought (3 years)

Cemetery Trustee - Shawn Russell

Auditor - Vicki LeCain (2 years) Virginia Carroll (1 year)

Supervisor of the Checklist - Margaret Currier-Lemay

2. Are you in favor of Amendment Number 1 to the Land Use Regulation Ordinance of Dorchester as follows: reduce the required setbacks for principal and accessory structures from lakes, ponds, rivers and brooks from 75 feet to 50 feet.

Recommended by Planning Board

Passed

3. Are you in favor of Amendment Number 2 to the Land Use Regulation Ordinance of Dorchester as follows: reduce the required setbacks for water systems, septic systems and sewage systems from lakes, ponds, rivers and brooks from 100 feet to 75 feet.

Recommended by Planning Board

Passed

4. To see if the Town will vote to combine the offices of town clerk and tax collector, thereby creating a new office of town clerk/tax collector to be held by one individual. If this article passes, at the 2017 town meeting, the town shall choose by ballot one individual as town clerk/tax collector, and that individual shall serve for one year, or if Article 5 passes, for three years; and the terms of any individuals then in office as town clerk or tax collector shall cease.

Recommended by Select Board

Passed

5. If Article four passes, to see if the town will vote to set the term of the combined town clerk/tax collector position at 3 years. If Article four fails, this Article will be null and void.

Recommended by Planning Board

Passed

Moderator read the Town Warrant

Moderator read Article 6

6. If Article four passes, to see if the town will vote to set a salary of \$15,000 for the combined town clerk/tax collector position. If Article four fails, this article will be passed over. If Article four passes, this amount will be included in the operating budget beginning in 2017.

Recommended by Select Board

Steve Bjerklie made a motion to move Article 6 to the floor with a second by Maria Weick. Marie made a motion and provided a written amendment to Article 6.

6. If Article 4 passes, to see if the town will vote to set a salary of \$13,000.00 for the combined town clerk/tax collector position. If article four fails, this article will be passed over. Second by Steve Bjerklie.

Moderator called a voice vote on discussion of the amendment, which passed

Discussion ensued. Vicki LeCain spoke. Bob Green spoke. Brandy Enis spoke. Artie Burdette spoke.

Article 6 cont.

Moderator called for a card vote.

Moderator read the amended article.

Amendment failed, unanimously.

Moderator called for discussion on Article 6 as originally written.

Discussion ensued.

Artie Burdette spoke. Ron Charrette spoke and submitted in writing an Amendment to Article 6 changing the word salary to total compensation. Bob Green spoke. Marie Weick spoke.

Moderator called for a card vote.

Amendment to Article 6 passed 28 to 6.

Moderator read the amended article

6. If Article four passes, to see if the town will vote to set total compensation of \$15,000 for the combined town clerk/tax collector position. If Article four fails, this article will be passed over. If Article four passes, this amount will be included in the operating budget beginning in 2017.

No discussion, Moderator called for a voice vote.

Article 6 passed as amended.

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 third 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 seven thousand four hundred fifty five dollars (\$7,455) from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2015.

Recommended by Select Board

Steve Bjerklie made a motion to move article 7 to the floor with a second by Maria Weick. Maria questioned the date of December 31, 2015 but decided it was already written correctly.

Moderator called for a voice vote on Article 7

Article 7 passed unanimously

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 Cemetery Land Acquisition and Development Capital Reserve Fund previously established 2010 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, 2015. Further, to appoint the Cemetery Trustees to be the agent to expend from this fund.

Recommended by the Select Board

Steve Bjerklie made a motion to move Article 8 to the floor with a second by Maria Weick. Maria spoke to the Article. Beth Weick spoke, as a Cemetery Trustee.

Moderator read Article 8 and called for a voice vote.

Article 8 passed unanimously.

Moderator read Article 9

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to be placed in the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of Property Revaluation, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing four thousand dollars (\$4,000) from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2015.

Recommended by the Select Board

Steve Bjerklie made a motion to move Article 9 to the floor with a second by Maria Weick. Maria spoke to the article.

Moderator read Article 9 and called for a voice vote.

Article 9 passed unanimously.

Moderator read Article 10

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty four thousand dollars (\$24,000) to be added to the Bridges capital Reserve Fund, previously established in accordance with RSA 35:1, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing twenty four thousand dollars (\$24,000) from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2015.

Recommended by Select Board

Steve Bjerklie made a motion to move Article 10 to the floor with a second by Maria Weick. Maria spoke to the article.

Moderator called for a voice vote allowing Kathy Quinn, a nonresident taxpayer permission to speak. Passed unanimously. Kathy spoke.

Sharon Nelson spoke. John Franz spoke. Linda Landry spoke. Mike Landry spoke. Steve Bjerklie spoke. Artie Burdette spoke.

Moderator read Article 10 and called for a voice vote.

Article 10 passed unanimously.

Moderator read Article 11

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) to be added to the Town Building Capital Reserve Fund, previously established in accordance with RSA 35:1, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2015.

Steve Bjerklie made a motion to move Article 11 to the floor with a second by Maria Weick. Maria spoke to the article. Brandy Enis spoke.

Moderator read Article 11 and called for a voice vote.

Article 11 passed unanimously.

Moderator read Article 12

12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) for the purpose of surveying and subdividing a piece of land to be included with the donation of the Cheever Chapel, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2015.

Recommended by Select Board

Steve Bjerklie made a motion to move Article 12 to the floor with a second by Maria Weick. Maria spoke to the article. Vicki LeCain spoke. Larry Walker Jr. spoke. Ryan Harvey spoke. Ron Charrette spoke. Maria spoke. Jessica Pratt spoke. Artie Burdette spoke. Diana Burdette spoke. Brandy Enis spoke and presented a written amendment to Article 12 with a second by Georgianna Marsh.

Moderator read the amended Article.

12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) for the purpose of surveying and subdividing a piece of land , if donated to be included with the donation of the Cheever Chapel, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2015.

Moderator called for a voice vote to discuss the amendment, which he then retracted.

Jessica Pratt made a motion to move to vote with a second by Vicki LeCain.

Moderator called for a voice vote, passed unanimously.

Jessica Pratt made a motion to vote on Article 12 as amended with a second by Sharon Nelson.

Moderator read the Amended Article (above)

Moderator called for a voice vote on Article 12 as amended, voice vote to close to call.

Moderator called for a card vote on Article 12 as amended.

Article 12, as amended passed 23 to 13.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,800.00 (one thousand eight hundred dollars) for the purpose of two AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators), one to be placed in the Town Hall and the other to be placed at the Town Office. Both of these units are easily utilized life saving devices for cardiac arrest and should be part of any public building where people meet and congregate.

By Petition Not Recommended by Select Board

John Franz made a motion to move Article 13 to the floor with a second by Mike Woodard. John Franz provided a written amendment to Article 13.

Moderator called for a voice vote to discuss the amendments which passed unanimously. Discussion ensued. John spoke to the amendment. Shawn Russell spoke.

Moderator read amended Article

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$900.00 (nine hundred dollars) for the purpose of one AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To date, Alice Peck Day Community Health will fully fund and gift one AED; a second AED is contingent upon a funding grant from Mascoma Savings Bank that has been submitted. If the grant is approved, the \$900.00 would be returned to the Town general fund. One AED will be placed in the Town Office and one in the Town Hall. Both of these units are easily utilized life saving devices for cardiac arrest and should be part of any public building where people meet and congregate.

By Petition Not Recommended by Select Board

Sharon Nelson spoke. Artie Burdett Spoke. John Franz spoke. Steve Bjerklie spoke. Moderator called for a voice vote on the above amendment to Article 13, Amendment failed.

John Franz provided another written amendment to Article 13 and made a motion to move this amendment to the floor with a second by Shawn Russell. There was no discussion.

Moderator read the Amended Article

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$900.00 (nine hundred dollars) for the purpose of one AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Alice Peck Day Community Health will fully fund and gift one AED; a second AED is contingent upon a funding grant. If a grant is approved, the \$900.00 would be returned to the Town general fund. One AED will be placed in the Town Office and one in the Town Hall. Both of these units are easily utilized life saving devices for cardiac arrest and should be part of any public building where people meet and congregate.

By Petition Not Recommended by Select Board

Moderator called for a voice vote on the amendment to Article 13 which passed unanimously.

Discussion on Article 13 as amended ensued. Brandy Enis spoke. Jack Potts spoke. Mike Landry spoke. Ryan Harvey spoke. Sharon Nelson spoke. Gavin Veasey spoke. Linda Landry spoke. John Franz spoke. Artie Burdette spoke.
Moderator read Article 13 (above) and called for a voice vote on Article 13 as Amended.
Article 13 as Amended passed unanimously.

Moderator read Article 14

14. To see if the voters will ratify the acceptance of a deed of land located on the northerly side of Route 118, as donated to the Town by the Estate of Roger Bloomfield, to be used as a town cemetery and to be known as the Bloomfield Cemetery.

Recommended by Select Board

Steve Bjerklie made a motion to move Article 14 to the floor with a second by Maria Weick. Beth Weick spoke to the Article. John Franz spoke. Linda Landry spoke. Artie Burdette spoke.

Moderator read Article 14 and called for a voice vote.

Article 14 passed unanimously.

Moderator read Article 15

15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred forty five thousand seven dollars and zero cents (\$445,007.00) to defray Town charges.

Recommended by Select Board

Steve Bjerklie made a motion to move Article 15 to the floor with a second by Maria Weick. Maria spoke to the Article. John Franz spoke. Maria Weick spoke. Artie Burdette spoke. Maria spoke. Artie Burdette spoke. Cookie Hebert spoke. Artie Burdette spoke.

Moderator read Article 15 and called for a voice vote.

Article 15 passed.

Moderator read Article 16

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

Beth Weick made a motion to move Article 16 to the floor with a second by Steve Bjerklie. Bob Green, Beth Weick, and Mike Landry spoke about the Planning Board Articles.

John Franz complimented the moderator on his handling of the amendments.

Maria announced a paint the Town Hall day to be scheduled in June. There is a signup sheet for anyone interested in helping. She also welcomed Larry Walker Jr. as Selectman and Artie Burdette as Treasurer and thanked Sherman Hallock for his years of service.

Artie Burdette made a motion to Adjourn at 12:23 with a second by David Yetman. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by:

Darlene Oaks

Town Clerk



Elizabeth Houghton

Deputy Town Clerk

