

**TOWN OF NEW DURHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
December 20, 2021, 6:00 P.M.  
New Durham Town Hall, New Durham, NH 03855**

*Public can join Virtual Access via Zoom Meeting*

*<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86029632430?pwd=OElyNERZdDBwQ2NhWGlyMEJpZVhHdz09> Meeting ID: 860 2963 2430*

*Passcode: 929558 One tap mobile +16465588656,,86029632430#,,, \*929558# US (New York)*

*Disclaimer: If technology fails, the meeting physically occurring will continue at the location above. Town of New Durham offers no security assurances to those connecting via PC to a third party software and hardware not configured or controlled by our IT Service provider*

**PRESENT**

David Swenson, Select Board Chair  
Dorothy Veisel, Select Board Vice Chair  
Ron Uyeno, Select Board Member

**ALSO PRESENT**

Nicole Zoltko, Town Administrator  
Cathy Orlowicz, Boodey Farmstead Committee  
Brandy Laughlin, Preservation Planning and Development Coordinator for NH Division of Historic Sources – via Zoom  
Ellen Phillips, Meeting House Committee  
Cathy Allyn, Meeting House Committee Chair  
David Bickford, Resident – via Zoom  
Wendy Zimmerman, Resident  
Don Vachon, Road Agent  
Shawn Bernier, Police Chief – via Zoom  
Reginald Meattey, Police Sergeant – via Zoom  
Peter Varney, Fire Chief  
Kevin Ruel, Fire Department  
Terry Jarvis, Resident- via Zoom  
Tim Green, Roberts and Green PLLC  
Caitlin Frost, Library Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Swenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**APPOINTMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Swenson announced the Solid Waste Facility would be closed Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas holiday.

Chair Swenson stated the Budget Committee public hearing is January 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m., with location to be at the Community Room; the Deliberative Session is scheduled for February 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. with a location to be determined but it is hoped it can be at the New Durham School.

### **Meeting House Committee Heritage Presentation**

Brandy Laughlin, Preservation Planning and Development Coordinator for NH Division of Historic Sources, explained they work with grants and funding for projects which meet certain criteria in the state; she stated the Meetinghouse Committee is interested in participating in the program for municipalities to receive grant funding. Chair Swenson asked if all towns in New Hampshire are already certified local government or is an application needed. Ms. Laughlin stated there are 25 communities currently in the state and there is an application process; she explained the main criteria is there has to be a locally regulated historic district. She stated that is not currently in place in New Durham but it could be done. Ms. Allyn stated that is something they are looking into having established; she explained it is something that could be as small as the Meetinghouse only. Ms. Laughlin stated many communities have a historic district but some have individual buildings that are noncontinuous. She stated other requirements include annual reports; she outlined the types of projects they fund which include getting properties on the historic register, planning and training for local land use boards, building assessments, architectural services and other types of projects as well. She stated some of the grants require 60 / 40 matching funds but the match can be in-kind services.

Chair Swenson asked Ms. Allyn the Meetinghouse Committee's plan for going forward. Ms. Allyn stated it would be up to the Board of Selectmen to establish a historic district then they can go forward from there.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Ellen Phillips, treasurer for the 1772 Meetinghouse Committee, gave an update on the funds for the committee noting the non-lapsing account now has a total of \$7,996 which includes donations and money earned from the notecards being printed and sold as well as the clothing shed. She stated they had a matching grant for the survey which is going to be done but the \$500 has already come out of the account.

David Bickford, resident, stated the historic district is something the legislative body vote on. Mr. Bickford requested a page be added to the annual report which outlines items which were forgotten in the last annual report and this list was submitted to the Town Administrator. Mr. Bickford stated he wants to see if any members of the public vote to have capital reserve funds and expendable trust funds to be listed separately in the warrant; he asked what is going on with the nomination of the Fire Chief; he stated he also read in meeting minutes that the police department no longer has the K9 program and he would like to know why. Mr. Bickford stated he would like to request that tax deeded properties be something the legislative body votes on. Chair Swenson noted the annual report has a list of tax deeded properties and the Board has worked the last few years to get that list reduced.

Wendy Zimmermann, resident, stated she has put together a petition to increase the Veteran's Tax Credit; she stated she needs 7 more signatures to be able to submit it to the Warrant. She stated the all-tax credit increase would be from \$500 to \$750 with the totally disabled credit from \$1500 to \$4000. It was noted there were 185 tax credits for 2020.

Shawn Bernier, Police Chief, commented the statement the K9 unit was discontinued is not accurate and they do have a K9 unit at this time. Chair Swenson clarified the discussion

indicated the program may be discontinued but those minutes have not been reviewed and approved.

### **AGENDA REVIEW**

Chair Swenson added under New Business: Library Grant Authorization; Abatement Requests; Trust Fund Transfer Requests Update; DPW Update and Purchase Orders.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***Tax Rate Setting / Billing Update***

Chair Swenson stated the Board met last Friday for setting the tax rate; he explained the Board voted to utilize some of the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) to relieve the tax rate that was approved by New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration; he stated \$250,000 would go to offset the Town portion of the tax rate.

Chair Swenson summarized the tax rate:

Town Tax rate for 2020 was \$4.69 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation; For the December 2021 billing the tax rate without the Unassigned Fund Balance would have been \$5.41; with the UFB of \$250,000 applied that Town portion of the tax rate is reduced to \$5.00 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The county tax rate for 2020 was \$2.20 per \$1,000 assessed valuation; the December 2021 rate is \$2.29.

The local school rate for 2020 was \$8.41 per \$1,000 assessed valuation; the December 2021 rate is \$8.94.

The state school rate in 2020 was \$1.58 per \$1,000 assessed valuation; the December 2021 rate is \$1.63.

The total tax rate last year was \$16.88 per \$1,000 assessed valuation; The December 2021 billing rate is \$17.85 for a 5.77% increase. Copple Crown had an additional tax rate of \$4.32 per \$1,000 assessed valuation and this year the additional Copple Crown tax rate is \$4.44.

#### ***DPW Meaders Point Project Update & Paving PO***

Don Vachon, Road Agent, stated the Meaders Road project is done; many of the supplies the Town already owned thus reducing the projected total cost; there are no additional labor expenses as the work was done by the New Durham Highway Department. Chair Swenson explained the road project was initially approved by the Board to not exceed \$28,000 but the costs came in significantly under budget due to the New Durham DPW project management. Chair Swenson on behalf of the Board expressed appreciation for the DPW work on this project.

The Board reviewed purchase orders presented.

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve the purchase order to Morton Salt of Chicago, IL, for 100 ton of bulk road safety salt at \$74.77 per ton for a total for a \$7,477. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve the purchase order #2805 to R&D Paving for 435 cubic yards of gravel which was used on Birch Hill Road for a total of \$24,577. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve purchase order #2782 to S&S Paving for asphalt paving on Meaders Point Road in the amount of \$10,000. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Town Administrator Zoltko explained the next purchase order is part of an encumbrance request. The encumbered amount would be used for the contracted purpose to continue work on South Shore Road. This request is for the approval to continue this project in 2022.

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve purchase order #2806 to R&D Paving for the paving on South Shore Road with a total not to exceed \$86,967 which incorporates the contract with R&D Paving Agreement of the purchase order #2806. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

### ***Draft Audit Report***

Tim Green, Roberts & Green, PLLC, gave a summary of the audit for the period ending December 2021. He stated it has not been finalized pending the Board's review and acceptance; he explained there was only one adverse opinion in regard to the reporting for employee retirement.

Chair Swenson stated generally the audit is clean in his opinion; he explained 6 to 8 years ago an estimation was done and it was determined it doesn't make sense for the Town to have the full employee retirement obligation as it assumes all employees would retire at the same time; it would unnecessarily burden taxpayers.

The Board reviewed the draft audit report.

Town Administrator Zoltko noted that there are currently three separate savings accounts for the 1772 Meetinghouse, the Boodey Farmstead, and the Conservation Commission; and that these accounts are not currently set up properly according to the Audit Report and State Statute. TA Zoltko stated that she will conduct further research into the best course of action to determine how funds raised for these accounts will be handled in the future; whether it will become a separate CRF, changed to a revolving fund, or if there's another option available. Chair Swenson indicated that it would not become a separate CRF or ETF but willing to explore other appropriate accounting processes for these accounts.

***Library***

Caitlin Frost, Library Director, stated in conjunction with Parks and Recreation, a grant was applied for in September and they received a grant in the amount of \$38,321. She stated they will be utilizing the funds toward a multigenerational play space with digital library, story walk, exercise equipment, and playground equipment.

Mrs. Frost stated she has a request in regard to the library Capital Reserve Fund. Chair Swenson explained the library acquired a heating unit, but full sufficient funds were not available in the Library's funds to get it installed. Mrs. Frost stated an amount was originally approved for around \$8,900 but the unit ended up costing more and asked if the overage could be paid from the CRF.

Town Administrator Zoltko presented minutes from a meeting of November 18, 2019 where the Board stated funds would come from the Town's Building and Improvement ETF; she stated when she brought the CRF / ETF action to the Trustee of Trust Funds, it was determined the Library Trustees need to make an approval. She presented a request to rescind the prior motion and make a new motion to put the withdrawal from the correct account as the original motion on November 18, 2021 contained the incorrect total and that now all quotes and invoices were available to be reviewed by the Select Board.

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve an expenditure of \$10,530.82 to come from the ETF Town Building and Improvement and request the Trustees of the Trust Fund to transfer that amount from the Town Buildings and Improvement ETF to the General Fund for the purposes of the heating system in the library. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

***Fire Department Presentation - Policies / Wages***

The Board reviewed information presented by the Fire Department in regard to payroll and employee policies.

Fire Chief Varney presented payroll plans which were last updated in 2008 for review and updating. He explained a lot of money is spent with the background checks and training which can sometimes take three to four months to complete the process, so applicants end up going elsewhere. He stated if applicants could come into the department and at least observe to see if it is a commitment they want to make before the Town invests money in them it would be helpful in retaining these applicants. Fire Chief Varney stated many towns run volunteer staff and the volunteer staff is covered under worker's compensation but it would cover the introductory period where they are observers; they would not be called an active member at this time. Suggested revisions were made to the wording of the policy.

Fire Chief Varney presented wage adjustment recommendations. He stated they have a shortage of EMS personnel and the pay scales are increasing. He stated surrounding communities are offering large sign-on bonuses as well and outlined the wage ranges. Chair Swenson requested further details be presented which outline the average hourly rate of the current employees and, using FY21 data what impact the newly recommended rates would have on the FD budget. He stated they will review again at the next Board meeting.

***ARPA Funds - Police Department Body Cameras***

The Board reviewed information presented regarding funds for body cameras for Police Officers.

Sergeant Meattey explained they would like to go with the technical assurance plan which will be for the duration of five years; any damage would be covered. At the 2.5 year mark cameras will automatically be upgraded if there are new products. He explained they would also be utilizing cloud storage for data collected.

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve the purchase of body cameras for the police department per the quote prepared October 18, 2021, Q-344-688-4487.660NH to Axon Enterprises, Inc. of Scottsdale, AZ in the total amount of up to \$25,100 for a period of 60 months with such funds to come from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds received by the Town of New Durham. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Chair Swenson stated they also previously discussed the use of ARPA funds for the purchase of AED's for the Police Department. Chief Bernier stated that the new AED's would all be the same type and that this will help the Officers in providing help and care for anyone in the public who is suffering from a cardiac emergency. TA Zoltko note that there has been an increased link to cardiac emergencies and Covid-19. Chief Bernier noted that the current AED's will be transferred from police cruisers to new placements around Town facilities.

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve purchase order #2804 to AED Market of Spring Hill, TN, for the purchase of four Zole AED items and four pediatric pads for a total of up to \$7,195 with such funds to come from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds received by the Town of New Durham. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

***Zechariah Boodey Farmstead Committee Appointments***

Chair Swenson stated no negative comments were received for the nominations made two weeks ago.

**Chair Swenson made a motion to appoint Scott Drummey as a member of the Zechariah Boodey Farmstead Committee with appointment to expire March, 2024 with appointment effective immediately. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

**Chair Swenson made a motion to appoint Fran Frye as a member of the Zechariah Boodey Farmstead Committee with appointment to expire March, 2024 with appointment effective immediately. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

**Chair Swenson made a motion to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91:A-3 II (a) *The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other***

*than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant; (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community; (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph.*

**Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Veisel – aye; Selectman Uyeno – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

The Board entered nonpublic session at 8:08 p.m.

The Board reentered public session at 9:10 p.m.

#### ***Town Clerk Position***

Chair Swenson stated information was received that the current Town Clerk wishes to leave the position to pursue other opportunities and a letter of resignation was received on December 17, 2021 with a final date of work of December 29, 2021.

**Chair Swenson made a motion to appoint Alicia Housel as the New Durham Town Clerk, effective December 30, 2021 as a full time position with also being Deputy Tax Collector at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

#### ***Abatement Requests***

The Board reviewed abatement requests.

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve the abatement request for Map 250, Lot 121 in the amount of \$500 due to correction of an error in the Veteran's Tax Credit which did not transfer to the December 2021 tax bill. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve the abatement request for Map 252, Lot 004 in the amount of \$500 due to correction of an error in the Veteran's Tax Credit which did not transfer to the December 2021 tax bill. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve the property tax credit request for a Veteran's Tax Credit for Map 258, Lot 030. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

The Board reviewed an application for change of use from current use to a buildable lot.

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve the change of use application for Map 267, Lot 002 with taking 2 acres out of a 95 acre parcel the balance of which will remain in current**

**use with a land use change tax due to the Town of \$7,040. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

### ***2021 Encumbrances***

The Board reviewed a request for an encumbrance; Chair Swenson explained the Board approved the project in 2021 but the final work for the South Shore Road project will not be complete until 2022.

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve the encumbrance request for the South Shore Road project from RSMS in the amount of \$19,211.48. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

### ***Medical Opt Out for Employees***

Chair Swenson stated as part of the budget process, they need to cover the Town's HR Policy where an employee may opt out of the Town's Health Insurance; he stated it is estimated to be \$193.80 biweekly for an annual total of \$5,040.

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve the medical opt out of medical coverage process per the Town's Human Resource Policy for employees for FY 2022 in the amount not to exceed \$5,040. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

***Rhoades Road Classification Request – Review / Decision-*** Postponed to January 3, 2022.

### ***Norway Plains Deficiency in Document Delivery Update***

Chair Swenson explained Norway Plains is deficient in the delivery of the final documents of the merging lot adjacent to the Town Library for the use by the Town; Town Administrator Zoltko has been working to setup a conference call with Chair Swenson and Norway Plains. However, that has not yet happened due to Norway Plains delay in response. Town Administrator Zoltko stated she was informed today that Norway Plains needs to talk with the land merge abutter, Mr. Weldon, and she has asked they be in communication with each other. She explained the 2017 document which gave permission for merging of the lots was not considered valid by Norway Plains and they need more recent verification the property owner is aware the lots will be merged and not separate lots; she provided phone numbers for each party and asked them to connect and will continue to follow up. Norway Plains will then need to submit the plans to the Planning Board for final approval and the merger can be finalized. Chair Swenson indicated that he believes Norway Plains is not correct have remain deficient in their required document delivery to the Town.

### ***Annual Report Schedule / Assignments***

Town Administrator Zoltko stated the Annual Report letter is needed from the Board of Selectmen and is due the first couple weeks of January. Chair Swenson asked for volunteers to write but hearing none, he will try to bring a rough draft of the letter to the January 3, 2022 meeting.



***Deliberative Session / 2022 Election – Location & Issues***

Chair Swenson stated state law requires certain criteria for spaces, accommodations, etc., for voting locations. The requirements are slightly different for local elections versus State and Federal elections due to the expected voters for the respective elections. He explained the only location in Town which meets the criteria is the New Durham School which has historically been used. On December 17, 2021 a letter was received from the Governor Wentworth School Board which indicated the Governor Wentworth School District board voted to not allow the Town to use the school for elections. Selectman Veisel stated it is her understanding that is due to the school calendar having already been set.

Chair Swenson presented a summary of taxes paid in FY 2021 and FY 2022 to the school. He presented a draft letter in response to the denial of taxpayers utilizing the New Durham School building for elections. He stated it places an undue hardship on the Town as there are no other facilities in Town to accommodate voting requirements; the school has been utilized for decades for this purpose per the agreement when the Town joined the school district and requests the school board rescind the decision and avoid voter suppression. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

The Board concurred with sending the letter to the GWSD board.

Chair Swenson stated they have already begun discussions about the improper move by the school board with state legislators and media.

Town Administrator Zoltko noted the schools have to create ballots for elections to follow state requirements, so they are aware of when elections take place, so it is not a reasonable excuse that the dates were not worked into the schedule.

***Cross Country Assessing Contract Completion***

Chair Swenson stated initial information provided to NH DRA from Cross Country Assessing had either not been submitted timely or had problems but a letter from NH DRA was received December 3, 2021 which indicates information and review submitted now complies with DRA requirements. He stated final payment per the Cross Country Agreement has not been made to Cross Country due to this DRA review although other payments were made through 2020. Funds were encumbered for 2021 in the amount of \$17,000 to pay toward the final contract. The Board reviewed the information presented.

**Chair Swenson made a motion to approve the payment to Cross Country Assessing for contract completion given the statement from NH DRA of December 3, 2021 which indicates the information submitted complies with the DRA requirements set forth with payment of \$20,000 to the vendor with \$17,000 coming from the 2020 encumbered amount and the remaining \$3,000 coming from Account 4152. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

***Integrated Software Update***

Chair Swenson stated the RFP has not been officially closed; there will be a presentation from one of the vendors December 21, 2021.

***Warrant Articles Review***

The Board reviewed the proposed warrant articles. Town Administrator Zoltko explained that the Meetinghouse, Boodey Farmstead, and Conservation had separate savings accounts to hold fundraised funds; these accounts are separate from the General Fund and held by the Town's Treasurer. She suggested they could have warrant articles to create CRFs if the Board wishes. The Board agreed to have her look further into other options for these accounts.

Selectman Veisel stated the Warrant Articles will be coming from the Planning Board although another public hearing is still needed for those.

Chair Swenson stated the open election positions also need to be included. Town Administrator Zoltko noted there is potentially going to be a vacancy on the Zoning Board and the Land Use Assistant is following up.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Meeting of October 25, 2021 – Edits were made. **Selectman Veisel made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Selectman Uyeno seconded the motion. Motion passed, 2-0-1.** Chair Swenson abstained due to having an excused absence from the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

January 3, 2022, 2:00 p.m., Town Hall

**ADJOURN**

**Chair Swenson made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jennifer Riel*

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary

*Town Of New Durham*  
*Board Of Selectmen*  
[www.newdurhamnh.us](http://www.newdurhamnh.us)



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**TOWN OF NEW DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE of the BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

December 20, 2021

Cathy Cuddy-Egbert, Superintendent of Schools  
Governor Wentworth Regional School District – SAU 49  
P.O. Box 190  
Wolfeboro Falls, NH 03896-6983

Re: Voting at New Durham Elementary School

Dear Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert:

We have learned of the Governor Wentworth School Board's recent decision to discontinue allowing the taxpayers and residents of New Durham the opportunity to vote in the New Durham school for 2022. The New Durham Select Board, by means of this letter, wishes to formally express our extreme disappointment and objection to this decision by the Governor Wentworth School Board.

The decision by the School Board is of major concern to the New Durham Select Board and the Town's voters for the following reasons:

- 1) The arbitrary decision places an undue hardship on the Town as the Town has no other facility to legally hold elections according to State election laws for the elections in 2022 and beyond.
- 2) The Town has held elections in the local school for decades and, more importantly, it was part of the understanding when New Durham joined the school district that the Town would be able to appropriately utilize the facility for this voting purpose. The recent decision by the GWRSD Board breaches that agreement and reflects an unethical position for the School Board to abrogate binding agreements and understandings with their New Durham constituents.
- 3) The School Board's decision essentially constitutes voter suppression as the Town does not have and, therefore, cannot hold elections in a facility that properly houses voting booths, space for registration on voting day, appropriate accessibility to disabled voters, and other required activities to the Town's registered voters on voting day. Not accommodating the opportunity for voting at New Durham school squarely places the responsibility on voter suppression on the School Board's decision. In this age of equality and voter issues this is inconceivable and irresponsible on the school board's part.
- 4) For 2021 – 2022 New Durham pays \$7,176,471 to the Governor Wentworth School System including the State Grant portion. Of this total the Town pays \$6,757,327 of New Durham taxpayer funds. This is by far the largest portion of the Town's tax collections. In addition, the school has arbitrarily increased this year's New Durham school tax by an incomprehensible amount of \$824,097 compared to the prior year. It would seem that New Durham should be able to appropriately utilize the space that we pay for to vote.

- 5) The New Durham Select Board understands that voting for 2022 may involve three elections and that these elections are held on a potential school day. We also understand the school plans on certain amount of snow days, in-service days, etc. where the school is closed. We also know that the school, at times, accommodates state law by providing "blizzard packs" for students to complete so that the school can achieve the required number of school days per state law. Should the School Board's argument be centered around student / teacher safety all are aware that the school has often used a remote learning approach which would fully free up the student attendance on any given election day. We, therefore, see by choosing any one of these options the school has ample opportunity to accommodate its scheduling needs and do not see the conflict in school day utilization for the voting day requirements, especially when the New Durham voters pay for that space each year through the taxes raised.
- 6) Please know that the Board can understand concerns relative to safety and security of students if the facility were to be open to the public during voting but the unwillingness to communicate and work between School Board and Select Board is, in our opinion, shortsighted. The New Durham Select Board has always tried to work with the School Board regarding issues of mutual concern and feel that this has not been done by the School Board in this case.

In closing, please know that the New Durham Select Board is displeased with the School Board action and respectfully request the School Board to reconsider its current position and schedule accordingly for voting to occur in New Durham in a legal and appropriate manner at the New Durham school. The Select Board will do all in its power to assure the voter suppression does not occur due to the GWRSD Board's recent decision disallowing school facility use for voting in local, state, and federal elections in 2022 and beyond.

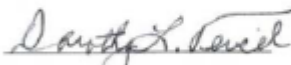
The New Durham Select Board would respectfully request that this letter be distributed to the School Board members and to ask the School Board to "rescind" the action taken due to the hardship to the Town and its voters, the ensuing voter suppression mandated by the recent School Board's decision, and the School Board's breach of agreement for use of New Durham school facilities for community needs such as voting.

Yours truly,

New Durham Select Board



David W. Swenson  
Chair, Select Board



Dot Veisel  
Vice Chair, Select Board



Ron Uyeno  
Selectman