

**MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MARCH 29, 2007**

At 6:34 p.m., Chairman David W. Heinlein called the meeting to order with members Kathleen W. Weld and Carol Lisbon present. Also present were David W. Ramsay, Town Administrator, and Greer Pugatch, Administrative Assistant.

ATTENDANCE: Justine Kent-Uritam; Robyn Hunter & Joseph Melican, Warrant Committee

PRESS: Amy Reay, D-S Press

**Appointment of Honorary Town Historian**

Mr. Heinlein spoke of discussions over the last several months with the Historical Society and Historical Commission regarding the creation of the honorary position of Town Historian. At the annual Historical Society meeting later this evening, the Board of Selectmen will posthumously appoint Richard Hart Vara as the first holder of this position for an indefinite term. The Selectmen are very pleased to make this appointment, and also applauded other citizens who have devoted their time and effort to preserving Dover's history. They agreed Mr. Vara has had a huge impact on the community, and has set a very high bar for other local historians.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to appoint Richard Vara posthumously as the Town Historian for the Town of Dover, seconded by Mrs. Weld; it was unanimously voted.

**Discuss Ballot Questions**

Mr. Heinlein offered the Board's congratulations to Robyn Hunter and members of the Warrant Committee on their work on ballot questions which have been considered this year, and said that the Town will avoid a general override this year in part due to that committee reaching out to Town departments to develop a realistic and manageable budget. He said that the Warrant Committee is recommending that if Articles 14 and 15, the replacement fire engine and ambulance, are approved at the Annual Town Meeting, they appear on the Town Election warrant as separate capital exclusions. Mrs. Hunter elaborated that those items would be a one-time tax assessment to all households without borrowing. Mrs. Lisbon added that the median household would be assessed an additional \$220-230 if these items pass. The Fire Department has gone out to bid on these vehicles, and more precise figures will be available by Town Meeting.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to include two ballot questions for the May 21, 2007 general election - the first ballot question for a one-time capital override for the purchase of a new ambulance for the Town and the second ballot question for the purchase of a new Fire Engine #4 for the Town, seconded by Mrs. Weld; it was unanimously voted.

**Review Article Motions**

The Board of Selectmen will reach out to article sponsors before its next meeting to see if they are seeking the Board's input on their articles. Mr. Heinlein said that the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee has asked for the Selectmen's vote on Article 21. This article relates

to a reallocation of the reimbursement funds from the Massachusetts School Building Authority to Dover and Sherborn for the middle and high school building projects based on new laws governing this grant program. It was Mr. Heinlein's opinion that the Board should not support the article as the two towns' budgets and population shifts do not justify the \$30,000/year change in debt allocation over the next 17 years, and also because it might set a detrimental precedent. Mrs. Weld and Mrs. Lisbon agreed that the current agreement is a fair one.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to oppose the passage of Article 21, seconded by Mrs. Weld; it was unanimously voted.

#### Dover Community Center Building & Fundraising Committee Updates

Mrs. Weld urged citizens to avail themselves of information which has been put on the Town website to answer a lot of the questions raised about the proposed options for the Caryl School site over the past 6 months. She thanked Mrs. Lisbon and Mr. Heinlein for all of their work on the presentations for Articles 11 and 12 at the Open Hearing.

Mrs. Lisbon said that citizens had thoughtful questions and comments relating to those articles, and noted that the Open Hearing will be replayed on Channel 8 for those who did not attend. She said several common themes related to the Caryl School site have emerged from the Open Hearing, the three public presentations by the Dover Community Center Building Committee (DCCBC) last fall, and the DCCBC's presentation at the Council on Aging luncheon: Choosing new or hybrid construction versus renovation; usage of Whiting Road and Town House space; future library plans; and public-private partnership for commercial space or housing. These issues have been examined by the DCCBC and the Committee to Study the Future of the Caryl School, and their reports are available to the public at the Town House, the library and on the Town website. Since these issues are still open in the minds of many citizens, more discussion is necessary.

Mrs. Lisbon suggested increasing the involvement, communication and education of the townspeople with a methodology to reach a final consensus on this issue. This would entail getting the materials out, re-verifying the information, & determining if there are new considerations and/or data over the past 2 years. Mrs. Lisbon has asked the Library Trustees to consider creating a subcommittee to envision future library expansion, and whether any future library needs might relate to the Caryl School site. She also stated that citizen input has already resulted in a decision by the DCCBC and Selectmen to include the Town House and Whiting Road space in the space needs/program review.

Mrs. Lisbon felt that additional monies should not be spent on designing reduced scope options for a community center until program needs and priorities are better defined with more public consensus and support.

Mrs. Weld explained that the cost of the comprehensive project could not be estimated until the preliminary design was developed, and that elimination of the two largest components (gym and great room) would reduce the overall costs by approximately \$3 million while costing substantially more to add at a later date. Mrs. Lisbon further elaborated that there would be fixed

costs (septic, fire sprinklers, parking, drainage, etc.) of about \$4 million regardless of the building's square footage.

Mr. Heinlein said cost variables correlated with various levels of programming, program cuts due to "price saturation" which does not create tension between users, and future expansion of programs and Town services also need to be factored in going forward. The Board will have more specific information to address questions at Town Meeting. Much of the work to be accomplished as this process moves forward will be done by the DCCBC, the Selectmen and Town employees without cost to the taxpayers.

#### 18 Haven Street

At the request of the Planning Board as required by Town bylaw, at its March 1, 2007 meeting the Board of Selectmen met with Jonathan Fryer, abutters, Town Engineer Bob Homer and Superintendent of Streets Craig Hughes to review Mr. Fryer's application for a special permit to build a barn at 18 Haven Street. Mr. Heinlein expressed the Selectmen's appreciation for what has been an open process by the Planning Board to date with input from all interested parties, and his confidence that the Planning Board will continue with this open process to make a fair and equitable decision using its judgment and expertise.

Justine Kent-Uritam informed that Selectmen that she and several other abutters now have an attorney representing their interests in this matter, particularly as relates to the proposed roadway which would run from the manufacturing parcel across the residential lot at that location.

The Board of Selectmen will draft a letter to the Planning Board supporting that board's final determination after seeking any and all input from interested parties.

At 7:26 p.m., Mr. Heinlein asked for a motion to temporarily adjourn in order for the Board to attend the Historical Society's annual meeting in the Great Room to make a presentation on Richard Hart Vara's appointment as honorary Town Historian. It was so moved by Mrs. Lisbon, seconded by Mrs. Weld; it was unanimously voted. Further open session business to be taken up.

At 7:42 p.m., Mrs. Weld moved to resume the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

#### Review FY08 Operating Budget: 199

Mr. Heinlein said the Board has had questions from the Warrant Committee on allocation of FY08 funds compared to monies spent to date in certain FY07 line items in the Building Maintenance budget. He broke down this portion of the budget into two components, line item 401 which funds regular, recurring maintenance work, and line items 409-416 which contain troubleshooting monies for unforeseen repairs to or projects for individual Town buildings. Mrs. Lisbon added that the practice of breaking down the maintenance expense of individual buildings into separate line items within the budget began several years ago at the Warrant Committee's request as a means to track past expenditures, not to project expenditures in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mrs. Hunter agreed with the Board that expenditures in these categories cannot be accurately predicted.

#### Other Business:

##### Massachusetts Committee for Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve

The Massachusetts Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense chartered volunteer organization, is inviting all municipalities to sign a statement of support for National Guard and Reserve employees. The Selectmen agreed that members of the National Guard and Reserve perform an invaluable service, and were willing to pledge to allow these groups to carry out military duties without fear of retribution or adverse employment action by the Town upon return from service.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to endorse this statement of support for the Guard and Reserve from the Massachusetts Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, seconded by Mrs. Weld; it was unanimously voted.

##### Snow & Ice Authorization

Mr. Heinlein commented that the Snow & Ice Authorization before the Board this evening has already been approved by the Warrant Committee. Superintendent of Streets Craig Hughes is holding \$47,000 in outstanding invoices and payroll.

Mrs. Weld moved to approve an additional \$75,000 for the Snow & Ice budget, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

##### Approve February 27 & March 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Weld moved to approve the minutes of February 27, 2007 as presented, seconded by Mr. Heinlein; it was unanimously voted.

Mrs. Weld moved to approve the minutes of March 15, 2007 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was affirmatively voted by majority with Mr. Heinlein abstaining.

##### Citizens' Comments

Mrs. Lisbon announced that the Dover Recycling Committee is sponsoring the Town's annual roadside cleanup this Saturday, March 31st. Citizens interested in participating can contact John O'Keefe at 785-0866.

##### Adjournment

At 7:54 p.m., Mrs. Weld moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

#### DOVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Kathleen W. Weld, Clerk