



**BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE  
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET  
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313  
(978) 649-4514 X227  
FAX (978) 649-8893  
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MINUTES  
January 24, 2019

Chairman Mike Martin made a motion to open the meeting at 7 p.m. Commissioner Gove seconded. In attendance were Chairman Mike Martin, Commissioners Peter Gove and Paul Dalida, and Secretary Terry Atwood. Also in attendance was Carol Bacon.

The minutes of September 20, 2018 were accepted with an amendment. Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimous.

***7:05 Carol Bacon, Affordable Housing Committee***

Carol asked if there were funds being spent this year for the design engineering for entrance into the MUD district. She will ask CPC for 10k. The MassWorks grant application went in for engineering work. All agreed that road going into MUD district will be town standard road. There is a ROW there now for the town. RFP has option of town building it or developer by MassDOT standards, which is also Complete Streets standards. Carol left the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

***Main St. reconstruction project***

Mike gave an update on status of Rt 113 state project. Mike is trying to keep the public hearing date for March 26<sup>th</sup>, but the state is looking for a couple of more pieces of information. He will keep the Board updated.

***7:20 Judy Denham, High St.***

Judy came into the meeting at 7:20 p.m. She explained that stone goes into her lawn when the plow goes by, it is deteriorating and a hole is starting. This has been ongoing and she expressed frustration that it hasn't been fixed yet. Mike explained that the lack of funding and manpower has not allowed it to be fixed. Mike also stated that the Board is aware of the issue and has not forgotten it. Mike will keep it on the agenda and Highway will attempt to fix it in the spring. That is the best Highway can do. Judy will give it to the spring before she takes other action. She feels her land is deteriorating because of this. Judy left at 7:25 p.m.



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***7:35 Dave Sciuto, 139 Kemp St.***

Dave Sciuto arrived at the meeting at 7:25 p.m. He stated that a couple of years ago he put in a new lawn costing about 27k. He took out the hedges at this point. He has had issues with water runoff ever since. Mike went out and measured and said he thought most of the issue was in the town ROW. Dave asked if the town could do something to keep water from going into his yard. Mike stated that he thought there used to be a swale but Dave has never seen it and he's been here 10 years. He had someone put in a wall and temporary swale. Highway put in a hay bale barrier but most of it is gone now. A gaping hole was formed from the water coming in. Initially, Dave wanted someone from the town to come out and figure how to fix this. Dave got an estimate for putting in a wall to divert the water for \$51k, but he didn't pay that. Whoever he got the estimate from told him it's the town's problem. Dave showed pictures from January of last year versus June of last year. The wall was put in between Jan and June 2018. Peter suggested putting in a row of hosta or other vegetation to help hold the soil. When the vegetation was removed before the wall went in, erosion increased. The wall is lower than the road and Dave is wondering if it was a little higher it would help divert the water better. Mike commented that if he made it higher, banked it with clay and soil it would help to divert the water down the road where it used to go. Dave also showed a picture of a hole that was a public hazard. Mike stated that the Highway Dept. filled it with stone. Dave agreed and stated that stone was put into it. Dave stated he wished this meeting happened 2 years ago. Mike stated that Highway did respond to his initial inquiry. Dave agreed that Highway did respond. Mike stated that it is working now, the water is being held and Highway put posts there. Peter also suggested that installing landscaping cloth may help. Dave left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

***7:45 Kieran Meehan, Advisory Board***

In the past, free cash has been used for the budget. There is \$195k free cash, but the new assessment from GDRSD is 400k more than 195k. (400k combined towns). Advisory board now has to balance the budget correctly and wean off not relying on free cash as there's no guarantee there will be there in the future. Budgets are going to have to be cut to avoid an override situation.

For Highway, the 2 new additional employees are needed and the road study shows that Highway is justified with the budget requests the board made. The roads are behind, it costs 300k a year to maintain the roads and every year that the town does not maintain the roads the roads get worse. Paul stated the board made a good case, did their homework and due diligence, which is backed up by the pavement management study, for Highway's budget requests and now the Advisory Board wants to cut the budget by 2/3. Paul feels it is unacceptable. We are



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trying to catch up and it is not going to happen with cuts, in fact, it will be going backwards. Paul feels the cuts are ill considered. Kieran agrees with Paul and feels that compared to other nearby towns we are not paying enough in taxes. The water department is a huge problem now due to years of no preventative maintenance. Highway is the same. Paul is asking Advisory *not* to short fund Highway's budget. It's unacceptable. Highway has been hearing this for years and it needs to stop now. Everybody agrees the roads are getting worse but Highway can't do anything about that unless the department is funded. Discussion followed. Board agreed that budget cuts are unacceptable. Kieran left the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

#### ***FEMA Management cost options***

Discussion followed, decision to be made after Paul reviews.

#### ***Utility Trench changes to Planning Board rules and regs***

Changes Jeff Rider drafted were reviewed. The utilities section will be changed to state 'shut off valves to each lot shall be located within the right-of-way 3 feet minimum outside the paved roadway'.

#### ***Driveway permits***

Peter brought up driveways on Hall St. that need driveway permits or temporary entrance. The Alterisio and Jenkins residences both need driveway permits. Terry will send them letters requiring driveway permits.

Discussion re 160 Westford St. drainage complaint. Mike will look at it tomorrow.

Peter made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Mike seconded. Voted unanimous, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Atwood  
Highway Secretary