



# Town of Durham

## Board of Selectmen Meeting

### Town Hall

### August 23, 2022

## Meeting Minutes

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#### 1. Call to Order & Establishment of Quorum

In attendance: Kevin Nadeau (Chair), Rich George (Vice-Chair), Todd Beaulieu, Jerry Douglass (Town Manager), and Mitch Berkowitz (Interim Town Manager)

Absent: Joe Tomm and Josh Klein-Golden

#### 2. Oath of Office – Jerry Douglass – Town Manager (sworn in on Monday, August 22, 2022)

The Board officially welcomes Jerry Douglass as our new town manager.

#### 3. Amendments to Agenda: None

**Use of ARPA Funding: The Town Manager will draft an application for the remaining ARPA funds to allow non-profit organizations possible use of the funds. Key points to consider:**

- What do you want the funds for? Explain in detail
- How does it benefit the town?
- How do you feel it qualifies for ARPA Funding?

NOTE: ARPA Funds must be allocated by the end of 2024 and expended by the end of 2026.

#### 4. Public Comments:

##### Allan Purinton (Day Road)

- Update on the status from the Maine D.O.T. concerning the adding of blinking lights for Dead Man's Curve (similar to Hacker Road in Brunswick)
- Update on the replacement of Tracy Bridge

Mr. Nadeau reported that the Maine D.O.T. work plan still has the blinking light and replacement of the bridge on their work plan for this year. The Board will ask the Road Commissioner to reach out to the Maine D.O.T. for an update.

##### Nathan Ledger (Brianna Drive)

- Thanked the Board and the Town for getting the ARPA funds started for the Town of Durham.
- Concern about having the non-profit organizations go through an application process when the first round of funds did not require an application process.

- Noted that there is a detailed report available online for using ARPA Funds: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-Overview.pdf>

Deb Oliver (Cottage Woods Road)

- In favor of the Board soliciting all input from the community on using ARPA funds.
- Homestead Act and the act where seniors can fill out paperwork to have their taxes frozen. Create a program or contact individuals who are currently not participating in the program.

Mr. Nadeau (Chair), in the past the town has reached out to the those claiming the homestead exemption and made them aware that they qualify but they need to come in and fill out the application. The Tax Stabilization Program is a new law and the application needs to be filled out every year. The town doesn't lose any money from this program, the town will get reimbursed by the State.

Mrs. Oliver would like to volunteer to help those citizens who need assistance in filling out the application.

Jill Gastonguay (Stackpole Road)

- Suggested a committee for the application process and detailed clarification on what we are allocating the funds for.
- Suggested a Non-Binding Referendum for the November Election, asking the townspeople how they'd like the ARPA funds to be spent.

Darren Baker (Runaround Pond Road)

- Asked about the criteria with which the ARPA Funds was set up for (impact from Coronavirus).

The Board responded with one of the general categories – lost revenue.

**5. Fire Chief Report:**

- The fire department completed pump testing last week on our four major apparatus:
  - 2 Pumper Trucks
  - 1 Quint Fire Truck
  - 1 Tanker Truck
- Next week, 1 of the Tanker Trucks (Engine 21) will be going to Auburn to fix issues found during the pump testing (primer type issues).
- Discussed restarting the Firefighter Explorer Program for ages 14–18, this program is a great way to get future volunteers.
- The department received their new SCBA/Air Tanks from the capital improvement.

- Sabattus Fire Department called Durham Fire for a mass casualty incident in a motor vehicle accident (up to 10 patients). We sent our rescue and transported patients.
- **SAVE THE DATE!**

**October 15, 2022, Open House at the Fire Station, 615 Hallowell Road, from 10am to 2pm. The entire town is invited.**

- **On the radar:**

Dry Hydrants – The town doesn't have any municipal fire hydrants; we have 25 dry hydrants. Currently, on Brianna Drive, the fire pond is completely dried up, due to drought conditions. Note: Other towns have removed the use of a fire pond, for this reason, from their articles and their discussions. They have two (2) choices: a cistern (up to 10,000 gallons) or residential sprinklers.

The Fire Chief would like to thank Mitch Berkowitz, our Interim Town Manager, for his work and being a good friend to the Fire Department.

#### **6. Town Manager's Report:**

- Xfinity is doing some channel changes, effective September 13, 2022:
  - EPIX will no longer be available on Channel 427 but can continue to be viewed on Channel 476.
  - EPIX HD will no longer be available on Channels 426 and 1790 but can continue to be viewed on Channels 477 and 1871.
  - Effective September 30, 2022, Olympic Channel will cease operations.
- On the Radar: Maine DEP – PFAS Investigation of private wells – They will be monitoring wells in Durham, looking at water quality. Currently, they are investigating wells in the Fairfield area.
- The town received \$242,531 for the first payment for the Homestead exemptions.
- The HVAC Contract has been executed; work begins this week at the Town Office, with an end of September project completion for both sites (Town Office and Fire Department).

#### **7. Old Business:**

220809 – General Summary Review: Town Meeting and Warrant Articles - All 4 Articles passed

##### **a.) Assessor's Session**

Mr. Nadeau moves to go into Assessor's Session to deal with some abatements and supplements. Rich George seconds. Motion carries 3-0.

### Abatement to Curtis and Janice Pass

The previous Code Enforcement Officer asked the Assessing Agent to assign lots from a subdivision that wasn't approved yet. That step should not have happened and they should not have been taxed as if they were an approved building lot (Raw land – different tax assessment).

The Board tabled this discussion for another time in order to reach out to the Assessor for more information on this issue. The Chair motions to move out of Assessor's Session. Rich George seconds. Motion carries 3-0.

## **8. New Business:**

220823 – Authorized Satisfactory Judgement – Re: Dean Smith

The Board votes to acknowledge that we have received the payment and cashed the check that he owed us for the settlement. Mr. Nadeau moves that we received the \$26,245.50 from Dean Smith as settlement for the action brought by the town. Todd Beaulieu seconds. Motion carries 3-0.

220823 – Audit Representation Cover Letter – Audit to Follow

220823 – Vacancy Seats on Boards and Committee's

- The Budget Committee has 2 vacant seats, they currently have 7 members.
- The Capital Improvement Committee has 1 vacant seat.

If you would like an opportunity to serve on a committee, please fill out an appointment application.

[https://www.durhamme.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif4366/f/uploads/application\\_appointment22.pdf](https://www.durhamme.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif4366/f/uploads/application_appointment22.pdf)

## **9. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Nadeau motions to approve the consent agenda as presented. Todd seconds. Motion carries 3-0.

## **10. Upcoming Meeting(s) and Town News:**

- Planning Board Meeting, September 7, 2022, at Town Hall at 6:30 pm.
- Select Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at Town Hall at 6:30 pm.

## **11. Adjourn**

Rich George moves to adjourn at 7:59 pm. Todd Beaulieu seconds. Motion carries 3-0.