

This special meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Dummerston Historical Society building in Dummerston, Vermont.

Members Present: Chair Cindy Jerome, Vice-Chair Paul Normandeau, Clerk Kevin Ryan, and Tom Bodett

Absent: Lewis White

Also present: State Representative David Deen, State Representative-elect Mike Mrowicki, State Senator-elect Peter Shumlin, the Dummerston School Board (Chair Dan Brown, Enid Wainwright, Charlotte Neer Annis, Amy Dews, and Tom Bertone,) BUHS Board Representative Ruth Barton, Town Clerk Pam McFadden, Assistant Town Clerk Laurie Frechette, Darry Madden of the Brattleboro *Reformer*, and citizens Marguerite DeMotte, Jean Newell, Harold Newell, Chip Hellus, Bev Tier, Terry Chapman, Donna Saunders, and Regina Rockefeller.

This special meeting was called to give the Selectboard and School Board the opportunity to discuss current concerns and issues with our elected representatives.

Discussion opened with a number of topics related to education. One resident inquired about the State's moving toward "pre-school in public schools," and how that would be funded. This topic expanded to a more general discussion on education funding in Vermont – with the recognition that Dummerston has the highest per-pupil cost in the State. Sen. Shumlin noted that, because all revenue sources available to the State and towns are "maxed-out," the only way to reduce property taxes is to reduce costs.

The "Revolt and Repeal" movement was discussed, with both pros and cons to the idea being noted. Rep. Deen stated that, no matter what the system for funding education, it must maintain two basic characteristics: it must keep everyone "in the same boat," and it must ensure equal opportunities for all of Vermont's children.

Most present agreed that Special Education costs must somehow be separated from the formula which determines a town's per-pupil spending. Sen. Shumlin noted that Vermont has the most progressive education funding system in the country. The idea of consolidating schools with another town was briefly discussed.

Other topics were also raised and discussed. Paul inquired as to whether any of the promised state Transportation money would be forthcoming, so we could finally address projects such as the Green Iron Bridge over the West River. The state of health care insurance coverage was discussed, including the economies that are provided by a Medicaid-type model, the need for more automated health care claim submittal and adjudication, and the need for immediate and significant relief for the purchase of prescription drugs.

Vermont's energy infrastructure discussed. Rep. Deen expressed his concern that with the potential loss of power from Vermont Yankee (2012) and HydroQuebec (2016,) we have little in the way of planning happening to address those shortfalls.

Final discussions of the evening included the problematic lack of broadband Internet availability in most of the town, and the questionable unfunded State mandate that the town research, survey, and submit Ancient Roads data to the state.

The legislative representatives provided e-mail addresses so that their Dummerston constituents could stay in touch, and help provide creative solutions to the many issues confronting us.

Rep. David Deen:	deenhome@sover.net
Rep. Mike Mrowicki	qwerty@svcable.net
Sen. Peter Shumlin	pete@goputney.com
Sen. Jeanette White	jwhite@leg.state.vt.us

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Approved

Cindy Jerome, Chair

Kevin Ryan, Clerk

Minutes: Kevin Ryan, Clerk