

NEW DURHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee
New Durham Town Hall
October 23, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Final Approved 11-18-19

Present – Select Board

Chair David Swenson

Selectman Cecile Chase – Excused Absence

Selectman Dorothy Veisel

Present – Budget Committee

Chair Terry Jarvis

Ellen Phillips, Budget Committee

Joan Swenson, Budget Committee

Mark Sullivan, Budget Committee

Also Present

Scott Kinmond, Town Administrator

David Bickford, Resident

Ron Uyeno, Resident

Call to Order – Select Board

Chair Swenson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Swenson stated Town Administrator Kinmond informed the Board that the Governor Wentworth School District would not be scheduling an opportunity for polling elections at the New Durham school for the 2020 or 2021 elections. He stated this is very disappointing and this is the cause for a letter of response to the school which he drafted and which was reviewed by the Board. He noted there is no other facility which can accommodate the New Durham elections; he pointed out the key points in the letter: the School Board's arbitrary decision places an undue hardship on the Town of New Durham; the Town has held elections at the school for decades; when the Town voted to add the gymnasiums it was with the understanding of the voters that the Town would have the use of the New Durham school facility for these types of events such as elections; the School Board's decision constitutes voter suppression as there is not another space to properly house the voting booths in New Durham; and New Durham pays in the 2019 – 2020 school year, \$7,121,763.00, a small part is state grant with New Durham tax payers covering \$6,413,940.00 to the school district. Chair Swenson noted the 2020 amount is an increase of over \$251,000 with that being one of the largest increases of any of the towns in the district.

Chair Swenson stated Selectman Chase may be late in joining the meeting.

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Chair Swenson had prepared a draft of a letter to the Governor Wentworth School District in response to their statement that the New Durham school would not be available for New Durham voting for the 2020 – 2021 school year. This drafted letter was distributed to the Select Board and the key points were verbally outlined to the public by Chair Swenson.

Chair Swenson made a motion to approve the draft letter and have it sent to the Superintendent of the Governor Wentworth School District. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Town Administrator Kinmond stated the 2020/2021 school year schedule is not yet set but this change will affect the 2019/2020 year which will still include two elections.

Ms. Jarvis called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Chair Swenson noted the Board of Selectmen has completed review of the operating side of the budget but none of the ETF and CRF accounts have been reviewed to this point.

Ms. Jarvis, also chair of the Capital Improvement Project Committee, stated that all told, the department, committee and board requests came in at a total of \$1,231,131. She stated the committee was also aware that there would be a town-wide space needs study which was due to be completed by December 31, 2019 and the committee was hesitant to recommend any funding other than that needed to address safety issues, and did not want to put any money into any buildings without that report for review. Ms. Jarvis stated next year it is anticipated that report will be a big part of the committee's consideration. She stated of the requested funds, the CIP committee has recommended a little less than \$700,000; she outlined the significant funding including roads, milfoil/cyanobacteria mitigation with road projects, continuation of annual expenditures into CRF for purchase of vehicles, and continuation of computer and record keeping technology. Chair Swenson noted the CIP report is a public document available at Town Hall and on the Town website.

Chair Swenson distributed a spreadsheet summary of the CIP recommendations and explained the descriptions of the CRF and ETF accounts. Ms. Jarvis explained the balances were the figures presented as of July but may have had additional expenses after that point. The Board and committee reviewed and discussed the summary. Chair Swenson suggested they prioritize the various projects as well. He stated the Board of Selectmen has voted to spend some of the CRF for Software Upgrades in 2019, so there may be a need for replenishment in 2020. He stated the Solid Waste Facility scale was scheduled to be done this year but the funds may end up be encumbered for next year. Chair Swenson also noted the space study is complete and expects a report by the first part of December. Ms. Phillips noted she sees the expense of gravel every year but didn't see it this year. Ms. Jarvis explained a few years ago the Town had to stop mining their own gravel and they established a CRF but over the last few years, they put funds in and it gets spend and suggested dissolving the fund and making it an operational expense. She

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also suggested doing a study to determine if they can do some mining on another pit area for the Town's gravel needs.

David Bickford, resident, noted the fund was established to go purchase another piece of property for gravel. Ms. Jarvis replied she would want a cost benefit analysis before going back to mining their own gravel.

The Board and committee also discussed the space needs study. There was also discussion about possible dissolution of the Cople Crown Village District. Town Administrator Kinmond explained the process, noting roads do not become property of the Town but remain private until brought up to Town standards at which point they can be turned over. Ms. Jarvis noted the CIP priorities are roads, gravel, storm water management and remediation. The committee concurred with keeping the infrastructure a priority. Selectman Veisel suggested the 1772 Meetinghouse is a concern, if some of the structural repairs aren't addressed, it can jeopardize the structure. Mr. Sullivan stated that although the CIP deferred making funding decisions after review of the study, they also want to continue funding current CRFs. Ms. Jarvis suggested following the priorities of the CIP as a lot of research and discussion took place with that committee in prioritizing the requests.

Public Input

Mr. Uyeno asked about the letter Chair Swenson presented earlier and asked if it was addressed to all the towns. Chair Swenson replied it went to all towns, although only two towns use the schools for this purpose. Ms. Phillips suggested a resident begin a petition in opposition of this. Chair Swenson noted one of the School Board members has made it publically known that she is not in support of this change.

Adjourn

**Chair Swenson made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion.
Motion passed, 2-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary