

**CALL TO A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF DURHAM**

A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING of the Electors and Citizens qualified to vote at Town Meetings of the Town of Durham will be held in the 3rd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. for the following purpose:

- 1.) To transfer \$18,800 from #9200 Building Maintenance Reserve to #6700-473 Building Maintenance for the replacement of the south facing roof slopes on the Fire House as recommended by the Board of Finance at their meeting of August 26, 2014.
- 2.) To transfer \$7,006 from #9150 Ambulance OSHA Gear Reserve to #6700-493 Ambulance CIP for the purchase of rescue coats and pants for fiscal year 2013-2014 as recommended by the Board of Finance at their meeting of August 26, 2014.
- 3.) To transfer \$14,299 from #9440 Emergency Management Reserve and \$1,159 from #6010 Contingency to #6700-488 Emergency Management CIP for the purchase of two light towers/generators as recommended by the Board of Finance at their meeting of August 26, 2014.

- 4.) To transfer \$126,314 from the following lines for fiscal year 2013-2014:

6020	Contingency	82,228.00
3006	Public Works Wages	26,191.00
2010	Planning & Zoning	17,895.00

To the following lines as recommended by the Board of Finance at their meeting of August 26, 2014:

1518	Town Engineering	39,032.00
2520	LAP Insurance	20,035.00
2525	Health Benefits	37,220.00
3011	Snow Removal	30,027.00

- 5.) To approve the following carryovers totaling \$237,489 into the fiscal year 2014-2015 as recommended by the Board of Finance at their meeting of August 26, 2014.

2055-345	CETF Grant	360.00
3500-353	Haddam Quarter Rd Ext.	10,858.00
3500-527	Tri-Mountain/Pent Road	3,000.00
3500-542	Bear Rock Road Culvert	19,878.00
4056-353	RST Special Programs	14,279.00
6700-484	Coe Road Grant Program	35,200.00
6700-485	Whites Farm Restoration	56,754.00
6700-492	Communications Upgrades	70,640.00
6700-498	Chamberlain Hill Generator	15,000.00
6700-513	P&Z POCD	11,520.00

- 6.) To approve the following transfers totaling \$40,200 into the reserve fund as recommended by the Board of Finance at their meeting of August 26, 2014.

6700-476	Major Culvert Program	32,000.00
6700-491	IT-Assessor/Conversion to GIS (reval)	8,200.00

- 7.) To adopt an Ordinance to grant authority to the Board of Selectmen relative to personal property tax exemption for horses and ponies.

Laura L. Francis
First Selectman

John T. Szewczyk
Selectman

Steven A. Levy
Selectman

RETURN OF THE CALL

Return is hereby made, that the Undersigned, on the 29th day of August caused to be posted on the Public Signpost in the Town of Durham, a written warning by the Selectmen, and on the 1st day of September, caused to be published in the Middletown Press, a newspaper having a circulation in the Town of Durham, a like warning of the SPECIAL TOWN MEETING to be held the 8th day of September 2014.

Laura L. Francis, First Selectman

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Date: September 8, 2014
Time: 8:00 pm
Place: Town Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room
Moderator: Norm Hicks
Clerk: Kim Garvis, Town Clerk
Call: The call to the meeting was accepted as read by the clerk.

Synopsis of Action

Item 1:

To transfer \$18,800 from #9200 Building Maintenance Reserve to #6700-473 Building Maintenance for the replacement of the south facing roof slopes on the Fire House as recommended by the Board of Finance at their meeting of August 26, 2014.

Motion: Motion by Laura Francis, seconded by Francis Willett

Discussion: Laura stated this is an improvement listed on the 20 year maintenance plan that was moved ahead by about 5 years so that solar panels could be installed on the roof. Three quotes were obtained as per the Procurement policy.

Action: On a voice vote, with none in opposition, the moderator declared the motion passed.

Item 2:

To transfer \$7,006 from #9150 Ambulance OSHA Gear Reserve to #6700-493 Ambulance CIP for the purchase of rescue coats and pants for fiscal year 2013-2014 as recommended by the Board of Finance at their meeting of August 26, 2014.

Motion: Motion by Laura Francis, seconded by John Szewczyk.

Discussion: Laura explained this is personal protective gear required by OSHA. The gear has already been purchased as the new director was unaware of the process.

John Corona, and others, expressed concern that the Durham Ambulance Corps has not provided information about their financial accounts to the town and he requests that this item be deferred until such information is forthcoming from the Ambulance Corps.

Action: As a voice vote was inconclusive, the moderator asked for a show of hands. With 8 in favor and 9 opposed, the moderator declared the motion failed.

Item 3:

To transfer \$14,299 from #9440 Emergency Management Reserve and \$1,159 from #6010 Contingency to #6700-488 Emergency Management CIP for the purchase of two light towers/generators as recommended by the Board of Finance at their meeting of August 26, 2014.

Motion: Motion by Laura Francis, seconded by Steve Levy.

Discussion: Francis Willett explained that money has been put aside the past few years to purchase two light towers/generators and he is requesting a small amount from Contingency. The Procurement Policy was followed with the lowest bidder chosen.

Action: On a voice vote, with none in opposition, the moderator declared the motion passed.

Item 4:

To transfer \$126,314 from the following lines for fiscal year 2013-2014:

6020	Contingency	82,228.00
3006	Public Works Wages	26,191.00
2010	Planning & Zoning	17,895.00

To the following lines as recommended by the Board of Finance at their meeting of August 26, 2014:

1518	Town Engineering	39,032.00
2520	LAP Insurance	20,035.00
2525	Health Benefits	37,220.00
3011	Snow Removal	30,027.00

Motion: Motion by Laura Francis, seconded by John Corona.

Discussion: Laura stated this is the time of year to review the budget year just ending and to balance accounts.

Action: On a voice vote, with none in opposition, the moderator declared the motion passed.

Item 5:

To approve the following carryovers totaling \$237,489 into the fiscal year 2014-2015 as recommended by the Board of Finance at their meeting of August 26, 2014.

2055-345	CETF Grant	360.00
3500-353	Haddam Quarter Rd Ext.	10,858.00
3500-527	Tri-Mountain/Pent Road	3,000.00
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6700-484	Coe Road Grant Program	35,200.00
6700-485	Whites Farm Restoration	56,754.00
6700-492	Communications Upgrades	70,640.00
6700-498	Chamberlain Hill Generator	15,000.00
6700-513	P&Z POCD	11,520.00

Motion: Motion Laura Francis, seconded by Francis Willett.

Discussion: Laura explained this is following a practice to carry money over from one fiscal year to the next for projects that have begun but not been completed. Some of these projects may be ongoing for more than one year.

Question regarding the Chamberlain Hill generator. This tower is located in Middletown and covers Durham the best during emergencies. This expense is just for Durham radio equipment, not Middletown. Laura added that during the past severe storms Durham was one of the only towns that did not lose communication because of this tower. Steve Levy added this is also a safety measure for personnel that may need to service the tower during an emergency.

Action: On a voice vote, with none in opposition, the moderator declared the motion passed.

Item 6:

To approve the following transfers totaling \$40,200 into the reserve fund as recommended by the Board of Finance at their meeting of August 26, 2014.

6700-476	Major Culvert Program	32,000.00
6700	IT-Assessor/Conversion to GIS (reval)	8,200.00

Motion: Motion by Laura Francis, seconded by Steve Levy.

Discussion: Laura explained that money was left over in the culvert program that the town does not want to lose so the request is being made to transfer these funds into a reserve account until needed.

Action: On a voice vote, with none in opposition, the moderator declared the motion passed.

Item 7:

To adopt an Ordinance to grant authority to the Board of Selectmen relative to personal property tax exemption for horses and ponies.

Motion: Motion by Laura Francis, seconded by Steve Levy.

Discussion: Laura explained that a Public Hearing was held that was well attended with no one expressing opposition. The total tax burden currently is \$1,279.97. This would benefit both the horse owners and assessor's office staff time.

This is a tax that has not always been allocated fairly as many assessors throughout the state have a difficult time assessing the value of horses.

Action: On a voice vote, with none in opposition, the moderator declared the motion passed.

Personal Property Exemption for Horses and Ponies

Be It Resolved, that to promote agricultural use of land and other resources and in particular the stabling, training, instructing and riding of horses and ponies, effective October 1, 2014, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after said date, and notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (68) of section 12-81 of the general statutes and section 12-91 of the general statutes, as amended by said Public Act No. 14-33, the Board of Selectmen are hereby authorized acting as the statutorily designated legislative body at a regular or special board of selectmen meeting properly called for the purpose of determining taxation of horses and ponies stabled in Durham, to exempt from property valuation horses and ponies of any value by a vote of two members present and voting in the affirmative;

Be It Further Resolved, that this Ordinance shall become effective on the date on which a notice of the ordinance has been published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Durham.

Adopted at Town Meeting: September 8, 2014.

Legal Notice published in The Middletown Press: September 11, 2014.

Effective Date: when approved by Board of Selectman (September 22, 2014 meeting)

Motion & Action: Motion made, seconded and passed, with one in opposition, to waive the reading of the minutes.

Adjourn: Motion made, seconded and passed to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

Attest: Kim Garvis
Town Clerk